

Alzheimer's Orange County gala breaks last year's fundraising record



Dawn Antis, Jim McAleer, Charles Anti

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On a cool and clear evening in Newport Beach, hundreds gathered to raise funds for nearly 84,000 people in Orange County battling dementia and Alzheimer's disease.

The nonprofit Alzheimer's Orange County's celebrated its 19th annual gala Saturday, March 25. In honor of the organization's work over the past 35 years, 300 supporters gathered at the Resort at Pelican Hill's Golf Pavilion. Themed "Care Support Cure," the gala began with an outdoor cocktail hour and included silent and live auctions. The fundraiser netted \$387,822, breaking last year's record.

"The funds raised will allow us to continue our pursuit of new initiatives that will provide even more support and will truly transform the lives of the families we serve," said Jim McAleer, AOC's CEO and president.

The gala's speakers included the wife of legendary country music singer Glen Campbell, who was diagnosed with Alzheimer's in 2011. Kim Campbell spoke about the critical need for more organizations like AOC. "American Idol" alum Shaun Barrowes debuted his new song, "If You Save Me." A portion of the album sales will benefit AOC.

The celebration honored several guests for their support and contributions to AOC, including:

- Corporate Partner: Charles Antis, Antis Roofing & Waterproofing
- Philanthropy Partner: Judicate West
- Volunteer Partner: Michael Lancaster and Frank Carfioli
- Advancement in Science: Wayne Poon, UC Irvine

Since 1982, the nonprofit has been providing free-of-charge Alzheimer's and dementia programs, including a library of guides for caregivers, dementia care classes, 24/7 telephone helpline and support classes for families.