

A MONACO NIGHT TO REMEMBER: MIRACLES FOR KIDS RAISES NEARLY \$3.5 MILLION AT ITS DAZZLING NIGHT OF MIRACLES GALA



Miracles for Kids Board of Directors Group Photo - Photo by Tom Baker

Written By Susan Irvine

Glamour met generosity at the Waldorf Astoria Monarch Beach Resort, where Miracles for Kids hosted its most spectacular soiree yet. The 2025 Night of Miracles Gala: Miracles in Monaco, presented by Sequel Brands. The sold-out affair shimmered with Riviera elegance as more than 400 guests gathered to raise nearly \$3.5 million for families caring for critically ill children with life-threatening illnesses.

As the sun dipped over the Pacific, guests arrived to champagne and a live string quartet on the Waldorf's ocean-facing lawn. Towering dice, racing banners, and the sparkle of a 32-carat diamond necklace created a scene straight from Monte Carlo. Two showstoppers stole the spotlight: a \$4.25-million Bugatti Chiron Pur Sport and a \$490,000 Rolls Royce Black Badge Cullinan—each gleaming beneath a canopy of twinkling lights. It was a fantasy of speed, style, and philanthropy.

Inside, the ballroom vibrated with energy as actor and iHeartRadio host Manny "Streetz" Guevara guided guests through an evening brimming with music and meaning. The night's headliner, Jordin Sparks, opened with a moving rendition of "Constant," performing alongside talented students

from the Orange County School of the Arts. Later, she returned to close the gala with a 30-minute dance-filled finale that had everyone—from CEOs to celebrities—on their feet.

"This year's gala was truly impactful," said Autumn Strier, Co-Founder and CEO of Miracles for Kids. "Thanks to our incredible supporters, families in crisis can focus on what matters most: their child's health."

Honorees included David Smith, President of Smith & Severson Builders, named 2025 Miracle Maker for his decade-long commitment as a donor and advocate. Smith, joined by his wife and son, delivered heartfelt remarks on the power of giving. The Chan Family was recognized as the 2025 Champions of Children, celebrated for their hands-on volunteerism that continues to bring joy to countless families.

Tears and applause filled the room as guests met the 2025 Miracle Family, the Benitez Family. When their four-year-old daughter Lexie was diagnosed with leukemia, Miracles for Kids stepped in to help with housing and essentials, providing stability when they needed it most. Their story reminded everyone why the organization's mission matters.

The auctions set new records, featuring luxe getaways, fine jewelry, and exclusive experiences. The coveted Happy



Autumn Strier, Co-Founder & CEO of Miracles for Kids with multiplatinum-selling, 2x Grammy-nominated singer-songwriter Jordin Sparks - Photo by Tony Lattimore



David Smith, with wife Collette - Photo by Tony Lattimore

Jewelers diamond tennis necklace drew \$42,000, while a French Open and Bugatti Chateau escape sold for \$65,000. A Rolls Royce—escorted private dining experience brought in \$38,000, and a once-in-a-lifetime invitation to the Avengers: Domsday red carpet raised \$16,000—thanks to Marvel Studios Co-President Louis d'Esposito. The Fund-a-Need portion alone inspired a wave of generosity, totaling \$1.18 million—then doubled through a match in the room, reaching nearly \$2.2 million



Jim and Susan Irvine - Photo by Tony Lattimore

in vital aid.

"Supporting Miracles for Kids has been my privilege for nearly a decade," said Anthony Geisler, Founder of Sequel Brands. "Matching the night's donations was our way of ensuring every family gets the help they need."

By evening's end, guests didn't just toast to miracles—they became them. In a swirl of diamonds, dancing, and dazzling generosity, Miracles in Monaco proved that when style meets compassion, magic is inevitable.



David, Sonja Heil, Louis, Katie D'Esposito - Photo by Tony Lattimore



Longtime supporters Anthony and Lindsay Geisler with the courageous 2025 Miracles Family, the Benitez Family - Photo by Tony Lattimore