

CSF Full Steam Ahead Benefit Auction Raises Record Funds for Local Schools

Coronado Schools Foundation Chairs Kari Lyons and Karen Strabala are beaming with delight and sincere gratitude over the record breaking financial success of the November **Full Steam Ahead Benefit Auction**, which raised much needed funds for Coronado's public schools.

"The November 12th Auction was such a positive community event and a great way to celebrate our amazing schools and kids while raising locally controlled funds for Coronado's public schools," said Kari Lyons, co-chair and CSF Board Member.

Despite the torrential rain, over 550 guests and volunteers turned out to enjoy a phenomenal evening at the Hotel del Coronado. The Oceanfront Ballroom was abuzz with energy as guests bid on the Silent Auction with BidPal smart phones, socialized with friends, and feasted on delicious gourmet fare from The Del's Culinary Team. "It is the combined generosity of underwriting businesses, supportive merchants and community members, and countless volunteers that contributed to this year's record-breaking success, with a projected net income of over \$200,000," commented Kathleen Wakefield, CSF Director of Development. "It takes a village to put this event on and that was certainly apparent on the night."

As the evening progressed, guests raised their paddles to bid on incredible Live Auction packages with lots of fun "frenzies" in between. The evening culminated in the naming of the 22nd Annual Merchant Award, Pacific Western Bank. "Pacific Western Bank has provided volunteer support for the Auction for over 17 years with one of the staff members, Bank Manager Norma Keller, never missing an auction. In addition to providing hours of volunteer time, this business truly takes its philanthropic support seriously, active in the local community and donating over \$20,000 to our schools through CSF over the past three years alone," said Tom DeSanto, CSF Board President.

Previewed at the event was a CHS Digital Media Academy student-produced video on the need for locally controlled funds. "With public education facing yet another round of budget cuts just announced, our schools rely heavily on the more than \$600,000 returned from last year's fundraising. The need has never been greater and we are thankful to all who contributed at the Auction to fund the first year of a Digital Content Library Portal that will allow our 3,100 students and their parents to 24/7 access to literature, research materials, podcasts and videos and so much more," noted Patty Cowan, CSF Executive Director.

As the winners of the night's drawings were selected, Karen Pontes ran up to the stage to collect the lovely necklace and bracelet. Auctioneer Bill Menish then called out Carol

Kearney as the winner of the trip to Greece and a \$1000 VISA card. Many attendees then headed to the After Party downstairs in the Carousel Room to dance the night away. CSF thanks the many donors, attendees and volunteers who made the benefit event a reality.