

CHARITY SPOTLIGHT

SHINING A LIGHT ON LOCAL NONPROFITS AND PHILANTHROPISTS

Visionary Women Luncheon Honors Alzheimer's Advocates and Caregivers

BY CHRISTOPHER TRELA

In 2011, country music legend Glen Campbell announced he had been diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease, but instead of hanging up his guitar, he set out on a tour of America that lasted more than a year.

Filmmaker James Keach documented that tour in his film "I'll Be Me," a fascinating look into Alzheimer's disease and the toll it takes not only on the afflicted person but friends and family as well.

Campbell is now in his final stages of Alzheimer's, so it was fitting that his wife, Kim Campbell, was the special guest for the Alzheimer's Orange County's 10th Annual Visionary Women Caregivers Luncheon, held at Rancho Las Lomas in Silverado Canyon.

The luncheon, attended by more than 250 people, featured awards to six local caregivers.

Newport Beach resident Jeannie Lawrence, owner of Rancho Las Lomas, has hosted the luncheon for the past six years. She lost her husband to Alzheimer's in 2005, a month after celebrating their 25th wedding anniversary.

"When Alzheimer's took Rick's life 11 years ago, our family was robbed of a husband and a father," said Lawrence. "Opening up our home each year to Alzheimer's Orange County and its guests is the perfect way for our family to honor Rick -- he would have wanted us to share what we created at Rancho Las

Lomas with new friends. We couldn't be more proud to host such a special celebration, especially one that pays tribute to caregivers."

Lawrence introduced Campbell by noting that "I was in Starbucks yesterday, and what came over the loud-speaker? 'Wichita Lineman.' It's such a beautiful song, and reminded me that we have a special guest today who has come here with a story to share."

Campbell talked about how she and Glen came to do the documentary. At first, she said the filmmakers did not want to take on the project.

"They told me it's depressing, there is no treatment, nobody is going to want to watch Glen Campbell go through Alzheimer's," she said. "Then they met Glen and fell in love with him. He had a great sense of humor and a positive outlook. The filmmakers got on the bus with him, and we went out on the road—but we worried what if nobody wants to come and see a show with a singer with Alzheimer's? We didn't know if anyone would buy a ticket."

People did buy tickets. The first show sold out; the audience rooted for Glen, and he enjoyed every minute of it.

"A lot of people don't understand Alzheimer's, don't know how to deal with it, it makes them nervous," explained Campbell. "Glen did a lot to remove the stigma by inviting people to come along on the journey."



Kim Campbell (center) with Caregiver Honorees Ellie Nixon, Joanna Manczyk, Kathleen Furlong, Kim Campbell, Maria Elena Flores, Aileen Gaddi and Gincy Heins

"He had quality of life. He knew he had Alzheimer's, but was determined he was going to continue living his life."

Campbell said Glen just turned 80 and now has lost his ability to communicate, but is happy and content.

"We are here today to draw strength from each other," Campbell told the crowd of 250 Alzheimer's OC supporters and caregivers. "We're all in this together."

"Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia are a family disease, and affect much more than just the person diagnosed," said Jim McAleer, CEO of Alzheimer's Orange County. "Our annual Visionary Women Luncheon allows us to focus on the unsung heroes – local caregivers – who dedicate their lives to caring for those battling every stage of this cruel disease."

The local award winners were Family Caregiver Award honoree Maria Elena Flores, Family Caregiver Award honoree Gincy Heins, Professional Caregiver

Award Aileen Gaddi, Administrative Professional Award honoree Ellie Nixon, Administrative Professional Award honoree Joanna Manczyk, and Medical Professional Award honoree Kathleen Furlong.

The event is organized by the Visionary Women Circle of Alzheimer's Orange County, an advocacy group comprised of more than 300 members who mobilize the community to elevate awareness and expand local support of AOC's no-cost programs through education, advocacy and fundraising.

The group of passionate women include: Julia Argyros, Jacqueline Dupont-Carlson, Susan Johnson, Lauren Kear, Jeannie Lawrence, Kirsten Mangers, Sandra McDaniel, Diane Mondini, Beverly Newton-Redfern, Marla Robinson and Stacy Schlinger.

To join Visionary Women Circle, and for information on upcoming events, call (949) 955-9000 or visit the website alzoc.org.

Women of Chapman Summer Luncheon at Balboa Bay Resort

BY CHRISTOPHER TRELA

Chapman University may be located in Orange, but the school has a host of supporters from the greater Newport Beach area, so it was fitting that the annual Women of Chapman Summer Luncheon was held last month at the Balboa Bay Resort.

Women of Chapman is Chapman University's 45-year-old support group (founded in 1971) that has contributed nearly \$7 million to the university. The 250-member group is currently fulfilling a \$1 million pledge to the university's Marybelle and Sebastian P. Musco Center for the Arts and a \$500,000 pledge to Dodge College of Film and Media Arts' Digital Media Arts Center. The board of directors just committed \$1 million to the university's Center for

Science and Technology, due to open in 2017.

The luncheon, which was attended by more than 100 members and numerous guests, recognized 20 new members as well as its outgoing and incoming boards of directors.

The main focus of the luncheon was to present endowment monies to deserving Dodge College (at Chapman University) student filmmakers.

Women of Chapman established a \$1 million endowment to give outstanding film students monies for their senior projects, a requirement for graduation.

This year's recipients included Wyatt Lake (\$3,500), Andrew Primav-



Event co-chairs Donna Calvert and Donna Bunce, outgoing Chapman University President Dr. Jim Doti, Women of Chapman President Barbara Eidson on the Balboa Bay Resort patio overlooking Newport Harbor

era (\$3,500), Robert "Robby" Bracker (\$10,000), Kendall Goldberg (\$12,000), and Lane Lyle (\$16,000).

WOC President Barbara Eidson presented a \$224,500 check to Chapman University President Dr. Jim Doti as the group's contribution for the 2015-2016 year. The main portion of the gift was from the group's only fundraiser, "Christmas at The Ritz," which is held annually at the Island Hotel in Newport Beach.

Doti was honored for his 25 years as Chapman University President.

"This is my last presentation as President, but all good things must come to an end," Doti told the audience. "What this organization has done for Chapman—miracles often happen with no explanation, but this has an explanation. You have raised the bar at Chapman. What this group has done goes beyond the financial support. You have given Chapman

University a personality." Luncheon Co-Chairs were Donna Bunce and Donna Calvert.