



Barbara Sinatra Children's Center
FOUNDATION

BARBARA SINATRA CENTER
FOR ABUSED CHILDREN



BARBARA SINATRA CENTER
FOR ABUSED CHILDREN
Breaking the Cycle of Child Abuse

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“One Night Only”... *One Great Event*

The “One Night Only” show at the McCallum Theatre has been a highlight of both the theater and fundraising season for 15 years, and every year Michael Childers accomplishes the seemingly impossible task of making the show better than the last. This year’s “Broadway Showstoppers” benefited the Barbara Sinatra Children’s Center.

Last summer, Board member Terri Ketover discussed the idea of the Children’s Center working with Michael Childers and becoming the beneficiary of the event, and we are so thankful for Terri’s leadership and involvement in the event’s success and our ongoing relationship with this fabulous show. ▶ **Continued on page 6**



One Night Only.



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BARBARA SINATRA CENTER
FOR ABUSED CHILDREN
AT EISENHOWER

30 Years Counseling and Preventing Child Abuse

My Dear Friends,

I am so very proud of the great work we are doing to help treat child abuse here in the Coachella Valley and now bringing awareness and prevention of child abuse to a worldwide audience through the “Protect Yourself Rules” animated videos. I just know how pleased Barbara would be knowing that her vision in 1985 has grown to now international recognition.

The transfer of Board President from Angie Gerber to Hal Gershowitz has been most smooth. I was very happy when Angie agreed to take the Board President’s position following my term and now welcome the opportunity to work closely with Hal.

Over the past year, I have worked hand in hand with John Thoresen on Board development, expansion of therapeutic offerings, and of course getting the word out on our programs and outreach. I expect this next year will see an even greater public awareness of the great organization we have become.

Thank you to all the wonderful donors listed in this newsletter. Because of your generosity we are reaching many children throughout the Coachella Valley and beyond. Importantly, because we are blessed to have an endowment that annually covers our administrative costs, 100% of your donation is designated for helping children through therapy, awareness, and prevention.

I look forward to seeing each of you this next season.

Fondly,

Helene Galen

Chair



Note *from the* President

Making a Difference...Every Day

It is rare that a day goes by when law enforcement or Child Protective Services doesn’t accompany a new young client to our doors. There are few variations in their stories. These youngsters have invariably been abused, either sexually, physically, or emotionally. The professional staff at the Sinatra Center has one primary mission: to heal these kids of the emotional trauma they have all experienced. Our therapists do a remarkable job, over time, of helping each child regain their sense of dignity, self-respect, and confidence that they were not responsible for the actions of an adult who took advantage of them. Our professional staff, when appropriate, also provides invaluable assistance as expert witnesses in court proceedings to assure that those responsible are punished.

BSCC “Protect Yourself Rules” Go Global

Three years ago, we began working with leading experts to produce highly effective animated videos to teach young children and teenagers how to protect themselves by educating them about what is inappropriate touch as well as about suspicious conversation with which some adults might try to entice them. ► **Continued on opposite page**

Continued from page 3 We offer the “Protect Yourself Rules” free of charge to educators, counselors, parents, youth organizations such as the Boy and Girl Scouts of America, and through YouTube to the public at large. Today, based on analytical data, we estimate these videos have been viewed by at least 100 million at-risk children all over the world—and the viewership keeps growing every day. The Barbara Sinatra Center for Abused Children is ironically a very uplifting place. While every story here began with sad and often violent circumstances, what one observes here is mostly recovery: children laughing again and bright eyed and smiling. They invariably see their staff therapists as trusted friends. The volunteers who engage them as they wait for their appointments are often seen as friends too. The Sinatra Center staff has a very positive and wonderful effect on the lives of these kids. And, truth be told, these kids have a pretty remarkable effect on all of us too.

During the past decade since I first became involved with the Barbara Sinatra Center for Abused Children, I have observed countless young boys and girls and their parents going to and coming from their appointments with our staff therapists or participating in one of the Center’s many events or programs. And I think every time of the difference this wonderful Barbara Sinatra Children’s Center makes in the lives of so many young people who have been hurt physically and/or emotionally. And I think of this remarkable community and of our “Aunts and Uncles” who make all of this possible. Collectively, they (you) make a huge difference... every day.

With gratitude,

Hal Gershowitz, President of the Board



Note *from the* Director

We just finished another successful season and fiscal year, and we have much to be proud of due to the outstanding support of our major donors, Aunts and Uncles, Affiliates, and all of our donors. Our assets continue to grow, and with over \$3,000,000 in grants and donations, this year we experienced yet another operating surplus for the fiscal year.

I want to take this opportunity to personally thank Angie Gerber for her leadership and support over the past four years as Board President. Angie had big shoes to fill after Helene passed the gavel, but under Angie’s tenure much has been accomplished at both the Children’s Center and with the Foundation. We could not let Angie drift too far away, so we made sure that we had a position for her on the Executive Committee as Immediate Past President.

