



"GO WESTERN WILD FOR COMMUNITY'S CHILD"

AN AFFAIR TO REMEMBER

By Debbie Paul

By 5:30 p.m. on September 27 all arrangements at the were so well tweaked, even the gorgeous weather cooperated.

The volunteer Ek Kardia teens were already making themselves more than useful, coming to the rescue of any slightly frenetic committee member, like chairwoman Pandora Classen and committee coordinator Debbie Duncan who at times sported far-away gleams in their eyes.



*Pictured Above:
The "Fun" Raising Committee
for Western Wild's Event*

The band Boomer -- full of the handsomest

singing cowboys you can imagine -- arrived early and stepped up the ambiance with their very first welcoming tunes. (Later, people were spied two-stepping to Boomer's fine country beat as they circled the silent auction tables. Executive Chef for Whole Foods Norm Garrett and his catering team were already fill-

ing the air with aromatic baked chicken and succulent barbeque ribs that wafted through the whole party area. Later, of course, the whole delicious fare would be uninhibitedly devoured using sticky fingers and dribble bibs right out in the open. By 5:35 p.m., the first "Go Western Wild for Community's Child" gala was underway and there was no turning back.

Arriving guests found their way to the clubhouse to peruse tables heavy laden with more than 50 amazing silent auction items. Prizes included elaborate pasta, baby toys and spa package wickers; wine tasting events; extravagant doggie and cat baskets; Harley Davidson rentals; hand-signed artworks, clothing; jewelry; and so much more.

And everything sold!

(Story continued on page 3)

Empty Saddle Club



*Pictured Above:
The Ek Kardia Teens working
hard to set things up "just right."*



*Pictured Above:
Guests Bidding on more than 50
Amazing Auction Items*

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Board of Directors:

- John Rellos—President
- Tara Nierenhausen-Vice President
- Pandora Classen—Treasurer
- Sean Nierenhausen—Secretary
- Lyn Kerby—Member
- Mark Waronek—Member
- Debra Paul—Member
- Jack Nelson—Member

Director's Corner:

Dearest Supporters and Friends,

What a busy past 3 months! We kicked it off with "Ricky Gene's Chili Cook Off" and our "Western and Wild for Community's Child" fundraisers. We Thank YOU for your attendance and generous support. YOU made these events amazing successes. We also hosted a community workshop "What to Do When Your Child Gets Sick," a Pastors Breakfast, a Halloween event for "Building Hope's" children and our "Chocolate Kitchen Extravaganza" thank you benefit. "Whew!"

We have also been real busy meeting the growing needs of South Bay families. With the down turn in the economy, Community's Child has seen a 300% increase in the number of families seeking assistance. Again, it was YOUR generosity that prevented us from sending even one person away empty handed. Thank YOU!

We do understand that most of YOU are also impacted by our struggling economy and that you had to dig deeper to help those in our community who needed food, clothing or help with shelter. As we gather together this Thanksgiving with the families YOU help us to feed, please know that we will be giving thanks for YOUR generosity and asking the Lord to Bless YOU and YOUR FAMILIES.

If you have the chance, please join us on Dec. 20 for our "Community Christmas" event. Here you will personally meet many of the women and children YOU have been supporting.

May God Bless YOU,

Tara Nierenhausen

A Shared Letter of Thanks:

Dear Community's Child,

You probably best remember me as the woman who could not stop shaking. I met you two years ago right after my husband held a gun to my head and threatened to kill me. I had been a victim of domestic violence for 22 years and had reached a point where I felt as if my whole world had been stolen from me. I came to Community's Child because I wanted to find myself, and try to put God back into my life again.

I remember that day as one of the most beautiful days of my life as it was the day that Tara, the program director for Community's Child, took me in her arms and assured that "everything would be alright." It is now a little more than two years later.

