



BARBARA SINATRA CENTER
FOR ABUSED CHILDREN

AT EISENHOWER




Another Packed House Hears Olympic Champion Simone Biles and Nellie Biles

We got two for one at this year's Champion Honors Luncheon, as Nellie Biles joined her adoptive daughter Simone on stage for an intimate conversation with Larry King's friend and pitch hitter, Cal Fussman. Over 600 attendees heard about Simone's early life of neglect and trauma, foster care and then the adoption by her maternal grandfather Ron Biles and his wife Nellie. As Nellie said, "We could see early-on that with Simone jumping and flipping all over the house and yard that she was destined to be a great gymnast." Unfortunately, scheduled interviewer Larry King came down ill and was replaced by his friend Cal Fussman, who did a great job.

A "Sponsor" event was held on Thursday evening before the Champion Honors Luncheon at the home of BSCC Chair Helene Galen. It was a great and relaxed evening to get to know Simone and her parents.

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Nellie Biles, Simone Biles & Cal Fussman. Photo by Marc Glassman.



Simone Biles. Photo by Marc Glassman.

BARBARA SINATRA CENTER
FOR ABUSED CHILDREN

Breaking the Cycle of Child Abuse

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BARBARA SINATRA CENTER
FOR ABUSED CHILDREN
AT EISENHOWER

30 Years Counseling and Preventing Child Abuse

Dear Friends,

July of 2017 was our saddest time since we opened the Children's Center in 1986... we lost our founder Barbara.

Many of us had the fortune of being able to spend time with Barbara in the last months of her life, and we always thanked her for her gift to the children.

Back when Barbara and Frank were making the arrangements with Eisenhower to develop the Children's Center and the fundraising began, Barbara called me and asked me to join her as she knew I had some experience in non-profits and their structure. When I heard about the mission I was eager to get in on the ground floor. We had very generous donors, and it did not take long before the center opened on the campus of Eisenhower in Rancho Mirage and the children started coming for treatment.

I was also responsible for creating a structure with the board and quickly set up a program for men to become Uncles (\$1,000 a year), to have a stream of annual income... Frank was our first Uncle. Later, Jill St. John asked "why not Aunts too?" and so began 30 years of generous Aunts and Uncles who help with annual donations that now approaches \$500,000 per year and 100% goes straight to helping the children we serve, and yes, the kids know there are people out there who love them.

My title and position for the past couple of years has been Vice Chair of the BSCC, and when Barbara passed, I was asked to accept the position as Chair of the Board. I eagerly accepted, and knew that the board was a strong structure of men and women who all shared my vision of helping youngsters who had been abused get through their trauma and helping restore their lives. I also took the position because we were fortunate that back in 2011 Barbara and I interviewed a gentleman to handle the running of the center, and he was John Thoresen. Both Barbara and I were forever grateful for his leadership talents and the great staff he has helped assemble.

This past year, under John's leadership, we developed a program that is bringing a series of animated videos to millions of viewers that is distributed FREE of charge, and tells children in grades K-6 what to do if they are subjected to situations that could be abuse or lead to further abuse. I am so proud that now our mission of helping children is reaching throughout the entire United States and even internationally. Who would have guessed back in 1986 when Barbara first called me that we would have helped over 20,000 children at the Center and provided awareness and prevention of child abuse to millions of children though the Internet.

We are always reaching out to find more ways to help the young grow up without the pain of abuse, and are working on ways to grow both here in the Coachella Valley and with outreach elsewhere. This was a definite goal of mine when I agreed to my new role.

We continue to be excellent stewards of your donations, which was most important to Barbara. Additionally, she would be so proud that this past year her wonderful granddaughter Carina was voted on to the Board of Directors of the Barbara Sinatra Children's Center. Carina is a great addition and I am looking forward to her new fresh ideas on expanding the legacy that her grandmother Barbara Sinatra envisioned back in 1986.

Thank you all for your generosity and care for the children we serve.

Fondly,

Helene Galen
Chairwoman

Champion Honors Luncheon Continued from cover

On Friday morning before the Champion Honors Luncheon, Simone and her parents took a tour of the Children's Center and Simone spoke to approximately 30 clients of the Center. It was so moving to see the excitement of the children, as well as Simone's kindness as she gave her time for questions, autographs, and of course, took selfies with the kids. One young girl was in tears when her mother came to pick her up having gotten the opportunity to meet and talk with Simone.

