

public IMAGE

By Cherri Farah



L/R: Senator Lou Correa of Santa Ana honored Barry Saywitz, the host of "An Evening for Autism" event, with a resolution certificate from the State of California for all of his efforts raising funds for autism programs and research.

AUTISM CHARITY EVENT RAISES MORE THAN \$200,000

More than 600 People Attended Red-Carpet Affair; Sponsorship Support Doubled Compared to Last Year's Event

On Saturday, September 12, real estate entrepreneur Barry Saywitz along with gold sponsor Tommy Bahama, hosted the 2nd Annual "An Evening for Autism" event, which raised more than \$200,000 (total amount includes ticket sales, silent & live auction and sponsor donations). All the proceeds will be donated to the following charities/school: Easter Seals Southern California, Talk About Curing Autism (TACA), Autism Society of America (ASA) and Newport Mesa School District's Autism Programs.

More than 600 celebrities, athletes, political dignitaries, community/business leaders, educators and parents from all over the Southland joined the first-class festivities that included seven live bands, 14 restaurants, eight bars and a live/silent auction.

"We never expected to exceed our expectations due to the challenging economy. However — we actually raised more money this year than last year," said Barry Saywitz, the host of the event whose five-year-old son was diagnosed with autism at the age of two. "We received such an overwhelming amount of support from the Orange County



L/R: Mark Whitley, President of Easter Seals Southern California, Debby Boone, American singer and theatre actress known for her hit "You Light Up My Life" and Barry Saywitz, the host of the event.

community and beyond. We are hoping next year's event will raise even more money for such a worthy cause."

During the presentation, Saywitz was awarded a "resolution certificate" from the State of California by Senator Lou Correa of Santa Ana. This certificate was given to Saywitz for all of his efforts in helping to raise funds for autism programs/research over the last five years.

Other special guests included Fox 11 News Anchor Christine Devine (KTTV-FOX), Bubba Jackson, program DJ at KJAZZ (88.1 FM), Jane Monreal - former features/traffic reporter with KABC-TV Eyewitness News, entertainment journalist and designer Tina Marie Tyler, David McKenna (scriptwriter for American History X, Blow and S.W.A.T), American singer and theatre actress Debby Boone (best known for her 1977 hit, "You Light Up My Life), performance by Jeff Timmons - former member of the hit band 98 Degrees, Jay Johnstone (former LA Dodgers), Beth Krom for Congress (Former Irvine Mayor), State Assemblyman Van Tran serving the 68th District of Orange County, State Assemblyman Chuck DeVore serving the 70th District of the State of California (Irvine) and Mayor of Dana Point Lisa Bartlett.



L/R: Leslie Seigel of California Closets, Christine Devine FOX 11 news anchor and Mikel Persky

Photo by Daniel Beaman Photography