I am a single mom living abuse free, in my rented condo, with my three children and new grandson. It was a rough two years. I suffered 2 strokes, was diagnosed with severe respiratory and pulmonary problems, my left foot has turned in and I have damage to several disks in my back. I live most of my days in a wheel chair and have been told that I will need surgeries to correct most of my health problems. Unfortunately, I have been unable to work and have had to rely heavily on financial, emotional and spiritual support from Community's Child.

Most recently I was awarded disability benefits and learned that in just a few short months I will be receiving a fairly large cash settlement. I will do as Tara has asked and make sure that I put the money away to secure our futures. But I also know that I will give back to Community's Child as much as I can, for the rest of my life.

I have asked Tara to please print this letter so that I may also publicly thank all of you who support Community's Child. It is because of your support that my daughters and I are not only alive, but have a life filled with hope. May the Lord bless all of you in the very best ways.

With Love, (Name withheld for protection)



On August 28, 2008 at a Wells Fargo Community Breakfast, Community's Child was recognized by the Office of the City Council, The California State Senate and the Congress of the United States House of Representatives for Outstanding Service in the Community. We thank God and proudly dedicate these awards to YOU, our supporters.

An Affair To Remember (continued from Pg.1)

One of the highlights of the evening was awarding the fantastic Chocolate Party Basket to the winner of the Cow Chip Bingo. The roller carrying case, (compiled with the help of Helen Grace Chocolates and the Rolling Hills Covenant Turning Point adult fellowship class) weighed about 50 pounds and contained nothing but Helen Grace and Sees chocolate products. In addition to the chockfull carrying case, the lucky winner also received an exquisite chocolate fountain and a fondue set.



Above: Winner of Cow Chip Bingo

At one point in the evening, Sandra Carus from Toyota Financial Services surprised Tara Nierenhausen and other board members with a walloping \$5,000 donation. After Toyota's heartfelt announcement, excitement was heightened when Mark Waronek stepped up to the mike to begin the live auction.

Rides on the Goodyear Blimp went for more than \$1,000, and wild man trips to the Baja for surfing and Texas for hunting with our own fun-maker John Rellos sold well, even though everyone could feel the pinch of an economy in crisis -- which coincidentally seemed to materialize and mushroom on the exact night of the gala.

Still, the Top Sail Tall Ships and ensuing cannonball fight sold, as well as an eclectic collection of wines compiled into an "Instant Wine Cellar" by Terry and Cindy Horist, and the cutest little Vespa in the world which was won by -- you guessed it -- the Rellos clan. Bill Duncan outbid some stiff competition to acquire a diamond necklace donated by Medawar Jewelers, but no one has seen him wear it, yet



Above: Committee Members & Event Volunteers Auction Off Their Aprons

The gala raised more than \$30,000 after expenses as the 125 generous attendees were also confronted with a new awareness about growing populations of homeless women with infants in the South Bay.

Organizers believe Go Western Wild for Community's Child was a total success. Almost everyone left with an extravagant bid prize, a fully-satisfied tummy and a warm, happy smile on their face.

Darryl Chessum who attended the gala with his wife Wendy said he was sorry he didn't win the Blimp ride, but they would try for it again, next year. "Wendy and I thought the Go Western Wild gala was a high class affair," Chessum said. "We could see all the work the co-leaders put into the event. You can count on our support to be there next year."



Above: Sandra Carus Of Toyota presents \$5,000 check to Community's Child

COMMUNITY'S CHILD EXTENDS A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING , FOR WITHOUT YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT THIS EVENT WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN SUCH A GREAT SUCCESS.

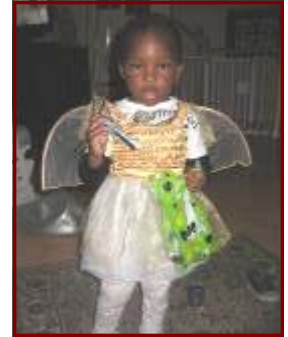


Los Angeles Maritime Institute Top Sail Youth Program.



