



For Immediate Release  
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## **Canyon Acres Blue Ribbon Gala Raises Funds to Help Children's Dreams Come True**

Newport Beach, Ca. - - Canyon Acres, a leader in providing homes and mental health services for severely abused children, hosted the exciting annual Blue Ribbon Gala Fundraiser, "An Enchanted Evening; Making Children's Dreams Come True". The event included a silent and live auction, cocktail reception, live testimonial from a former Canyon Acres Child, an opportunity prize of \$1,000 shopping spree with a year's valet at South Coast Plaza, dinner and dancing. The Jim Murray Memorial Service Award Honorees for the event were: **Glenn and Mindy Stearns** who received the Individual/Family Award; the Corporate Award was presented to **The Kent H. Landsberg Co.**; the Community/ Service Organization Award was given to **I Padrini d'Antonello**. Carol Eastman and Sofia Riley co-chaired the fundraiser which was attended by 500 guests and raised over \$300,000 for the programs at Canyon Acres.

During the cocktail reception and silent auction, auctioneer Jeff Stokes motivated the guests to bid on some valuable items: Anaheim PD Helicopter Fly-Along; Anaheim Mayor's Suite behind home plate for the Game Angels vs. Seattle Mariners; Orange County Sheriff's Department Harbor Patrol Cruise for four; Big Bear weekend vacation getaway, and; an elaborate wine tasting event. While placing their bids, the guests sipped their drinks and sampled some delicious tray passed hors d' oeuvres. The delicacies were ahi tuna on crispy wonton with mango relish and wasabi, cream lobster bisque in a demitasse cup, tandori chicken salad served in a spoon, and red endive filled with gorgonzola, figs and candied walnuts topped with a balsamic reduction glaze.

Next, the guests entered the ballroom which resembled a beautiful, lush enchanted forest featuring large trees encircled in twinkling lights. Table centerpieces were small trees adorned with fragrant bouquets of flowers and glowing candles. Tree nymph dancers entertained the guests as whimsical music played in the background. Jeff Stokes greeted the guests and then the dinner was served. The first course was a salad consisting of a sliced tomato and buffalo mozzarella napoleon topped with crispy proscuitto, fresh basil and a drizzle of balsamic vinaigrette basil oil. The entrée was a duo of a roast filet mignon and crab encrusted sea bass with potato dauphinoise, green and white asparagus, and baby carrots. Dessert was a valhrona chocolate torte topped with almond tuille, mango sorbet, fresh raspberries, blackberries, gooseberries, and raspberry coulis.

During the program, Canyon Acres Executive Director Clete Menke introduced the event co-chairs Carol Eastman and Sofia Riley and presented them with beautiful flower

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bouquets. Harald Herrmann, Yard House Restaurant owner, took the stage to ask the guests to donate to the “Hopeful Child” program which provides monthly sponsorships for the children at Canyon Acres. Menke then recognized the event’s honorees for all of their

contributions to Canyon Acres. “We are profoundly grateful for the tremendous support we receive from so many caring individuals and businesses,” exclaimed Menke, “It is only with the community’s support that we are able to give these kids the chance to heal and regain their hope and belief in themselves. This year, we are deeply privileged to recognize Glenn and Mindy Stearns, The Kent H. Landsberg Co. and I Padrini d’Antonello for going above and beyond in their efforts to care for our children.”

**Individual/ Family Award:** Glenn and Mindy Stearns are long-time supporters who have opened their home and their hearts to Canyon Acres and the children. From their annual toy drive, to their personal charitable giving, to the involvement of the Stearns Family Charitable Foundation and the Stearns Companies, Glenn and Mindy have continued to be a tremendous gift to the children of Canyon Acres.

**Corporate Award:** The Kent H. Landsberg Co. has become a significant partner in caring for Canyon Acres’ children through their corporate giving, leadership development and board participation. The company has dedicated company management and corporate contacts to Canyon Acres, and has provided many special outings and activities for the children.

**Community/Service Organization:** I Padrini d’Antonello, a generous group of businessmen, has recently adopted Canyon Acres’ children in a very significant way. Besides hosting a tremendously successful fundraiser to support the children, I Padrini d’Antonello has spearheaded numerous events at Canyon Acres’ Ranch, bringing hope and happiness to the kids during special holiday celebrations.

Jeff Stokes helped to create some serious bidding competitions during the spectacular live auction. The auction featured:

- A progressive dinner for six at some of Orange County’s Finest Restaurants with appetizers and cocktails at Darya, dinner entrée and fine wines at Antonello Ristorante, and dessert and aperitifs at Morton’s Steakhouse.
- A private platinum suite with 12 seats directly behind home plate at Angel Stadium donated by Terry, Leslie Adams and Adams Steel.
- A priceless LAPD Air Support Division Ride-Along with an LAPD Command Pilot and a Tactical Flight Officer in a Eurocopter donated by the Los Angeles Police Department and Captain Thomas Runyen.
- A package of a two-night stay in an Ocean View Guestroom for two guests at Montage Resort & Spa Laguna Beach, dinner at Mastros and the use of a Gallardo

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Spyder Convertible Lamborghini for two days, donated by Direct Loan Funding, Montage Resort & Spa.

- Elegant dinner for ten aboard the Bellissima Yacht and a three-hour Newport Harbor cruise donated by S. Paul Musco, Pat Dirk and TGIS Catering.
- Three-day Corvette Advanced Driving School experience at Spring Mountain Motorsports Ranch near Las Vegas designed to highlight the qualities of the C5 Z06, the new C6 Z51 and C6 Z06 Corvette donated by Jerra & John Morris.
- A "Shoot with the Sheriff" included lunch for 10 with Sheriff Carona and the opportunity to shoot at the OCSO, donated by the Orange County Sheriff's Department.
- An exciting tennis package included two tickets to attend the Men's & Women's Finals at Wimbledon and sit in the box of Billie Jean King, airfare and a four-night stay at Millennium Gloucester Hotel London Kensington, donated by Shelly and David Kim.

The evening ended with Menke introducing Ricky, a young boy who had been placed at Canyon Acres and, after years of hard work, was ultimately adopted by a loving mother. A very moving video was shown of how his life has changed because of his involvement with Canyon Acres. Jeff Stokes then asked the guests to contribute to Canyon Acres' 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration campaign. The guests ended the evening by dancing until midnight to the captivating tunes of The Frank Wright Band.

### **ABOUT CANYON ACRES**

Canyon Acres Children and Family Services is the only facility in Orange County or the surrounding counties serving the most severely abused and emotionally troubled children between the ages of 6-17. Since 1980, Canyon Acres has been providing the highest level of care, therapeutic treatment and most importantly a home, to children throughout Southern California who suffer from a variety of emotional and psychological disorders. Canyon Acres gives children nurturing homes, care, treatment, and opportunities that they need to grow up in safe, loving, and stable families.

Canyon Acres is in the midst of a 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Campaign to raise funds for long-term programming and much needed repairs and renovations. To help secure Canyon Acres' ability to serve kids, donations can be made by calling (714) 385-5270 or visiting [www.canyonacres.org](http://www.canyonacres.org). For more information regarding the gala, please call Canyon Acres Director of Community Relations Kristine Blidy at (714) 385-5272.

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