

## **BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF LAGUNA BEACH THANKS COMMUNITY PARTNERS AT 3<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL BREAKFAST**

With the theme of “Great Futures Start Here,” the Boys & Girls Club of Laguna Beach held its third annual Community Partners Breakfast at Seven-Degrees on March 24<sup>th</sup>. This special breakfast provided an opportunity for the Club to thank over 100 agencies and individuals who have collaborated with and supported the Boys & Girls Club of Laguna Beach over the past year.

After thanking all of the Boys & Girls Club’s Community Partners, Board President Bob Whalen provided an overview of the Club’s 2010 accomplishments and goals for 2011. In 2010, the Club served over 1500 young people ages 3 – 18, provided nearly 5,000 free meals and over 30,000 free snacks to kids, employed 20 full time and 23 part time staff to mentor local youth, provided scholarships to 31% of its Members, and was supported by over 250 volunteers. For 2011, the Club plans to continue its “AAA” program focus (Academics, Arts, and Adolescents), promote its new skateboarding program, continue to meet the changing needs of the community, retain the best youth development professionals around, expand the Board of Directors, and to once again complete the year with a balanced budget.

The presentation continued with Executive Director, Pam Estes emphasizing that in today’s world, all children are at risk, and that the Boys & Girls Club is dedicated to developing the best possible opportunities to promote success for young people in our community – both now and in the future. Pam Estes stated, “It takes a village – a whole community coming together and working together to build resiliency in youth. We each have a role to play and we’re grateful for every one of our Boys & Girls Club Partners. Together, we are investing in the future by empowering young people today.”

Boys & Girls Club TLC Branch Director Ashlyn Strahle then spoke about the education programs and close partnership with the schools. Club Art Director, Emily Murray described many of the art programs and partnerships with the Festival of Arts, LCAD, and many more. The Club’s Interim Teen Director, Carla Contreras then spoke about the teen programs, including the Keystone Club, a leadership

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program that allows teens to take the lead in identifying and implementing community service projects and meet other teens from around the country. (The Laguna Keystone Club recently placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in the nation for its 2010 project.)

Also at the breakfast, three Community Partner Awards were announced. The Agency Partner of the Year was awarded to the Laguna Beach Unified School District. Assistant Superintendent Nancy Hubbell expressed the District's appreciation for the shared efforts with the Club which enhances the academic success of students. She described many endeavors such as teachers who provide Club staff with homework assignments to keep kids on task, allowing students to access Successmaker program from the Club's Tech Center, and working together on a coalition to prevent underage substance use, to name just a few. The Corporate Partner of the Year went to Hearts of Montage for collaborating on the Club's Career Launch program by pairing up teen members with Montage employees and allowing Club teens to shadow various professionals for a day. The final award for the Volunteer Partner of the Year went to Niko Theris, who has been a consistent fixture in the Teen Center for years. His mix of unpretentious intellect, expansive curiosity, appreciation for self-expression, and great sense of humor has a tremendously positive influence on teens at the Club. The breakfast concluded with a heartfelt serenade by the Boys & Girls Club Preschool students.

Board President Bob Whalen summed up the event, "We had a fantastic turnout and show of support from our community partners. Without our partners, we could not run the Club's great programs that focus on academics, art and athletics. It is gratifying to know that our partners share our view that the Club is a vital part of supporting the youth of our community. "

In attendance at the breakfast were Laguna Beach Mayor Toni Iseman, LB City Council Members Kelly Boyd and Verna Rollinger, Aliso Viejo Councilman Bill Phillips, LB City Manager John Pietig, LB Fire Chief Kris Head, Laguna Beach School Board Members Betsy Jenkins, Teresa O'Hare, and Jan Vickers, LBUSD Principals, Orange County Community Foundation President Shelly Hoss, as well as representatives from the LB Police Department, OC Sheriff, School Power, and Laguna Beach PTA's.

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Other partner agencies included ASF, AV Community Services, Assistance League of LB, Boys & Girls Clubs of America, Brainpower, Merage Foundation, Doctor's Ambulance, Festival of the Arts, Hortense Miller Garden, Hobie, Kaiser Permanente, La Playa, LB Chamber, LB Community Foundation, LB Live, LB Parents Club, LB Seniors, LCAD, Lumberyard Restaurant, Mission Hospital, National Children's Study, Opus Community Foundation, OC United Way, Rotary Club of Laguna Beach, South Orange County Chamber, Stu News, and Union Bank,

The Club was represented by Board Members, Committee Members, Donors, Staff, Parents, Alumni, the BG's, volunteers, and friends of the Club.

For more information on the Boys & Girls Club please call 949-494-2535x100 or check the website at [www.bgclagunabeach.org](http://www.bgclagunabeach.org).