Alzheimer’s OC to Hold Annual Gala at Pelican Hill Resort

All money raised at the Gala will stay in Orange County to fund the organization’s no-cost care and support programs and services for the 84,000 Orange County residents affected by Alzheimer’s disease.

The event will feature a cocktail reception, silent and live auctions, dinner, dancing, and live entertainment. During the gala, AOC will recognize and honor several individuals and organizations for their support throughout the years: Corporate Partner Honoree: Antis Roofing & Waterproofing; Philanthropy Partner Honoree: Indulge West; Volunteer Partner Honoree: Michael Lancaster and Frank Carlisi; Advancement in Science Honoree: Dr. Wayne Poon.

Last year, AOC’s gala was attended by nearly 350 community supporters, and raised over $375,000 for the organization. “Without the community’s unwavering support of our mission, our work would not be possible,” said Jim McAleeer, Alzheimer’s OC’s CEO and president. “The funds raised from our ‘Care Support Care’ Gala are vital in ensuring that the Orange County individuals and their families affected by Alzheimer’s have every opportunity to access our critical resources and services that will significantly alleviate the burden of the disease.”

The gala is chaired by Dave and Eydie MacNisin, Marc Carlson, and Jacque DuPont Carlson.

Tickets are still available. To purchase tickets, donate auction items, or become a sponsor, visit alzoc.org/gala.

Table for 10 Chefs Serve 300K for Charity

By Christopher Trela | NB Indy

A handful of Newport Beach chefs joined other OC culinary wizards to create extraordinary dining experiences during the annual Table for 10 charity event, orchestrated annually by KM Productions for deserving nonprofits in the area.

This 11th annual affair on March 5 welcomed 350 guests to the Laguna Cliffs Marriott Resort & Spa in Dana Point, where they were treated to a multi-course dinner (prepared tableside while guests watched) complete with wine and cocktail pairings along with festively-decorated tables.

The evening began with a cocktail reception featuring tray-passed hors d’oeuvres and libations, led by Cocktail Reception Hosts Pascal Olhats of Café Jardin and Anne Manassero of Manassero Farms.

Artisan breads from Pandor Artisan Boulangerie & Café, as well as confections from Addington Confections and Sweet Charity Cookies, completed the offerings.

Once the ballroom doors opened, guests made their way to their respective tables to experience their meal, along with a live auction.

Newport Beach chefs participating this year included Pascal Olhats (Café Jardin at Sherman Gardens), Rachel Haggstrom (Balboa Bay Resort), Tony Trujillo (CUCINA Enoteca), Andy Arndt (Newport Beach Marriott Hotel & Spa), David Martin (The Pacific Club), Oscar Fonseca (Coliseum Pool & Grill at The Resort at Pelican Hill, Pascal Gimenez (Café Beau Soleil), and Chris Polley (True Food Kitchen).

I managed to snag a spot at the Craft House table. Craft House opened its 12th year with a live auction.

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Chef Blake Mellgren of Craft House serves one of the dishes that he prepared tableside for his 10 guests last year in Dana Point, and has been making a splash on the culinary scene thanks to Chef Blake Mellgren’s talents in the kitchen. Those talents were on full display at the Table for 10 event.

Tickets for this unique culinary experience were $500 per person. The event raised over $300,000 to be split between two charities: The Teen Project and Vocational Visions.

An event highlight was the testimony by Teen Project Founder Lauri Burns and Vanesa Gray, who said the Teen Project saved her life. Growing up in an abusive home, Gray aged out of the foster care system at 18 and was on the streets for five years before she found a home, drug treatment and a scholarship for technology school through the nonprofit. Today, she is employed in marketing with a management company. “I now know my purpose in life,” she said.

For more information, visit tableforten.org.