Sponsors included: Bob Borns, City National Bank, Covington Capital Management, Eisenhower Health, Helene Galen, Christina Gantz, Angie Gerber, Hal Gershowitz, Andy Gladstein, Steve and Jan Hammerslag, Vern Kozlen, Marcus Corporation Foundation, Harold Matzner, JoAnn McGrath, Bill Nicholson, Sally Phinny, Marion Rosenthal, Esther Schoenfeld, and Dr. Maryanne Vandervelde and Ray Looney who all attended a VIP Reception before the luncheon, along with committee members and invited guests.

Tamara Bolten, the Affiliates, Richard DeSantis, Gary Shaw, the Hyatt folks and BSCC staff all worked hard to bring together a wonderful Champion Honors Luncheon. Once again, the Rancho Mirage High School Band serenaded the crowd as they entered the ballroom and then played the Olympic theme song as Simone Biles and her parents were escorted into the luncheon by local gymnasts from Aftershock Gymnastics Team, who earlier performed at the Hyatt entrance. Following a wonderfully prepared lunch, Harold Matzner and Helene Galen introduced a tribute to our founder Barbara Sinatra. Melissa Battalles then sang a moving song leading up to Hal Gershowitz providing a pitch to the crowd to once again consider becoming an Aunt or Uncle of the Barbara Sinatra Children's Center. We are proud to announce that 80 people signed up to join the Aunts and Uncles Club at the luncheon, which brings the total of Aunts and Uncles combined to nearly 500. Since 2013, over \$800,000 has been raised at the Champion Honors Luncheon from new Aunts and Uncles. When you add in the renewals from year to year, the CHL has raised over \$1,400,000 to help the children we serve. The CHL really has become the must-attend luncheon of the desert season. ■

Photos by Lani Garfield.



Angie Gerber, Leisa Austin, Helene Galen, Andy & Marylynn Gladstein.



Arthur & Deborah Jacobson.



Bob & Sandra Borns with grandson.



Christina Gantz & Todd Wright.



Bob Borns, Lindell Campbell, Esther Schoenfeld & Nelda Linsk.



Hal Gershowitz.



Jodi Ferragamo, Rita Vale, Helene Galen, & Harold Matzner.



Stephanie & Michael Landes.



Helene Galen, Nellie Biles, Simone Biles, Ron Biles & Jamie Kabler.



Jennifer Lask, Hal & Diane Gershowitz.



Vern Kozlen & John Thoresen.



Ron Biles, Simone Biles, Nellie Biles, Hal Gershowitz, John Thoresen & Angie Gerber.

December Golf Tournament and Barry Manilow Concert a Success

A new format, a new golf course and an added reception, dinner and concert made for a most successful 2017 Barbara Sinatra Children's Center December event. The festivities opened with a welcoming party at the Vault at BIGHORN where golfers picked up tee gifts, other guests socialized, and everybody enjoyed looking at the great selection of displayed cars.

On Monday morning some 70 golfers participated in a putting clinic lead by Dave Stockton Jr. before heading out onto the Mountains Course at BIGHORN. Golf was followed by lunch and a quick auction all MC'd by Tom Dreesen. Doug and Chris Peterson were the big winners, walking away with a couple original Frank Sinatra paintings and a trip to this year's Kentucky Derby. The new clubhouse at BIGHORN was a hit, along with the fabulous conditions of the course.

Tuesday was a jam packed day that included 50 great Children's Center supporters participating in the indiGO Auto Group's "Drive 4 Kids" at the BMW Performance Center at the Thermal Club race track. The competition at the track was more intense than the golf tournament the day before. Todd Blue the Chairman of indiGO surprised the assembled supporters by presenting John Thoresen with a check for \$28,000 which meant the total raised for the Children's Center was \$50,000 from the event at the track. By 5:30 pm on Tuesday some 125 people assembled at Mastro's on El Paseo for cocktails and dinner prior to the Barry Manilow holiday concert. With music, cocktails, wine and a great dinner, guests left Mastro's for the McCallum very happy.

The Barry Manilow concert began at 8:00 pm and Barry had the audience jumping. The Children's Center was able to sell over 200 concert tickets between golfers, their guests, and other contributors to the Children's Center. The show put on by Barry was terrific and was a crowning touch to a wonderful three days of events.

