



It is possible to create a world in which fewer innocent children suffer. Camus

30 years of loving children.

3rd Quarter 2007/Special Edition

"For the Kids" Gala Event!

COTA Holds Fundraising Event at Dana Point Harbor, October 13, 2007

There was just so much activity this last quarter, that four pages were not enough. So here we are with a "special edition" to this quarter's newsletter in order to create enough space to tell you about the fundraising event we held last month, and to try to thank all the people who made it a wonderful night.

By everyone's estimation, the event was a great success, but most importantly, it was an evening of connection between long-time supporters of Children of The Americas, some of the staff and helpers and children from the neighborhoods in Mexico where we work, and folks just getting to know about us and the children. It felt warm and comfortable and relaxed--three essential ingredients to an evening dedicated to the children.



Children's faces were everywhere including these great centerpieces handmade by Marcie Spann for the event.

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With only two months preparation, COTA's board members and a group of really dedicated supporters made things happen quickly. Bill Frey, our emcee for the event, also was instrumental in planning, and Barbara Whorley was tenacious in obtaining items for auction. Local artists and businesses donated their products and services; a local band donated their time and music for the evening; Marcie Spann designed and produced the decorations and centerpieces; and many others helped in dozens of ways both big and small.



Audrey Morgan looking over the drawing and auction items.

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Frances Haynes and Rosenda Medrano meeting at the Children of The Americas Gala Event.

Special Thanks to Special Folks...

Several New Groups and Individuals Bearing Gifts for Our Kids

Thank you sounds so inadequate in expressing the gratitude we have for so many people who helped organize and plan and setup and support and attend and pledge--all the work that went into a single evening that will have much longer lasting effects for the kids. But thank you is all we have in English, so thank you everyone who helped--from our board members who've been at this for the last two months, to all those who showed up hours early to set up and make ready for the guests, to businesses and artists who donated items for the drawing and silent auction, to all our guests who made the evening go.



Bob and Judy Beauchamp--we love you!

We also want to express special thanks to Frances Haynes and St. Michael and All Angels Church, Marc and Sally Kassoff, and Bill Frey--all of whom purchased entire tables for their companies. And finally, a huge thank you to Bob and Judy Beauchamp, who not only bought a table for their entire family, but presented COTA with a major gift as well. Without the generosity of these wonderful people, the event would not be a financial success. ■

COTA Fundraising Event

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We were also thrilled to be able to bring many of our staff, helpers, and some of the children from our neighborhoods in Mexico to be with us and to speak to the audience that night. Among them were Olivia Morentin, our staff coordinator in Mexico, Rosenda Medrano, one of our dining room directors, and a representative from DIF (Mexico's social services agency).

The evening was marked by a spectacular view of Dana Point Harbor, great music and food, a silent auction and drawing, special entertainment, and a presentation of Children of The Americas and our work by President Dave Brisbin--all capped by a video production celebrating the children produced by photographer Mike Morgan.

Having said all that, we had almost 100 people in attendance and raised well over \$22,000 after expenses--money which will keep us going through the holidays and into next year. Once again, our heartfelt thanks to everyone who gave so much of themselves for the kids. Take a look. at this quick tour of the evening... ■



An original print by artist Neil Verni at auction



The view of the Harbor from the banquet room windows.



Three of our lovely drawing ticket sellers—who could resist?



What a pleasure to have Olivia (R) and Rosenda (C) and many others from Mexico as our honored guests.



Walking in the front door, guests were greeted by board member Terry Neville (and Bob Colella) for registration, orientation, and programs.



Dave Brisbin (R) greeting long-time friends and COTA supporters Dave and Vaughnmarie Stacy.



Down to the final moments, Rubidelia Lopez and her daughter from the colonias in a Kodak moment.



theeffect Band with lead singer Lisa Jones played while guests mingled and viewed the drawing and silent auction items, and bid on the auction.



Bill Frey, our emcee and long-time supporter mingling with Olivia Morentin and Rosita, both up from Mexico to be with us.



Dave Brisbin, in presenting COTA and its work to the group, brings up the entire entourage from Mexico to be honored and thanked. Olivia, Rosenda, and Yolanda (a representative from DIF, Mexico's social services agency) also addressed the audience for the children.