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MISCELLANY**



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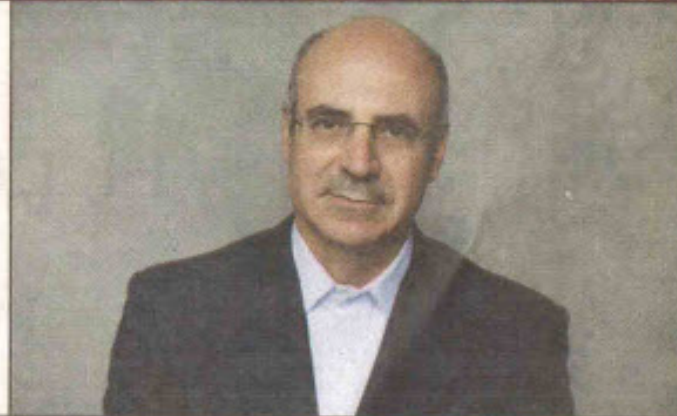


This year's Teddy Bear Cancer Foundation's big fundraiser will be a Masked (and elegant) Affair, page 10



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by Kelly Mahan

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TBCF's Moments in Time



TBCF's Moments in Time committee members at the Santa Barbara Club, where "A Masked Affair" will be held May 2

Local nonprofit Teddy Bear Cancer Foundation (TBCF) has announced a new annual spring fundraiser to replace the wildly popular Saks & The City event, which, after seven successful and sold-out years, has been retired. The new event series, "Moments in Time", kicks off next week with a masquerade-themed fundraiser called "A Masked Affair".

The Moments in Time events parallel a major mission of the TBCF organization: to grant special requests to children with cancer, such as special outings, meeting celebrities, and uniquely themed parties. A Masked Affair will be held Saturday, May 2, at the Santa Barbara Club, and will offer up a special night to enjoy hors d'oeuvres and cocktails, a DJ'd party, and a one-of-a-kind auction, featuring items from Daniel Gibbings Jewelry, a private party with **Kenny Loggins**, VIP tickets to *Dancing With The Stars*, VIP tickets to *Ellen*, two platinum passes for the Santa Barbara International Film Festival, and much more.

"We provide a variety of support programs to families of youth up to age 21 with cancer living in Santa Barbara, Ventura, and San Luis Obispo counties," said **Lindsey Leonard Guerrero**, TBCF executive director. "Only through the generosity of our community can we continue to support the critical financial and emotional needs of the families we serve," she said, adding that in 2014, TBCF supported 649 individuals and to date has granted \$1,300,000 of financial assistance.

Founded in 2002 by **Nikki Katz**, TBCF services benefit families of children diagnosed with any form of cancer before age 18 and continue services until age 21. The objec-

tive is to help maintain the financial and emotional health of the entire family unit during one of the most difficult experiences any family can go through, Guerrero says. During pediatric cancer treatment, children experience extended hospital stays, undergo intensive medical treatments, and are in need of their family's love and support. Treatment is expensive, and even families with insurance have significant out-of-pocket expenses; the average amount spent by families over the course of cancer treatment is nearly \$10,000.

To help alleviate some of the tremendous financial burden, TBCF covers expenses such as rent, mortgage, utilities, car payments, groceries, gasoline, hotel accommodations, tutoring, neuropsychological testing, and, when needed, funeral expenses. "We also offer a range of emotional support services geared toward not only children with cancer, but their parents and siblings as well," Guerrero said. Among the many programs designed to offer wrap-around assistance to families from initial diagnosis, during treatment and into recovery, TBCF's Moments In Time program creates special "moments" for children and teens to provide an uplifting emotional boost during treatment and into their recovery period. TBCF works with the hospital social workers and the child's family to organize fun events such as birthday parties in the hospital, concerts, meet-and-greets with celebrities, and family reunions. Two of the Moments in Time wishes granted last year included a bedroom makeover for a 20-year-old TBCF patient battling cancer for the fourth

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time and a surprise Princess Party at Cottage Children's Hospital for a six-year-old patient following a medically induced coma.

Montecito resident **Kenny Loggins** is a longtime supporter of TBCF, and is once again offering a private party at his home as one of the auction items. "I love what the organization is all about, and I thought I could mix their cause with some fun," Loggins said. "It's really hard for anyone who hasn't experienced having a child with cancer to fully fathom how heart-wrenching and alone you must feel. TBCF brings empathy and compassion to these families. It says, 'You're not alone. Someone cares,'" Loggins added.

The masquerade attire cocktail party will also feature a raffle, which includes a staycation at the Four Seasons Biltmore, a 47-bottle wine collection, and a two-night stay at the Harbor View Inn, among other items. Event sponsors include Alamar Capital Management, Cox Communications, **Julia Delgado, MD**, **Katina Etsell, RN**, **Michael and Sheri Klancher**, **Susannah Rake**, **Michael and Lacy Taylor**, and Delphin Global. Sponsorship opportunities are still available.

To purchase tickets (\$125 per person; \$225 per couple) to Moments In Time "A Masked Affair," please contact **Bryan Kerner** at 962-7466 or visit www.teddybearcancerfoundation.org. The event is May 2 from 7 to 11 pm.