We are most thankful for all our event sponsors including PURE Insurance, Assured Partners, indiGO Auto Group, El Paseo Jewelers, and Brown Forman. The contributions from our Board of Directors and major supporters were outstanding and, together with our donation from the Manilow Fund for Health and Hope, our proceeds from the December Classic was over \$500,000. Thank you to all and, of course, thank you to Andy Gladstein and his Committee that organized such a great event. ■



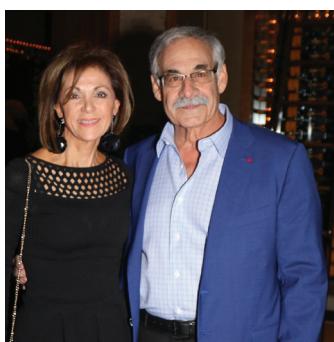
Perry Koon, Tom Dreesen, Doug Peterson, & Jason Shook. Photo by Marc Glassman.



John Thoresen, Travis Nelson, Dave Stockton Jr., & Mike Harris. Photo by Marc Glassman.



Kevin Daley & Chris Qvale. Photo by Lani Garfield.



Angie Gerber & Steve LaSalvia. Photo by Lani Garfield.



Andy Gladstein, Cheryl and John Thoresen, Allison Ciota. Photo by Lani Garfield.



Helene Galen, Beverly Johnson, Jamie Kabler. Photo by Lani Garfield.



Rondi Edwards & Susan Winger.



Steve LaSalvia, Angie Gerber, Hillary & Bob Marx.



Helene Galen, John Thoresen & Barry Manilow.



Carole Haes Landon, Eula Harris & Dale Landon.



Harold Matzner, Shellie Reade & Barry Manilow.



Donna MacMillan, Andy Gladstein & Jan Salta.



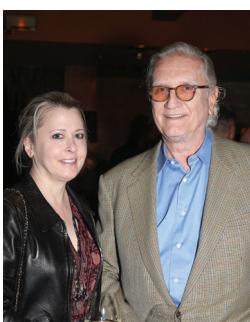
Denita Arnold, Barry Manilow & Mike Arnold.



Bill Nicholson & Eric Calderon.



Jaishri, Raju & Kavita Mehta.



Hillary & Bob Marx.



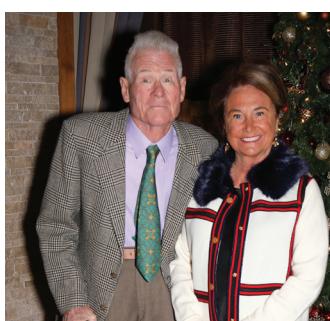
Ron and Sherrie Auen & Harold Matzner.



Nelda Linsk, Esther Schoenfeld & Nancy Stone.



Jason and Dana shook, Barry Manilow, Christine & Doug Peterson.



Robert & Jane Saltonstall.



Kelly Wolf, Barry Manilow & Todd Blue.



JoAnn McGrath, Donna MacMillan & Jane Saltonstall.



Marta & Des Danks.



Lindell Campbell, Nelda Linsk & Debbie Green.



Kent & Missy McCarthy.

Barbara & Frank Sinatra**Founders****Helene Galen****Chairwoman****Robert O. Marx, Esq.****Vice Chairman****Angie Gerber****President****Louise Korshak****William N. Osterman****Vice Presidents****Harold Gershowitz****Vice President/Treasurer****Board of Directors**

Leisa Austin

Jackie Autry

Robert A. Borns

Marta Danks

Rondi Edwards

Marshall Gelfand

Andrew Gladstein

Arthur L. Jacobson

Beverly Johnson

Terri Ketover

Michael Landes

Carole Haes Landon

Nelda Linsk

Brian Maillian

Carina Blakeley Marx

Harold Matzner

Missy McCarthy

JoAnn McGrath

Bill Nicholson

Rod Pacheco

Jane Saltonstall

Daniel Schwartz

Dick Shalhoub

Healing Through Art— Children's Art Show at Imago Galleries

Art therapy is a form of expressive treatment used by our therapists in counseling to treat and encourage children to heal through a creative process. Through artistic expression, this therapy provides traditional tools and techniques for working through stress, challenges and traumas, and aids to manage behaviors and feelings, reduce stress, and improve self-esteem. The goal is to facilitate the client's growth and positive change.