Now we welcome Hal Gershowitz as Board President. Hal has served as a Vice President and Treasurer for many years along with his leadership of the Champion Honors Luncheon. Hal has jumped right in, including learning more about our relationship with law enforcement, the District Attorney’s office, and Child Protective Services. Hal also has taken a hands-on approach to our branding, public relations, and marketing efforts with our new marketing consultants at DKC.

The announcement and subsequent press coverage of our partnership with the Boy Scouts and the use of the “Protect Yourself Rules” by every child in the Cub Scouts program has been phenomenal. This month we are very excited to release the next series of animated videos that will help children who have suffered the trauma of sexual abuse but for one reason or another have not disclosed that abuse. The messages of these new videos are very powerful, and the goal is to help children begin the healing process and feel better by disclosing and talking about what has happened to them. We are also working on the “teen series” of the “Protect Yourself Rules” which should be ready for distribution in January.

In this newsletter we’ve included a roster of our donors for the period July 1, 2018, to June 30, 2019. It is an impressive list and illustrates the breadth and generosity of those who have chosen to help prevent and treat child abuse by giving to the Barbara Sinatra Children’s Center. Thank you for believing in our mission and our work, and we will continue to be excellent stewards of your outstanding contributions.

Have a safe and wonderful summer and we look forward to seeing you at our events this next season.

Best Regards,

John E. Thoresen, Director/Executive Officer

The Children's Center Builds Brand New Tennis Court *for* NJTL Tennis Life Skills Program

On Wednesday, March 6, 2019, we held a tennis court dedication at the Barbara Sinatra Children's Center. Many of our donors, staff, and volunteers gathered around and socialized on this beautiful evening, enjoying food and drink and an exciting tennis exhibition.

The brand new Stadium One-like tennis court will be used for our Tennis Life Skills Program, a program designed and sponsored by the National Junior Tennis League. In addition to being taught tennis skills by a professional tennis pro, the children learn life skills that give power off the court—skills like teamwork, positive thinking, and how to achieve goals in life. This is an eight-week program designed to build tennis ability, sportsmanship, and valuable life skills on and off the court. ■



Charlie Pasarell.



Helene Galen, Charlie Pasarell, Nelda Linsk, Lindell Campbell, and Marta and Des Danks.



Charlie Pasarell and Hillary and Bob Marx.

“children learn life skills that give power off the court—skills like teamwork, positive thinking, and how to achieve goals in life”



Instructor and tennis pro Tom Fey with other tennis professionals.



Tennis professional Mark Woodforde with Toni and John Ackermann .



Ellen and Walt Barnes.



Bob Marx and John Thoresen.



Leisa Austin, Harold Matzner and Shellie Read.



Carole Haes Landon and Rondi Edwards.



Angie Gerber, Steve La Salvia, and Barbara Fromm.

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Director/ Executive Officer

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One Night Only Continued from cover

This year there were three wonderful events under the “One Night Only” umbrella: a cast party at the home of Helene Galen and Jamie Kabler, which was held the evening before the show; the show at the McCallum Theatre; and a VIP after-party dinner and cabaret show at the Annenberg Center on Eisenhower Health’s campus with sponsors, VIPs and the show’s performers.

The BSCC Board was well represented at the events with board members and donors of the Children’s Center serving as sponsors for “One Night Only” and purchasing large blocks of VIP tickets.

Everyone appeared to have a terrific time, the event helped the Children’s Center brand, and we netted nearly \$125,000 to help the kids we serve. The show in 2020 should be even better, so plan on attending. ■



Marylynn Gladstein and Raju Mehta.



Carole Haes Landon and Dale Landon.



Barbara Fromm, Michael Childers, John Thoresen, Terri Ketover, Helene Galen, Jamie Kabler, and Hal Gershowitz.

Barbara Sinatra Children's Center and Boy Scouts Ink Partnership Agreement for Use of the "Protect Yourself Rules"

The Boy Scouts of America (BSA) and the Barbara Sinatra Children's Center Foundation announced a formal agreement on May 28, 2019, at the National Annual Meeting of the BSA in Denver, CO. The licensing agreement gives the BSA the rights to use the entire video series of the "Protect Yourself Rules" along with the printed material for a new required Preview Adventure for all 1.2 million Cub Scouts. The Scout's Director of Youth Protection Michael Johnson and BSCC Foundation executive John Thoresen have been working on the agreement and announcement for a number of months. We are so excited that our videos are now going to be part of the youth training that every Cub Scout will participate in at the local level.



Araceli Martinez.



Protect Yourself Rules.

