

AZ Insider: Philanthropist Linda Pope Dies

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Tuesday, 26 July 2016 13:25 - Last Updated Thursday, 18 August 2016 17:26



The Valley mourns Linda Pope.

It's hard to think of a Phoenix charity **Linda Pope** wasn't involved with on some level. She and husband **Bill Pope** are well known philanthropists in Phoenix, Arizona. On Friday, July 22, Linda passed away peacefully at home, with her family at her side. Our deepest condolences go out to the Pope family.

Among the numerous charities they've had an impact on chaired and co-chaired so many events including the 2015 SuperBowl VIP Big Give party and received awards from multiple organizations including the Boys & Girls Clubs of Metropolitan Phoenix and Childhelp.

Linda not only created the first major Drive the Dream gala for Childhelp, but the Phoenix based national non-profit renamed its Phoenix advocacy center after her this year.

Childhelp founders **Sara O'Meara** and **Yvonne Feddersen** (pictured below with Linda) were close friends and **Sara O'Meara** was with Linda the day prior to her passing. "Linda Pope's name will forever grace the Childhelp Children's Center of Arizona but her true immortality is her legacy of love which lives on in every life she touched with her giving spirit, inspirational intellect and huge heart," say **Sara** and **Yvonne**.

The Childhelp founders add that, "As a philanthropist, she was a true leader and innovator, conceiving creative and sustainable fundraising ideas that help abused children recovering at Childhelp year after year. While young lives will continue to be supported by her generosity, we mourn the loss of her vivacious energy, stellar smile and the depth of compassion she expressed beautifully in words and deeds. She lived her life as an angel on earth and her protective wings will continue to envelop generations to come."



Linda, (who is pictured above flanked by her husband **Bill Pope** and **AZ Governor Doug Ducey**) competed in and loved ballroom dancing, also raised money for charities through her World Dance Network. She is survived by husband, **Bill** children, **Blake McCay** and **Tisa McCay Stephenson**; stepchildren, **Jeff, Steven, Rebecca and David**; daughter-in-law, **Dominique**; son-in-law, **Grant**; brothers, **Philip and Anthony Matteis**; grandson, **Declan**; step-grandchildren, **April, Faith, Lacey, Caleb, Lacey, Caleb, Hailee, Dillon, Kason and Felisha**.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to Childhelp, the Boys and Girls Club, and Hospice of the Valley.

Rest in Peace Linda.

(**Written by Kathy Shayna Shocket**, a freelance Writer, and TV- Field Producer based in Phoenix, AZ. The former **TV-Reporter** has written for publications such as **TIME Magazine, Money Magazine, PEOPLE Magazine, The HollywoodReporter** and **The NEW YORK TIMES**. You can reach her at redkarpetgirl@aol.com