Thanks to the graciousness of BSCC Board Member Leisa Austin, a children's art exhibit was held at IMAGO Galleries on Thursday, April 12. With approximately 150 people in attendance, the showing was extremely successful and brought considerable public awareness to the issue of child abuse and trauma. The Center's clinical team was present to share the significance of the children's therapeutic drawings/art, as well as answer questions related to child abuse. The continuum of abuse was reflected in the children's expressive art, starting with the beginning of the trauma phase of treatment and ending with the renewed hope and healing as seen in the final drawings at the conclusion of therapy.

A very big thank you to co-chairs Carole Haes Landon and Ann Shapiro, as well as committee members Leisa Austin, Hal Gershowitz and Rondi Edwards for their time and effort in making this event the success it was. ■

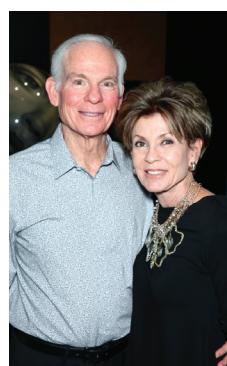
Photos by Marc Glassman.



Carole Haes Landon, Helene Galen, Hal Gershowitz, Leisa Austin & Ann Shapiro.



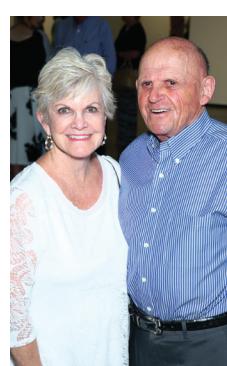
Rosemary Marta, Rondi Edwards & Leisa Austin.



Bart & Terri Ketover.



Bernie & Barbara Fromm.



Connie & Bob Lurie.



Lori & Aubrey Serfling.

The Living Desert Brings “Wildlife on Wheels” to the Children’s Easter Party

March 29 was the children’s Easter Party and the kids enjoyed an egg hunt, a visit from the Easter Bunny and lots of sweet treats. But without a doubt the highlight of the afternoon was the “Wildlife on Wheels” live animal presentation given by The Living Desert. The children were entertained and educated by three fantastic animal handlers – Kate, Misha and Carla – who had the children fully engaged and participating in the event. The kids were able to see, touch and feel many wonderful critters: three California desert tortoises of all ages and sizes, a desert iguana, hedgehogs, a southern three-banded armadillo, and a North American porcupine. The children learned about their habitats and diets, as well as which animals were endangered and how to be good stewards of our planet. What made this particularly special is that most children adore animals and many of the children we see at the Center never get a chance to see these rare and wild species up close. Their smiles and excitement were contagious and a great time was had by everyone in attendance.

A very big thank you to The Living Desert, especially Jan Hawkins, for graciously supporting the Center by introducing us to a complimentary WOW Presentation last year, and to the Center’s Aunt MaryLou Solomon, who is also a Board Member of The Living Desert and was the mastermind behind bringing our two charities together. The kids enjoyed it so much we brought WOW back again this year and plan to again next year.



Iguana.



Kate Silveira & Misha Brown.



Hedgehog.

Last but not least, thank you to our dedicated Affiliates and volunteers for coordinating the party and creating a fun and festive atmosphere for the children. ■

School Supplies Needed

Please consider dropping off or mailing any of the items listed below directly to the Children’s Center any time before August 1, 2018. Our Affiliates will assemble the backpacks with supplies so our children will be ready for their first day of school.

Below are supplies they will need:

- Backpacks (girls and boys of all ages 5 yrs–18 yrs)
- 3" Binders
- Binder paper (college ruled for middle and high school kids and regular for grade school kids)
- Note pads
- Composition pads
- Pencils
- Ballpoint pens
- Rulers
- Erasers
- Highlighters (assorted colors) ■





Denise Torres - DA Paralegal, Damen Butvidas - DA Investigator, Samantha Paixao - DA, Denise Bowman - Forensic Service Coordinator & Interviewer, Investigator Ortega, Investigator Marquez, Investigator Patrick, Isabel Tovar - BSCC Family Advocate.

is to discuss cases of child abuse and neglect and how to keep consistent best practices for successful outcomes such as prosecution, assessment for risk and safety, and coordinated counseling. The team members consist of seven local law enforcement agencies, Child Protective Services, District Attorney's Office, and Victim Witness agencies.

