

AZ Insider: Childhelp Celebrates 60 Years with Amazing Gala

Written by Kathy Shayna Shocket reports on the people who make a difference.
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I remember Childhelp's very first *Drive the Dream* gala 15 years ago, coordinated with **Craig Jackson** for an exclusive evening at Barrett Jackson. Surrounded by pricey classic cars, the guests donned in tuxes and gowns enjoyed a gourmet sit-down dinner and mingled with some of Childhelp's well known ambassadors.

From the seeds of that inaugural night, it has grown into an annual major event - one that this year, **Richard J. and Dr. Stacie J. Stephenson** helped turn into an amazing fete. (They're pictured above with Childhelp founders **Sara O'Meara** and **Yvonne Fedderson**.) This is Childhelp's 60th anniversary and as the co-chairs, the **Stephensons** embraced Childhelp's history and future for helping children.



Melissa Peterman, a multi-talented actress - ("Reba") is a great emcee. She's pictured above as **AZ Sen. Jon Kyl** and wife **Caryll** who were presented with the evening's major Diamond Jubilee award.



AZ Governor Doug Ducey and wife **Anglea** were honorary chairs of the 60th celebration in the ballroom of the Phoenician resort. And **Craig Jackson** presented **Patrick J. McGroder III** with the award named for Craig's mother, the Childhelp **Nellie Jackson** Award.



Among the celebrity guests were **Megyn Kelly** pictured above left with **Cheryl Ladd**. It's **Megyn's** second *Drive the Dream* gala and **Cheryl**, who has attend several, has also co-hosted a Childhelp golf tournament in California with **John O'Hurley**, who was also at this year's event. That's **Kathie Lee Gifford** pictured above right with **AZ Sen. Martha McSally**.

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The entertainment just kept coming and with its live auction and tickets that started at \$1,000 per person- it was a record setting bash. They're still counting the numbers, but right now - its \$4.3 million! The list of entertainers boasted the **Pointer Sisters**, **The Tenors**, **Pia Toscano**, **Stacey Kay**, **Caroline Campbell**, **William Joseph** and **Johnathan Cullen**. Pictured aabove are **George Argyros, Jr**, **Ivy Ciolli**, **Mike Ingram**, **Shelia Ingram**, **Joe Ciolli** and the Pointer Sisters who serenaded Sara, Yvonne and the Stephensons.



Here's Seinfeld's **John O'Hurley** with wife **Lisa**. Also pictured above are **Megyn Kelly** and husband **Douglas Brunt**, **Jim** and **Carol Hebets**, and **Chelsea Kane** and **Cameron Mathison**. The over \$4 million dollars raised will benefit Childhelp's Children's Advocacy Center of Arizona, which will see more than 8,000 children this year. The organization has served over 10.5 million children, nationally, throughout six decades.



Kathy Shayna Shocket is a freelance Writer, and TV- Field Producer. The former TV-Reporter has written for publications such as **TIME** Magazine, **MONEY** Magazine, **PEOPLE** Magazine, **The Hollywood Reporter** and The **NEW YORK TIMES**. You can reach her at redkarpetgirl@aol.com