

SEEN AROUND TOWN

by Lynda Millner

Gold Ribbon Luncheon

The gold ribbon was selected as the symbol to raise awareness about pediatric cancer, and Teddy Bear Cancer Foundation (TBCF) members held their 4th annual luncheon to raise funds for the cause. The Coral Casino courtyard was packed with supporters enjoying the sun and ocean and mixing and mingling. They were there to support children with cancer.

TBCF has helped 158 children this

year. Their handprints were hung on the glass doors, and we all wore a bracelet with a child's name. There was also a surfboard up for auction with their handprints all over it, as well as world-famous surfer **Shaun Tomson's** handprint and autograph.

Shaun and his wife, **Carla**, received the "Heart of Gold Award" from Teddy Bear because of all the time and talent they have given the organization through the years. Carla was especially active with the Saks & The City events. She is now one of TBCF's ambassadors. Shaun is a former world-champion surfer, actor, author, and businessman. He has gifted much

to TBCF.

Emcee **Andrew Firestone** joked, "Nobody has to go back to work today, so stay and donate." And then, "These kids are in for the fight of their lives." Many families face hardship when a parent has to quit work to take care of the child. As executive director **Lindsey Leonard** told the audience, "We have served 165 families this year." Two of the youngest fundraisers were 15-year-old **Wyatt Taylor**, who raised \$26,000, and 17-year-old **Paloma Angel**, who raised \$101,000 selling baked goods and \$27,000 selling tacos and tequila.

The Humanitarian Award went to Cottage Children's Medical Center. The staff members are true advocates for youth with cancer, and their fami-

lies and go the extra mile in providing comfort, care, and the resources they need.

The **Krasnoff** family received the Pay It Forward Award. They faced the loss of their daughter Lexi to cancer at age 2, but they still give back to TBCF by providing support to other families and being advocates for the cause.

Patti Kern won the Helping Hands Award by being involved for more than a decade. Because of her kind heart, she has coordinated major fundraising events and been involved with the Moments in Time program and much more.



Fund-raiser Wyatt Taylor, board member Adriana Mezic, and sponsor Paloma Angel at the Teddy Bear luncheon



TBCF board director Carolyn Shepard, board chair Donna Barranco Fisher, and founder Nikki Katz at their luncheon

Committee folks: Connie Gillies, Michael Taylor, Monique Montgomery, and TBCF executive director Lindsey Leonard



Some of TBCF's services are covering hospital stays, rent, or mortgage payments, hotel accommodations, counseling, tutoring, and childcare. If you would like more information, contact creative director **Kendall Klein** at (805) 308-9943.

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