Both John Thoresen and BSCC Outreach Coordinator Araceli Martinez attended the BSA meeting where the formal announcement was made to over 3,500 volunteer Scout leaders and executives. The Cub Scouts constructed a display in the exhibit hall of the National Annual Meeting to support the announcement, and flyers on the "Protect Yourself Rules" were distributed to interested attendees. Michael Johnson indicated that he showed the videos to parents of Cub Scouts and to Cub Scouts themselves and was most impressed with the messages and how all the Cub Scouts were riveted by the characters and the lessons. The BSA will use both the K-3 grade series and the series for grades 4-6, and they are already in place on the Scouting website.

The partnership and the announcement of the use of the "Protect Yourself Rules" was covered in the press by the Associated Press and by Fox News New York. Local Fox stations throughout the U.S. announced the use of the videos by the Boy Scouts, and many leading print and online newspapers covered the story.

Many Scout volunteers and executives at the National Annual Meeting went out of their way to thank both Araceli and John for developing and sharing this great resource to protect children. ■

A Joy-Filled Spring Afternoon

The Affiliates put together a wonderful spring party for about 30 children on Monday, April 8, 2019. Although it was a sweltering 100 degrees outside, the kids paid no mind and had a fantastic time painting eggs, beading bracelets, and decorating colorful cookies and visors. The true hit of the party was, of course, the petting zoo. With the animals corralled, the children had a chance to pet a potbelly pig, adorable goats, a soft bunny rabbit, a desert tortoise, guinea pigs, chickens, and a beautiful goose! With so many activities, the kids were engaged throughout the party and were pleasantly surprised to depart with fun goodie baskets filled with toys and sweet treats. A big thank you to our dedicated Affiliates for coordinating this festive afternoon. ■



Back: Jean Blomberg, Sandy Slobodian, Casey Boone, Judy Hoyt, Loretta Boone, Ronda Larson, and Diane Weiss. Front: Ann Shapiro and Ursula Gari.



Sandy Slobodian and Laura Rogers.



Family *Fun* Day

On May 18, HOPE Collaborative District 4 partnered with Barbara Sinatra Children's Center for a Family Fun Day. HOPE Collaborative is a nonprofit organization under Family Service Association. This free community event was held at the BSCC from 9 am–12 pm, and families from the Coachella Valley were invited to learn about resources available in their community. Approximately 20 different agencies set up informational booths, and families had the opportunity to participate in interactive and educational workshops. The BSCC provided a workshop for parents and children which consisted of the "Protect Yourself Rules" animated videos. Everyone enjoyed food, entertainment, games, giveaways, and more. Valerie Mahabir Academy of Ballet and Performing Arts, Indio High School Choir, and the Jazz Ensemble from Rancho Mirage High School provided great entertainment, and the overall turnout of participants was over 150. This collaborative partnership is expected to continue to host an annual community event. ■

Case Study

An eight-year-old boy was referred for treatment to BSCC eight months ago by the CPS adoptions division. He is residing with his maternal grandparents, who are soon to be the adoptive parents. The child's mother is deceased, and his biological father is in prison.

The client's mother was a domestic violence victim. She was murdered by her boyfriend and then burned in their apartment, which was set on fire. The little boy was in the home when this all occurred and was rescued by neighbors. It is believed that the boyfriend, who murdered the mother, set the apartment on fire to get rid of the physical evidence.

After this incident, the child was placed with his biological father by CPS. During this time, the client was physically abused by his father, who was charged and convicted of abuse. He lost his parental rights and is in prison.

The client was presented for treatment, having lost his mother one year prior to treatment. He exhibited a lot of anger, behavior issues, loss and abandonment issues, and aggressive episodes of hitting others. He is doing very well in the care of his maternal grandparents, and his adoption is scheduled to finalize in December 2019. The grandparents regularly bring him to therapy and actively and positively participate in his treatment, which consists of multiple modalities. After a thorough psychosocial intake and family history, a treatment plan was devised to address the boy's needs, as well as his grandparents' needs.

Treatment goals include processing through the bereavement and loss issues with his mother, attending a summer music therapy group, and addressing/processing through the betrayal of both his mother's boyfriend and biological father. While building a therapeutic alliance, treatment methods include behavioral modification, trauma focused therapy, play/art/garden therapy, listening to and monitoring his moods, modifying maladapted behaviors, and the creation of a dream journal to address his history of nightmares. Both grandparents plan on participating in the parenting group offered at BSCC.

Currently, the boy has greatly reduced his anger outbursts at home and school, processing well through his loss and bereavement issues. He has exhibited a very strong bond to his maternal grandparents, and his social skills and academics have improved at school. He is full of life, energy, and hope with his new family. ■

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with Olympic gold medalist and America's
greatest women's skier Lindsey Vonn



Lindsey Vonn steps onto the gold medal podium at the Vancouver Olympics 2010 (Photo: Mike Kane/ZUMApres.com).

