



Stu News Newport

Tom Johnson's Newport Beach News and Community Forum



Newport
Beach

79.5°F



Volume 4, Issue 88 | November 1, 2019

Search our site...

Search

Miracles for Kids Gala raises record-breaking \$1.8 million

On Saturday, Oct. 12, the nonprofit organization Miracles of Kids raised a record-breaking \$1.8 million at its signature Annual Night of Miracles Gala. One hundred percent of the funds raised during the evening will go toward their mission to improve the lives of critically ill children and their families in need.

Themed this year "Rock the Miracle," the gala was presented by Xponential Fitness and welcomed more than 500 of Southern California's most influential business leaders and philanthropists at the Monarch Beach Resort in Dana Point.

"This year's gala showcased the extraordinary generosity of our community. The Miracles for Kids family is beyond thankful to our group of sponsors, donors, volunteers and supporters – not only after special evenings like this, but every day," said Autumn Strier, co-founder and CEO of Miracles for Kids. "Their generosity and support of our mission allows us to continue to make everyday miracles in the lives of critically ill children and their families in desperate need."

The stage welcomed Grammy award-winning singer/songwriter and actress, Michelle Williams. Known worldwide as an active philanthropist and supporter of children's causes, she took the "Rock the Miracle" theme to heart by inspiring guests with a powerful musical performance.



[Click on photo for a larger image](#)

Photos by Tony Lattimore Photography

2019 Miracle Maker Honoree Tim Smith, founder and principal of The Smith Group, Newport Beach and his wife, Amber Smith

Each year, Miracles for Kids recognizes an outstanding supporter whose passion and dedication has made a significant impact in the lives of Miracles for Kids' families. The 2019 Miracle Maker Honoree was Tim Smith, founder and principal of The Smith Group – Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage, based in Newport Beach. For nearly a decade, Smith has dedicated his personal and professional time, energy and resources to serve Miracles for Kids' children and families. Smith continues to grow in his support of the organization and is a vital piece of the Miracles for Kids family.

Further highlighting the evening, was how Miracles for Kids helps with an annual patient-family video premiere – this year featuring The Hunter Family Story, produced by TRAFFIK. It showcased the family's decade-long journey and how Miracles for Kids provided a much-needed safety net to a single mother while her critically ill child, Zoe Hunter, was fighting for her life. Hunter was diagnosed with a rare form of Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (Ph+ ALL) at the age of four and endured rounds of chemotherapy, weekly lab visits, monthly infusions, and extended hospital stays. Miracles for Kids provided the Hunter Family with monthly aid that helped with the family's car and rent payments and also provided quarterly deliveries of fresh food, home goods and other basic needs. Now 15 years old and a JV Cheerleader for her high school, Hunter has been in remission since 2015. She is able to live a "normal" teenage girl's life at a school where few are aware of her story.

The event was made possible by a list of lead sponsors which included Martin Katz Jewelers, whose designs have been the Featured Opportunity Item for more than five years. This year's item, a topaz and diamond bracelet trio valued at \$27,000, was won by Sho Fusco.



[Click on photo for a larger image](#)

McLaren Newport Beach's on-display \$300,000 red 720S Spider was the photo highlight of the gala

New to the lead sponsorship lineup was McLaren Newport Beach, whose on-display \$300,000 red 720S Spider was a photo highlight of the evening, contributing to the excitement of their donated McLaren LA Weekend Getaway in the Live Auction.

For more information on Miracles for Kids, visit www.miraclesforkids.org.