

Santa Barbara International Orchid Show

Orchid Fever!



By **JEANETTE CASILLAS** / CASA

to benefit the Dream Foundation

A MAGNIFICENT DISPLAY of colorful orchids surrounded guests at a gala preview party benefiting the Dream Foundation's *Flower Empower* program on Thursday, February 28th at the Earl Warrens Showgrounds before the show opened to the public on Friday, February 29th.

The first to see the winners of the show and the orchids at their freshest and finest were the 150 guests that attended the gala. "The night was beautiful, shared Shawna Bourdeau, *Flower Empower* Coordinator. "We were surrounded by a beautiful array of orchids and generous hearts showing, support for the Dream Foundation."

Flower Empower is a volunteer program of the Dream Foundation that delivers donated flower bouquets to people battling serious illness in the Santa Barbara area. The program has made more than 20,000 flower deliveries since it was established in June, 1994 by Thomas Rollerson, founder of the Santa Barbara-based Dream Foundation.

"We are grateful for the opportunity to bring awareness and funds to a meaningful program (*Flower Empower*)," shared Rollerson. "The single act of receiving flowers makes a tremendous impact and shows that the community cares."

Volunteers meet every Saturday at the Santa Barbara Farmers Market to collect flowers donated by growers. The local growers that contribute every week include Domingo Farms, Valley Flowers, Westland Floral, Myriad Flowers, Everbloom, Westerly, B & H, and the Van Wingerden Family.



Jackie Waddill, Santa Barbara Dream Foundation Programs Director and **Sue Anderson**, Dream Department Manager

The volunteers make bouquets at the farmers market which are then delivered along with greeting cards handmade by local school children and homemade cookies made by a local family.

More than a dozen fine artists and fine art photographers from California exhibited and sold their work at the Invitational Orchid Art Exhibit that was curated by Ralph and Diane Waterhouse. Among them was Mara Aboud,

who signed posters of her work. Aboud's colorful art has received international recognition and critical acclaim for her innovation an unusual techniques.

The Dream Foundation is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization whose mission is to enhance the quality of life for individuals and their families during the end of life's journey. The Dream Foundation helps adults find peace and closure with the realization of a final wish funded in part by a grant from Odyssey HealthCare Foundation.

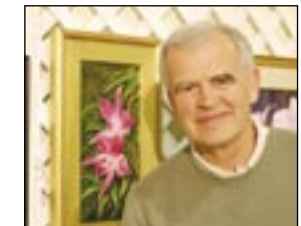
To learn more about how to become a volunteer for the *Flower Empower* program call 564-2131 or visit www.dreamfoundation.org.



Anne Smith-Towbes and **Michael Towbes** of the Towbes Foundation and supporters of the Dream Foundation



Maureen McFadden with her mother **Evangeline McFadden**



Ralph Waterhouse, The Invitational Orchid Art Exhibit curator



Shawna Bourdeau, *Flower Empower* Coordinator; **Karen Earp**, General Manager of Four Seasons Biltmore Resort; **Alice Bouman**, Director of Rooms at Four Seasons Biltmore Resort



Anika Backelin Harrison, **Tricia Backelin** "Flower" recipients with **Jackie Waddill**, **Thomas Rollerson** President/Founder of Santa Barbara Dream Foundation, and **Stephen Fountain**



Dream Foundation Supporters **Linda Schwartz**, **Carolyn Lewis**, and **Deb Kass**



Sue Bennett, Erophy's Restaurant Owner; **Don Cox**; **Paul Becking** Elements Restaurant Owner and Executive Chef; **Patricia Da Silva**; and **Kerry Bennett**



Artist **Mara Aboud** with her rendition of *Flights of Fancy*



Standing in the Best of Show display by the Malibu Orchid Society are Board Members **Holly Murphy** and **Julie Main**, with volunteers **Jill Nida**, **Ann Smithcors**, and **Lynette Hall**

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Contact her at priscilla@santabarbaraseen.com • (805) 969-3301