

The Daily Voice

If it happens in Newport Beach or Coast Mesa, it's news to us!

STAR STUDENTS LIGHT UP LITERACY PROJECT LUNCHEON

Friday, June 25, 2010 At 12:33AM



Marian Bergeson and Liz Merga at the Literacy Project Foundation's second annual "What Dreams Are Made Of" luncheon.

By Lynn Selich/Society Editor

The Grand Ballroom of Big Canyon Country Club was the setting for The Literacy Project Foundation's second annual "What Dreams Are Made Of" benefit luncheon, which raised some \$20,000 in support of their goal to raise awareness of LPF's mission to provide their literacy product, "Get Set Read!" to classrooms and after-school environments so struggling students can improve their reading skills.

Newly appointed LPF President and CEO Sue Tucker announced that the program has been recording an average of a 54% increase in reading skill levels with students that complete the program. Funds from the event enable LPF to provide Get Set Read! and the teaching staff to administer the program at no cost to schools.

Former California Secretary of Education Dave Long, introduced keynote speaker Chauncey Veatch, a former National Teacher of the Year, who delivered a passionate speech about his journey in teaching, reminding guests that students of compromised circumstances especially should not be left behind.



Chad Latham and Andrea O'Neil

The Daily Voice

If it happens in Newport Beach of Coast Mesa, it's news to us!

2-2-2

Another major highlight of the afternoon were presentations by five students from Project Hope School, which provides an educational setting for homeless students. These kids were accompanied by their Role Models; adults who represent the career they dream to have in their future.

Equipped with "Dream Cards" and illustrations of their perfect job, students bravely took center stage to share aspiring ideas. Role Models helped with the kid's speeches by telling their own stories of how they selected their careers and became accomplished.



Bill Habermehl and Gary Brewer

Mentors included veterinarian Dr. Bill Manclark; CEO Lee Ann Canaday, music teacher Dana Freeman, Sherriff's Deputy Dee Dee Kurimay, and paleontologist Dr. Deba Bhattacharyya.

It was inspiring to witness the children's excitement at the possibilities of becoming like their mentors.

Thanks to LPF mostly serving at-risk children, the kids represented at the luncheon have a chance at the lifelong foundational of literacy to help give them an opportunity for future success.

For more information, www.literacyprojectfoundation.org.