

AZ Insider: Jordin Sparks Honored for Charitable Efforts

Written by Written by Kathy Shayna Shocket

Kathy Shayna Shocket has the inside scoop on celebs and people who make a difference.



Kathy's behind the scenes of the gala event.

Jordin Sparks told me that when she was growing up, her plan was to be a singer, whether it was entertaining “in front of 3 or thousands of people.” Well, her dream come true has trumped that audience to millions of people! Because she was just 17 when she rose to fame as the American Idol winner in 2007. (By the way, the ratings for American Idol were about 37 million at that time.) Most recently, before she just hit the red carpet to co-host a pre-show party with **Lance Bass** at the American Music Awards, she was in the spotlight at an Arizona fundraiser. The Connections of Hope raises funds for Teen Lifeline, a lifesaving resource for Arizona's youth to prevent teen suicide. Jordin was honored for her efforts to help charities and her “I’m Mad, are you?” campaign she founded with her brother **P.J. Sparks**.



“I am so passionate about helping kids and teens. The amazing work being done at Teen Lifeline is something that I can really relate to,” says Jordin. She received the **Alfredo J. Molina** Lifeline Award. Al is pictured above left with ABC 15's **Terri Oulellette**.

About 300 guests turned out for the dinner chaired by **Stacey Caron**, owner of Spellbinders Paper Arts who is pictured above right. “I have seen the devastation that happens when a parent loses a child to suicide.” The advisory event committee members are pictured above center; **Amanda Eiesenfeld, Shannon Barthelemy, Jennifer Collins** and **Renee Dee**. Teen Lifeline's hotline saves lives and trains teens for its amazing peer counselor program.



Kathy Shayna Shocket is a freelance **Writer** and **TV-Field Producer** based in Phoenix, AZ. She's a former **TV Reporter** who's also written for national publications such as **TIME** Magazine, **MONEY** Magazine, **PEOPLE** Magazine, the **Hollywood Reporter** and The **NEW YORK TIMES**. She can be reached at redkarpetgirl@aol.com