Photo taken at the Child Abuse Professionals Appreciation Luncheon held at Babe's Bar-B-Que & Brewhouse. Thank you to Art Vasquez and his team for hosting our annual event. ■

The Multidisciplinary Team – a Growing Component at the Children's Center

The Forensic Services program continues to grow in their outreach with 30 multidisciplinary team members attending the monthly meeting held at the Center. The meetings purpose

Barbara Sinatra Children's Center Foundation Releases Bullying Prevention Videos for National Child Abuse Prevention Month

Olympic Champion Simone Biles Weighs In

The Barbara Sinatra Children's Center Foundation, in conjunction with animation company Wonder Media, released the latest two episodes in the widely-utilized "Protect Yourself Rules" education program. The two newest videos deal with the prevention and awareness of both physical bullying and cyber bullying and are geared toward children in grades 4-6.



In only two weeks, the bullying videos have been viewed nearly 300,000 times on YouTube.

Simone Biles, who was recently honored at the Barbara Sinatra Children's Center's Champion Honors Luncheon, said, "The anti-bullying videos by the Barbara Sinatra Children's Center Foundation are a great addition to their 'Protect Yourself Rules' videos. Bullying is a difficult issue to address, but the Sinatra Center has found an amazing way to influence change through these videos which can be seen by children all around the world."

If you want to view any of the "Protect Yourself Rules" videos, go to www.fightchildabuse.org. Since January of 2017, the YouTube views of all the protection videos have reached approximately 9 million. Through teachers and counselors, schools in every U.S. state and many foreign countries have downloaded the videos for use in classrooms and after-school programs. Many schools in the United States are using the animated videos for Personal Safety lessons in alignment with Erin's Law. ■

Therapists Continued Education and Training Programs

The therapists continually participate in ongoing research-based trainings/seminars to enhance cutting-edge clinical treatment. For example, a recent seminar was attended by the clinical staff, entitled “Attachment Trauma and Psychotherapy” led by a leading, world-renowned psychiatrist, Dr. Dan Siegel. This seminar covered secure attachment, mindfulness, trauma and effective psychotherapeutic techniques. The implications of trauma were explored for the purpose of attaining a state of wellbeing and transforming and healing from the effects of trauma.

Other seminars recently attended include on the spot techniques for children and adolescents with emotional and behavioral problems. Cognitive behavioral techniques were presented to the audience with the goal of teaching 75 quick, practical interventions to reduce the ongoing effects of trauma. Another upcoming seminar will be on chronic stress and powerful treatment methods to manage stress and anxiety in children. In addition, a seminar on legal and ethical updates was attended and the information was distributed to the clinical staff for the purpose of remaining current and updated on all changes.

When therapists attend seminars, the new information is brought to the weekly clinical staff team meetings and presented and shared.

Community Outreach

We continue to focus on prevention and early intervention in our community outreach. For example, during the month of March, the community outreach coordinator attended a local school to present the “Protect Yourself Rules” videos to the entire elementary school, ranging from grade kindergarten through 6th grade, including the special education students who were also encouraged to participate. In addition, in April a presentation was conducted for the students and staff at a local private school to address the signs and symptoms of child abuse. Also, the “Protect Yourself Rules” videos was presented in April during National Child Abuse Prevention month.



Music Therapy Coming to the Center this Summer



In early summer, a therapeutic music program is scheduled to begin for clients ranging from ages 8 through 13. The innovative format will be in a group setting and will be an eight week session presented by Amanda Neira who is a certified music therapist. This group is a form of art therapy with its medium being musical creative expression for trauma healing. Music therapy is the clinical and evidence-based use of music interventions to facilitate communication and expression, and the goal is to address issues that children may not be able to express using words alone. Music therapy sessions include the use of active music making, music listening and discussion, and is an excellent adjunct to individual counseling. Meaningful outcomes include reduced muscle tension, decreased anxiety/agitation, increased self- esteem, and successful safe emotional release. ■

Our Valued Affiliates & Volunteers— *The Backbone of the Children's Center*

For those of you not familiar with the Affiliates of the Barbara Sinatra Children's Center, they are a group of individuals who volunteer their time and energy to make our children's parties, fundraisers, graduation ceremonies and other special events a success. This dedicated team makes sure every party is festive and fun, stuffing toys into big stockings during the winter holidays and stuffing baskets and eggs full of candy for our Easter party. They make sure the décor is bright and cheery, always creating an upbeat and child-friendly atmosphere. They work before and during our biggest fundraisers, assembling invitations and making sure registration and all other important aspects of a big event run smoothly. This is a team like no other, whose hearts and souls are deeply embedded in the work we do at the Center.

