



LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

News Service

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Children's Hospital gala raises more than \$500,000

Download broadcast-quality footage of the event

Trauma is the number one killer of children nationwide. To care for those children, there are only 13 level I pediatric trauma centers in the country—one of which is Loma Linda University Children's Hospital. On February 25, the 14th annual Children's Hospital gala raised \$523,370 to benefit pediatric trauma services at the Riverside Convention Center. Approximately 850 individuals attended the "It's a Jungle Out There" gala presented by the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians.

Photographs are attached with captions on page two. Broadcast-quality footage of the event, including B-roll and quotes (trt 2:00 mins.) is available for download at <www.llu.edu/news/mediareources>.

Event Highlights

- **Auctions and Fund-a-Child:** The silent & live auctions and Fund-a-Child raised an estimated \$163,000. Of the many live auction items, "A Day with 'Dr. Venom'" was a \$24,000 hit. The star of the popular Animal Planet TV series "Venom ER," Sean Bush, MD, will spend a day teaching individuals all about snakes, and the winners get to choose the setting. Two individuals were vying for the win, so they decided to both be winners by each paying \$12,000.

- **Pediatric Trauma Services Team:** Guests watched a documentary featuring the trauma team's everyday heroes and the perseverance of two patient families. Afterwards, Don Moores, MD, chief, division of pediatric surgery, welcomed the stars of the video who represented the 5,000 children that the trauma team serves every year. "While the leading causes of injury are motor vehicle accidents and falls," says Dr. Moores, "children need trauma care for a variety of reasons including near drownings, child abuse, and snake bites."

- **Shirley N. Pettis Award:** Arlene Willis Lewis, chief of staff and spouse to Congressman Jerry Lewis, received the award for her outstanding dedication and distinguished service of individuals and children. Local projects that Ms. Lewis has worked on include the development of the innovative Lewis Center for Education Research

in Apple Valley and the creation of a new Boys and Girls Club of Redlands.

- **Hometown Hero Awards:** Debi Faris-Cifelli and Bernadette Gallagher were honored for their passion for children and efforts to enrich the quality of life in the local community. Ms. Faris-Cifelli began the Garden of Angels after hearing a news report about an unidentified baby found dead. Now she is able to give many abandoned babies a loving burial through her organization. Through her work and advocacy she has helped to implement the “safe arms–safe haven” law, which has been passed in 48 states. Ms. Gallagher works as the attendance liaison in the Fontana Unified School District and continues to find new ways to reach out to her community. This past year, Ms. Gallagher worked with a nonprofit organization, Shoes That Fit, to bring new, name-brand shoes to children who were nominated by local teachers. The Hometown Heroes are nominated by individuals in the Inland Empire and selected by a panel of previous Hometown Heroes.

- **Entertainment:** iL CiRCo awed guests with breathtaking acrobatics in a rich tapestry of outrageously innovative costumes, an original musical score, and sophisticated choreography.

Photo Captions

- **Doc Venom auction:** A day with “Dr. Venom” was a \$24,000 hit during the live auction. In the photo above, Sean Bush, MD, and his wife, Ame, hold their snake Samantha, as Sebastian Barroso, a former patient and star of the Children’s Hospital gala video, pets her.

- **Hometown Heroes:** Debi Faris-Cifelli (left) and Bernadette Gallagher are named the Hometown Heroes for their passion for children.

- **Check:** LLU Children’s Hospital guests, friends, and local businesses raised \$523,370. Larry Sharp (right), chair of Foundation Board, presents a check to (from left) Ruthita Fike, MA, CEO of LLU Medical Center; Dixie Watkins, chair of the 2007 Foundation Board gala committee; Don Moores, MD, chief, division of pediatric surgery; and Zareh Sarrafian, MBA, administrator, LLU Children’s Hospital.

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