

AZ Insider: PANDA Raises Record \$3M in Phoenix

Written by By Kathy Shayna Shocket

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A record setting \$3 million was raised at the 19th annual PANDA fashion show, chaired by **Kyle Christensen, Allison Irwin, Lindsey Williams, and Gretchen Schubert**; all pictured above left with **Jacque Linaman**, president of the Phoenix Women's Board.

Let me take you behind the scenes of this generous sold out crowd of 1,200 at the Marriott Camelback Inn - because PANDA's grassroots story is inspiring!

Pictured above right are **Robyn DeBell** and **Penny Gunning**. Robyn's friend **Louise Thomas** in Tucson, sadly lost her five-year old son **Michael** to leukemia and vowed to start a facility to help find the cause and cure for terrible childhood diseases. After the Steele Center became that reality, Robyn and Penny were determined to help raise funds in Phoenix. Now, 19 fashion shows later featuring kids - they are surrounded by a village of committed volunteers.



Pictured above right with Steele Children's Research Center, Physician-in-Chief, **Dr. Faye Ghishan**, is **Micheline Etkin**. Playing a major part behind the scenes for 18 years, coaching the children on their runway presentation, (especially helping them to understand the "Children Helping Children" design of this event), this international model was PANDA's first honorary lifetime member of the Phoenix Women's Board.



Fox Restaurant Concepts was this year's title sponsor. (**Sam Fox** is pictured above right with **Mike Bill** and **Kevin Calihan**. **Sam** and **Emily Fox, Christie** and **Brian Frakes** and **Dierks Bentley** donated an auction package to Nashville's, CMA Country Music Festival and to Dierks Whiskey Row via private jet. Congrats to **John Larmore** and wife **Michelle** (pictured above left) who bid \$65,000.

Modeling Ralph Lauren fashions, pictured below left (and thank you **Courtney Lively** for the runway and bidding photos) are patient model **Carter Young** and brother **Cade Young**. On the right are Dr. Ghishan and patient model **Patrick Polachek**. Below right are **Tate Thinnes** and **Henry Ceran**.



The Phoenix Women's Board is now 68 members strong. "One of the secret of its success is the young girls stepping into the leadership roles - their skill sets are far reaching and their passion is unrivaled," notes **Robyn**.

Penny adds that, "Our goal for 2018 is to fund critical research to solve the heartbreaking mysteries associated with epilepsy in children. " The event's giving platinum sponsors were the **Cowin** Charitable Fund, **Laurie and Drew Brown**, The **Garcia Family** Foundation and **Kathleen and John Graham** Children's Epilepsy Project.

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