

Court Appointed Special Advocates

A Night of 1000 Stars

By ERIN J. SMITH/CASA

TO HELP MAKE THE STARS SHINE A LITTLE BRIGHTER for children struggling with abuse and neglect, Court Appointed Special Advocates (C.A.S.A.) celebrated *A Night of 1000 Stars* fundraiser on Oscar night, February 22nd.

C.A.S.A. is a group of dedicated individuals whose mission is to assure a safe, permanent, and nurturing home for abused or neglected children. Led by Executive Director Maria Long, the team of more than 100 volunteers work one-on-one with about 150 children and



Mike Stoker, Board Member, and **Michelle Neely Saltoun**, Board President

advocate for them in the court system. Another 130 children are on the waiting list.

“There is a great community need to foster and support these children,” said Michelle Neely Saltoun, who has been involved with C.A.S.A. the past six years and is currently Board President. “I think these kids are so willing to achieve

more, but they feel they are not deserving. My job is to let them know what opportunities and resources are available



Diana Andonian, Michael J. Maloco, and **Ginny S. Maloco**, Board Member



Lynda Gordon and **Leslie Lund**



Left to Right: **Debbie Snyder, Stina Hans, Holly Murphy, Susan Manning, TJ Locker,** and **Jeannie Hoffman**



Doug and **Sharon Ewins**



Maria Long, C.A.S.A. Executive Director, with **Catherine ReMak** and **Gary Fruin**, KLITE Radio

to them. It’s gratifying to see them light up when they realize they can go to college and reach beyond the chaos.”

C.A.S.A. supporters filled several rooms at Ruth’s Chris Steak House and enjoyed a delectable, three-course meal selected from Ruth’s Mixed Grill that still sizzled as it was served. Assorted hand-made chocolates by Chocolats du Calibressan were offered as party favors and guests left with prizes. Santa Barbara’s favorite double act, K-Lite’s Katherine and Gary, hosted the event while guests sipped wine provided by Consilience Winery or enjoyed a “C.A.S.A. Cosmopolitan” created especially for the event. Jensen Audiovisual set up wide-screen televisions throughout the dining room so guests could watch the stars walk down the red carpet and root for their favorite Oscar winner.

Proceeds from the bedazzled, Oscar-night event benefit C.A.S.A.’s ongoing, mission-driven programs.

“There’s no one else to swing the bat for these kids,” shared Rebecca Brand, a CASA supporter. “If C.A.S.A. didn’t exist, these kids would flounder.”



Rebecca Brand, Joe Scifers, and **Dr. Cory Bream**

To find out more information on becoming a C.A.S.A. volunteer, call 845-8364 or visit www.sbcasa.org.



Left to Right: **Donna Reeves**, C.A.S.A. Operations & Development Manager; **Kenneth Freeland**, C.A.S.A. Director of Program; **MJ Franco**, C.A.S.A. Director of Marketing; **Allyson Boyington**, C.A.S.A. Case Manager; **Erin Johansson**, C.A.S.A. Grants Manager