Community's Child's Volunteer Fund Raising Committee



“BUILDING HOPE’S” Little Trick or Treaters:

“Building Hope’s” Little Angels dressed up and visited the neighbors to fill up their little sacks with treats. The evening ended with a visit to Calvary Assembly of God’s Harvest Festival. It was Fun & Yummy!

CHOCOLATE KITCHEN EXTRAVAGANZA!!

On November 1st Community’s Child hosted a “Chocolate Kitchen Extravaganza,” where Supporters of Community’s Child’s programs were treated to a chocolate buffet put together by Barbara Johnson, pictured on the far left next to her good friend and assistant, Joan Estrada. The buffet include a large assortment of hand made truffles, fruit creams, light and dark chocolates, fudge, decadent cakes and of course her famous chocolate fountain.



Guest were also treated to kitchen bargains of a life time... whole stainless steel pots and pans sets were out the door for \$10.00 or less!! There were knife sets, canis-



ter sets, large roasting pans, double boilers, utensil sets, everything but the kitchen sink. Guests had so much fun and saved so much money that we had to provide carts to help carry the purchases to their cars. We are truly grateful to our supporters and pray that this event showed you just how much **YOU ARE APPRECIATED!**



Our Supporters Rise To Meet Growing Needs!

The economy is falling and the numbers seeking our assistance are growing!

The number of homeless and low-income families coming to receive assistance with food, diapers, clothing, personal care products, emergency housing and rent subsidy has increased more than 300%. In January of 2008 Community's Child assisted 272 South Bay residents, compared to 712 resident in October of 2008. We are very pleased to report that with YOUR SUPPORT we have not had to turn away any one in need. On behalf of those we have had the "Privilege of Serving," we THANK YOU from the bottom of our hearts for your ongoing generosity. May God Bless you as richly as you have blessed the lives of those most in need.



Pictured to the left are the Ladies of Harley who came to donate the proceeds of their yard sale to the women and babies residing at "Building Hope."

Pictured below are members of the Hitachi Automotive Products (Los Angeles) Community Action Committee presenting a cash donation from their committee and the Hitachi Foundation to assist



Pictured to the right is Sandra Carus of Toyota who donated her time, talents and treasures to teach the moms at "Building Hope" the art of scrap booking their children's memories.

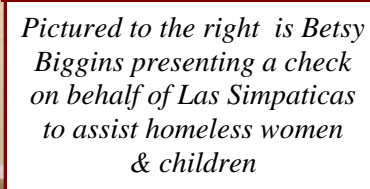


Pictured to the left is Betsy Briggins who presented Community's Child with a check on behalf of the Torrance Heath Association.

Pictured to the right is a large donation of baby care and personal hygiene products collected by the mothers and daughters of Ek Kardia



Pictured to the left is Barbara Nannini from the Branch of Hope Church who regularly donates clothing and care products to the mom's and babies moving into "Building Hope."



Pictured to the right is Betsy Biggins presenting a check on behalf of Las Simpaticas to assist homeless women & children



**Community's Child Would Also Like To Recognize:
Rolling Hills Covenant Church & Fellowship of South Bay**





Working to protect and empower one of our community's fastest growing and most distressed populations...

"Homeless Women with Infants"

Community's Child

25520 Woodward Ave.
Lomita, CA 90717

Phone: 310-534-4040
Fax: 310-534-4050

E-mail: info@cchild.org

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Community's Child

CURRENT WISH LIST:

All Trimmings for Thanksgiving & Christmas Turkey Dinners

Gift Cards for Groceries and Clothing

Household Furnishings for Mom's Moving into their Own Apartments

Diapers (Size 4 needed most) and Baby Care Products

Blankets, Jackets & Personal Care Products for the Homeless

Volunteers for our "Community Christmas Event," December 20th

Thank You Irene Hasserjian
For Donating Our New Freezer



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