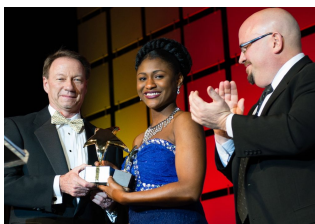


## AZ Insider: Local Celebs Help Gala Net \$2.1 Million

Written by Written by Kathy Shayna Shocket

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Kathy Shayna Shocket has the stories on people who make a difference.



**About 1,100 guests. Auction items that fetched over \$80,000, and priceless passion!**

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Phoenix's gala has a very distinct and electrifying spirit!

Amidst the loyal turnout of 1,100 guests, the ballroom at the Biltmore swelled with many local Phoenix stars, from the young honorees who've earned star status to shine on stage. . . . to the well-known business and community leaders. At the helm of the high profile committee were **Terry McDaniel**, CEO of Inventure Foods who was Honorary Chair and **Joanne Solomon**, CFO of Amkor Technologies who served as Event Chair.

(**Terry's** pictured above with Youth of the Year winner, **Adama Kamara**, a refugee from Sierra Leon, and **Ralph Marchetta**, GM/SVP of US Airways Center.)

Yes, there are the impressive auction items that fetched over \$80,000. (Not to mention the trip for 8 to an Italian villa that sold TWICE for \$50,000 each!) But the 12 "Youth of the Year" finalists' incredible stories of overcoming their obstacles, are the focus of the evening.



"It tugs at your emotional strings," says **Terry McDaniels** of the youth's accomplishments and the benefits of BGBMP's unique mentoring and resources. He's among those who are involved not only with a growing financial commitment, but on a personal level as well. His wife **Lisa McDaniels**, for example joined the group of volunteers to help the youth shop for a dress for the gala.

It's a passion fueled evening that added up to raising NET, \$2.1 million.. with an expense ratio of less than16%.

Among the live auction items, the 2014 Dodge Viper sold for \$85k, the 2015 Chevy Tahoe for \$80k. The list of loyal guests and supporters included car dealership king **Buzz Sands**, entrepreneur **John Ames**, and Diamondbacks owner **Ken Kendrick**. Live Auction Co-Chairs were **Jim Bazlen** The JAB Trust, retired an **Clarissa Cerda** of LifeLock.



**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](mailto:redkarpetgirl@aol.com)