Affiliate Photos ▾



Front: Ursula Gari, Renee Glickman, Annette Lilly, Ann Shapiro. Back: Carole Haes Landon, Rhonda Larson, Judy Hoyt, Jean Blomberg & Jacquie Janowitz.

Our volunteers are also an enormous help to the Center. The role of the volunteer is to monitor the play area and engage with the children while they wait for their therapy session or forensic interview/exam. These individuals work directly with the kids, playing games, coloring and reading with them, while others enjoy helping with homework and tutoring when needed. Volunteers interact with the kids in numerous ways, providing a safe and nurturing environment for them to be in. They are the first point of contact with the children and their kind and caring nature always shines through, making every child's experience at the Center a warm and inviting one.

► **Continued on opposite page**



Holley Snaith, Jean Blomberg, Casey Boone, Rhonda Larson, Ursula Gari, Ann Shapiro, Annette Lilly, Norma Jacobson, Sandy Slobodian, Jacquie Janowitz, Loretta Boone & Dodie Bracken.



Jacquie Janowicz, Sandy Slobodian, Easter Bunny aka Ursula Gari, Sharon Sweeney, Ann Shapiro, Casey Boone, Annette Lilly, Loretta Boone, Jean Blomberg & board member Marta Danks.



Front: Melba Dalton, Dodie Bracken, Renee Glickman, Sandy Slobodian, Ursula Gari, Ann Shapiro. Back: Carole Haes Landon, Jean Blomberg, Rhonda Larson, Judy Hoyt, Loretta Boone, Casey Boone, Annette Lilly & Jacquie Janowitz



Fran Weaver, Ann Shapiro, Loretta Boone, Judy Hoyt, Ursula Gari, Loretta Boone, Rhonda Larson and the Rancho Mirage Fire Fighter Team.

Affiliates and Volunteers Continued from opposite page

A very big thank you to our Affiliates and volunteers who truly are the backbone of the Center. We are grateful for their big hearts and dedication, and the Center is lucky to have such a compassionate group of people work alongside of us.

Affiliates are members of the Children's Center and contribute \$150 annually. Volunteers are part of the Eisenhower Auxiliary. For more information about becoming an Affiliate or volunteer, please contact Laura Rogers at 760-773-1636. ■

Volunteer Photos ►



Frances Abbott.



Walt Barnes.



Kathy Brahms.



Pat Clapp.



Marge DeNovi.



Ursula Gari.



Jackie Grenache.



Ann Haugen.



Jacquie Janowicz.



Barbara Kubiak.



Caity McKenney.



LaRae Petrovich.



Diane Weiss.

Case Study

Client is a 7 year old Hispanic female from Thermal brought in to the Barbara Sinatra Children's Center for severe trauma of sexual abuse. Client was displaying symptoms such as anger, avoidant behavior, sadness, and behavioral issues at home. Client has been in treatment since December 2017 and currently attends weekly individual sessions where she is actively participating in play and art therapeutic interventions to explore the cycle of abuse and feelings. Client would communicate aggressively in the first few sessions, talking back, uncooperative, and displayed poor social skills. After building rapport with client over the first few weeks of treatment with ice breaker exercises, client has displayed an improvement in behavior and actively participates. Client has been able to open up and discuss the cycle of abuse through art therapy. Client is currently working through an illustration book to explore feelings and thoughts regarding trauma. At home client was displaying frequent crying spells, fear of being alone, and having difficulty verbalizing needs and thoughts. Client is now expressing feelings to father, she is able to sleep in her own room and interacting more with siblings. Client is also doing significantly well in school as she has received two awards in the past two months for math and improvement in reading. Client has displayed significant progress in the past 3 months such as reduced defiant behavior at home, reduced sadness, and is able to verbally express feelings. ■



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**BARBARA SINATRA CENTER
FOR ABUSED CHILDREN**



Breaking the Cycle of Child Abuse

39000 Bob Hope Drive
Rancho Mirage, CA 92270

www.barbarasinatrachildrenscenter.org

Champion Honors Luncheon

Photos by Lani Garfield.



Simone Biles with BSCC Children.



Harold Matzner & Helene Galen.



Simone Biles & Hal Gershowitz.



Simone Biles with Aftershock Gymnastics Team.