

Arthur Murray's 2nd Annual Dancing Under the Stars *With Open Arms...*

GLITTERING COSTUMES were no match for the bright smiles all round when the Santa Barbara, Ventura, and Thousand Oaks franchises of Arthur Murray Dance Studios hosted the second annual *Dancing Under the Stars* benefit dance and silent auction.

Benefitting Make-A-Wish Foundation, the event which drew in over 120 people, featured ballroom dancing at its best - in the low-key and accepting atmosphere that Arthur Murray has become known for. And it raised over \$10,000 for Make-A-Wish.

"We had our own version of *Dancing Under the Stars* at the studio and everyone had so much fun with it that we wanted to do it again and take it to the community," shared **Karen Hermanson**, the Arthur Murray Dance Studio franchisee. "We chose Make-A-Wish Foundation because we liked the idea of doing something for the youngsters. Also, Make-A-Wish is a tri-county organization and we have studios in Santa Barbara, Ventura, and Thousand Oaks... We've been owners of the studio since 1991. The last few years have been wonderful and we thought it was time to give back to the community."



Arthur Murray's **Karen Hermanson** with Master of Ceremonies **Rich Hoag**



Judges for the evening included **Christian Perry**, **Julie McLeod**, and **Derrick Curtis**



Van Anh Chandler with her instructor, **Edwin Cabrera**



Wilma Whitehurst tries out a step with Judge **Derrick Curtis**



Bill Medel with 2007's Champion **Maureen "Mo" McFadden**

Hermanson greeted people along with Master of Ceremonies **Rich Hoag** and the cadre of dance instructors from the three dance studios, inviting them onto the floor and over to bid on silent auction items.

A highlight of the event was a dance competition between couples consisting of a novice who took 20 lessons and a dance instructor all dressed in fashions direct from the television show and created by Designs by Randall. Last year's champion **Mo' McFadden** was on-hand to encourage the participants who included **Ally De La Cruz**, **Josué "Captain" Cano**, **Irene Robles**, and CASA's own publisher **Mark Whitehurst**.

While each performer shone with spirit and style, **Irene Robles** and her partner **Ricardo Razo** took the top honors.

The silent auction offered items for all budgets, so that every participant could contribute to the cause. In addition to the competition, the Arthur Murray dancers performed together and in pairs to the delight of the audience demonstrating tangos, waltzes, cha-cha, salsas, and more.

For information about Arthur Murray Dance Studios call 963-6658.



Sally and Mark Hamilton with Dance Instructor **Cherish Fry** (center)



Most Playful Star - **Ally De la Cruz** with Instructor/Partner **Felipe Castaneda**



Champion and Most Sexy Star - **Irene Robles** with Instructor/Partner **Ricardo Razo**



Most Elegant Star - **Mark Whitehurst** with Instructor/Partner **Staci Thorne**



Most Funny Star - **Josué "Captain" Cano** with Instructor/Partner **Sydney Axman**

Since being founded in 1980, the **Make-A-Wish Foundation** has enriched the lives of children with life-threatening medical conditions through its wish-granting work. The organization has blossomed into a worldwide network, reaching more than 110,000 children worldwide, while maintaining the grassroots fulfillment of its mission. More than 25,000 volunteers worldwide enable the Make-A-Wish Foundation to serve children. Volunteers serve as wish granters, fund raisers, special events assistants, and in numerous other capacities.



Dance Instructor **Jessica Morgan**



Margo Kowalski with **Javier Ochoa**

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