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MIRACLES FOR KIDS 12th ANNUAL NIGHT OF MIRACLES GALA RAISES NEARLY \$1.2 MM TO BENEFIT FAMILIES OF CHILDREN WITH LIFE-THREATENING ILLNESSES

Successful event filled with vibrant sights, sounds and spectacles

Tustin, CA (October 6, 2017) -- On Saturday, September 30, 2017, more than 500 people gathered at Monarch Beach Resort in Dana Point for Imagine a Miracle - the 2017 Miracles for Kids (MFK) Night of Miracles Gala - to raise nearly \$1.2 million dollars to benefit families whose children are facing life-threatening illnesses.

The 12th annual Night of Miracles Gala was an immersive event that not only raised awareness of the many challenges families with critically ill children face but also honored their fearless spirit and determination while raising funds to forward the mission of Miracles for Kids to provide financial aid, health, wellness and advocacy services to these families. During the event, Ken Gerdau of Newport Beach was honored as the 2017 Miracle Maker for Miracles for Kids in recognition to his tireless commitment to the organization and the efforts of his company, Pacifica Foods, to provide nutritious foods to families in need. Miracles for Kids also honored the Gonzalez family, whose story embodies the many challenges faced by so many others whose children received a life-threatening diagnosis. With the help of Miracles for Kids, the Gonzalezes have been able to overcome extreme circumstances and are now a symbol of the hope that MFK provides.

"We are extremely grateful for all the generous support of everyone who attended the 2017 Night of Miracles Gala," said Autumn Strier, Co-founder and CEO of Miracles for Kids. "To watch so many in the community come together to share their strength and love for these families who are facing so many challenges and often feel isolated and forgotten is truly heartwarming. Your support means so much to these brave and courageous people who are fighting so hard just to make it through each passing day. I

want to personally thank everyone who attended from the bottom of my heart. You are truly making miracles for these children and their families through your presence, dedication and donations and your compassion will never be forgotten."

During the course of the evening, guests enjoyed an exquisite evening filled with dinner, cocktails and live and silent auctions where three yellow lab puppies found new homes and a lucky guest won the opportunity to be a driver and judge at Robb Report's VIP Car of the Year Experience and Getaway while another won a 6-day luxury getaway to Casa Entra Rocas. The Gala was filled with vibrant sounds, sights and spectacles including musical performances by Composer Stephan Moccio, The Tenors, soloist Maya Fischbein and MONTAGE! Ensemble Choir.

The Gala's Presenting Sponsors were Douglas and Georgia Ingram. Lead sponsorships were provided by Duke's Bourbon Whiskey, Hundred Acre, Ketel One Vodka, Martin Katz Jewels and Nolet's Silver Dry Gin. Republic Records was the entertainment sponsor and Infiniti and Volvo Cars: Mission Viejo provided the valet sponsorships.

More about Ken Gerdau, 2017 Miracles for Kids Miracle Maker Honoree:

Ken Gerdau's compassion and willingness to help others is genuine, deep-rooted and intensely personal. His journey with Miracles for Kids began when a close friend's 18-month-old daughter spent more than a year in CHOC simultaneously battling several kinds of childhood cancers. Ken visited the family often and was acutely aware of the challenges his friends were facing. Though they were fortunate to have the financial means to support the necessary medical treatments they were still dealing with a life-threatening illness and their lives were irrevocably changed as all of their collective time and energy were invested in facing and fighting the disease. The more time Ken spent at CHOC, he realized that most of the families there were not only coping with the nightmare of having a child with a serious illness but they were also faced with severe financial implications and often did not have outside support. He was so moved by what he saw that he joined the board of the Pediatric Cancer Research Foundation and served for 9 years until he was approached by MFK founders Autumn Strier and Curtis Green in 2005. Autumn and Curtis were inspired by Ken's passion for helping those who needed it most and he was the first person they approached to serve on the MFK board. Ken believed in the mission of Miracles for Kids and transitioned his time and energy to become the first member and chair of the MFK board in 2005, where he served for 10 years.

To this day, Ken's commitment to the mission of Miracles for Kids remains unwavering. He has served in many roles with the organization, including a pivotal term as Board Chair where he focused on building revenue through corporate partnerships, using his own company Pacifica Foods as the model that Miracles for Kids ultimately used to build more than 50 partnerships. "Ken is a hard-working volunteer, a valued sponsor and donor, a true philanthropist in the sense of investing to build a mission with vision, and a trusted friend and advisor to the board," said Autumn Strier, Co-founder and CEO of Miracles for Kids. "I can't think of anyone who deserves to be our 2017 Miracle Maker Honoree more than Ken."

Ken's dedication to Miracles for Kids is evident through the day-to-day efforts of his company, Pacifica Foods. Pacifica suppliers regularly donate proteins, fresh produce and fresh juices and the customer

service and operations teams assemble food baskets that are personally delivered to families in the Inland Empire. Each year, Ken and his employees at Pacifica pack and deliver Thanksgiving turkey baskets to MFK families. He is proud of the evolution of MFK since its inception and believes that one of the organization's most recent success stories, Miracle Manor, a home for families in need, is MFK's greatest legacy - "one that will exist in perpetuity."

Ken has lived in Newport since 1988. He currently lives on Lido Island with his wife. They have three grown children.

