



Anti-cancer group wraps up campaign

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The Teddy Bear Cancer Foundation concluded its month-long Gold Ribbon campaign to raise funds and support for childhood cancer with a special luncheon Thursday.

About 320 supporters of Teddy Bear Cancer attended the luncheon at the Four Seasons Resort The Biltmore Santa Barbara, where cancer patient and survivor stories were shared and an auction and a raffle were held.

The campaign goal was to raise \$200,000 during September, and at the start of Thursday's event the foundation had \$163,000 and hoped to raise the difference.

This year's celebrity spokesperson for the campaign is actress Carol Burnett, who has supported Teddy Bear Cancer since 2011.

Ms. Burnett was unable to attend the event, as she is on the East Coast preparing to take part in the Broadway show "Love Letters." Her husband, Brian Miller, spoke on her behalf.

"Carol's commitment to the Teddy Bear Foundation is rooted in the challenges she faced as her daughter Carrie Hamilton fought her valiant battle with cancer," Mr. Miller said.

One young cancer survivor had a message for Ms. Burnett.

"Mr. Miller, would you please let your wife know that it's a really big deal that she is helping Teddy Bear Cancer Foundation?" asked 9-year-old Isa Mireles.

"I love Teddy Bear because they help other kids that have cancer just like I did," Isa said. "I go to lots of Teddy Bear events and now that I'm older, I help the organization by speaking at events, going to all the Teddy Bear support groups and helping out at the Christmas party. It means so much that your wife is helping us because she is famous and must have a really big heart. She is such a nice person."

Isa was diagnosed with leukemia at age 2 and fought the disease until she was 7. Isa said she likes going to



THOMAS KELSEY / NEWS-PRESS

Award winners and supporters of the Teddy Bear Cancer Foundation event included, from left, William Baldwin, Tina Frontado, Chris Landon, Francisco Bracho, Roberta Fishman and Stan Fishman.

the Teddy Bear Cancer events, meeting kids with cancer and letting them know that it's going to be OK and they will get better.

Erik and Anna Kalins attended the event with their 3-year-old son Magnus, who is diagnosed with juvenile myelomonocytic leukemia. Magnus needs a bone marrow transplant to survive, and there is no match in his family.

Little Magnus became the face of the campaign during September, particularly during a two-weekend drive to register people throughout

the county for the national bone marrow registry.

About 500 new potential donors signed up for the registry. Because time is of the essence for Magnus, his family and doctors will proceed with a partial donor match later this month.

Awards were given at the event to special guests.

The humanitarian award went to Dr. Francisco Bracho and Dr. Christopher Landon for being helpful with Teddy Bear Cancer patients.

Jeff and Erika Zamora received

the pay-it-forward award for being ambassadors for the foundation after their son was diagnosed with leukemia at 18 months.

The helping hands award went to the Santa Barbara chapter of the National Charity League for its assistance in many family-oriented events for cancer patients.

Lastly, the heart of gold award went to William Baldwin, who has helped in many ways, including raising funds for the foundation.

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