More about the Gonzalez Family, current residents of Miracle Manor:

As the parents of two beautiful children, Beto and Griselda Gonzalez are the epitome of the middle class in Orange County. As the parents of two young children, they both worked long hours and opposite shifts to provide for their kids. When their young son Moso was diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia at the age of two, Griselda had to take an extended leave of absence from her job and though Beto kept working around the clock and they were fortunate enough to have health benefits, the Gonzalezes ultimately found themselves on the brink of financial collapse. Though Moso and were literally three days away from eviction when a social worker at their son's hospital told them about Miracles for Kids.

The Gonzalezes were quickly approved for financial assistance from MFK and began receiving \$500 a month toward their rent, which allowed them to start the process of rebuilding their lives and to spend more time together as a family - something that had been almost impossible while Moso was in the hospital. "Beto had the whole world on his shoulders. Not once did he crack or complain. He just kept working and loving us," said Griselda. "He was our rock. But when he found out that Miracles was going to help us monthly, and that we wouldn't be evicted, he finally broke down with relief."

In 2016, the family was approved to live at Miracle Manor, a multi-unit apartment building located less than one mile from CHOC Children's in Orange that offers subsidized housing to families with children battling chronic or life-threatening illnesses. Since moving in, the Gonzalezes have been able to pay off all of their existing debt and re-build their credit to the point that when they move out of the apartments in April of 2018, they will be able to buy their first home - something they never would have dreamed of even a year ago. Moso is not out of the woods yet, but he is making great progress and his doctors are pleased and optimistic with his response to treatment. "Miracles for Kids is the only organization that has been able to help us get on our feet, and that's because we receive help every single month," said Griselda. "The donors who give to Miracles for Kids have kept our family together. Thank you for whatever has compelled you to donate to such a remarkable organization. You are helping people like us - normal people who are working hard, raising our kids and trying to do the right things. We were on the brink of losing hope, when Miracles for Kids came into our lives."

More about Doug Ingram, Presenting Sponsor of Imagine a Miracle:

Miracles for Kids board member Doug Ingram is a high-profile executive with extensive experience in the biopharmaceutical field. He is the former president of Allergan Inc. and the former chief executive of Chase Pharmaceuticals Group, where his work focused on developing treatments for Alzheimer's

disease and other neurodegenerative disorders. A resident of Orange County since 1988, Ingram maintains residences in Shady Canyon and Corona del Mar but also lives part-time in Boston, where he is currently building a rare disease company that will bring therapy to children suffering from Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy.

"In late 2016, I was reflecting on how blessed I was and how much success I had been able to achieve in my life," said Ingram. "I felt a compelling need to start helping others who, through no fault of their own, are struggling." Ingram's due diligence led him to a conversation with Miracles for Kids co-founder and CEO Autumn Strier and eventually a seat on the organization's board of directors.

"The mission of Miracles for Kids speaks to me on so many levels," he said. "It is clear that MFK does incredible work but there is far more need out there and only through the assistance of committed and passionate people will we be able to bring hope and a lifeline to more families who so desperately need it."

When approached to be the presenting sponsor for the Night of Miracles Gala, Ingram committed the \$100,000 immediately, noting that "If as a society we are committed to continuing to invest in and pay for innovation, and as private citizens we are willing to give to those less fortunate than us, I am confident that we can solve or lessen the burden of many of the diseases that are robbing the future of its children. While the contribution may seem significant to many, it is still a modest gesture compared to the dedicated time, energy and investment that has been made by my colleagues on the board and everyone who has contributed to Miracles for Kids throughout the years."

More about soloist Maya Fischbein:

A resident of Newport Beach, Maya is anything but your typical 8-year-old. She recently completed a 6-month run in Fun Home on Broadway and was cast as Annie over the summer. This fall, she will star in The Secret Garden. She's been performing since she was three years old, has played the piano since she was four and is also a skilled dancer. Her theater career began in local productions of "Les Miserables," "Aladdin," and "The Sound of Music." In addition to her theater work, she has also played the lead character, Hazel, in a short film called "Smile: A Musical."

As impressive as her budding career is, the most inspiring thing about Maya is her dedication to the mission of Miracles for Kids. Following in the footsteps of her board member father, Brian Fischbein, Maya feels a strong connection to the families Miracles for Kids helps every day. "I'm so proud of my dad's service on the MFK board," said Maya. "I think it is an amazing and selfless choice for him to make. I'm so happy that because he is on the board we get to be part of MFK and help out as much as possible."

With great fondness, Maya recalls "adopting" a MFK family and that her family and theirs became "friends for life," even sharing holidays and hospital visits together. "This experience made me realize that life is a gift and to never take it for granted," she said. For this reason, she will be the soloist performing the beloved and uplifting song Stand in the Light with Moccio and the OCSA choir MONTAGE! She hopes to inspire others to help these families who need it the most. "Everyone should be part of this wonderful mission to help so many families affected by life-threatening illnesses," said

Maya. "Together, we can let these families know that what they think is impossible CAN AND WILL BE POSSIBLE with MFK."

Maya is a fourth grader at Harbor Day School in Newport Beach where her favorite subjects are music, art and technology. She enjoys taking dance, gymnastic and piano classes and playing tennis. She is currently expanding her musical repertoire by learning to play the guitar.

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