The Next Step

17th Annual Comedy Night Gala: a Night to Remember

Challenge Center’s 17th Annual Comedy Night Gala Starring Fred Willard was a night of good company, inspiration, and laughs. The event was held on September 12, 2014 at the Shiley Special Event Suite in the beautiful new San Diego Central Library downtown, and raised $190,179.00 for Challenge Center’s Scholarship fund. We kicked off the evening with cocktails and hor d’ouvres on the outside patio, overlooking beautiful San Diego as the sun was setting. During this cocktail hour, guests enjoyed the friendly competition.

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Welcome Paola!

Challenge Center is very excited to introduce the newest member of our team, Paola Little! Paola, is Challenge Center’s receptionist/front office coordinator, and brings with her almost 10 years of experience in the education, business, and social services areas, in both for profit and non-profit sectors. Paola has an interest in photography and likes to play tennis. Furthermore, she tells us she enjoys "working at Challenge Center very much" and is "very happy to join and be a part of the Challenge Center family." Welcome to the family Paola! We couldn’t be happier!

Challenge Center’s Executive Director
Tiffany Piquilloud
Holiday Gift Ideas for Individuals With Paralysis

The Christopher and Dana Reeve foundation has published their 7th annual Holiday Gift Guide for Individuals Living with Paralysis. This article gives several product ideas with descriptions, prices, and a link to online purchase for each. Some of our favorites are:

**Mighty Buggy Hooks $14.99.** Use these small but strong hooks to carry bags or a purse. The hooks are made of lightweight aluminum with a deep “U” shape design and Velcro for easy attachment. Find these helpful hooks at http://www.think-king.com/mightybuggyhook.html

**ABL Denim for Men, Women, and Kids.** Price varies by style. ABL Denim is an adaptive premium jean line that makes dressing easier for men, women, and children with disabilities. Made in Los Angeles in soft-finished denim in great colors, the jeans are designed with features that make them fit well and are comfortable to wear all day whether walking or seated. Our kid's jeans are designed for children with Sensory Perception Disorder, often associated with Autism and ADHD, as well as for children using wheelchairs. You can find ABL denim on their website: http://abldenim.com/

**Easy Out Tube Squeezer $11.00.** Squeeze toothpaste onto your toothbrush with just one palm. This tube squeezer presses flat from the bottom up so you can avoid squeezing from the middle of the tube! This stocking stuffer can be purchased at http://www.maddak.com/easy-out-tube-squeezer-p-28082.html

**HDS Medallion Carryall Bag $60-80.** Let's face it ladies, it's ALL about the bag. Ditch those clichéd black wheelchair bags and make a statement with these easy-to-attach fashion carryalls. Choose from the different available designs and then attach with the Velcro straps. To see more styles and make a purchase, visit http://www.hdsmedallion.com/

For other great gift ideas visit the Christopher and Dana Reeve foundation website to read the full article titled “2014 Holiday Gift Guide for Individuals Living with Paralysis”. Some items also include "Reeve Reviews," in which community members share their thoughts on the products. The link to the article is: http://www.christopherreeve.org/site/c.ddJFKRNoFiG/b.9228347/k.9212/2014_Gift_Guide_for_Individuals_Living_with_Paralysis.htm

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**Thank you Oscar and Phyllis Ancira**

Challenge Center is pleased and honored to have known Oscar and Phyllis Ancira, who have both sadly passed away. They were wonderful advocates of Challenge Center, and it is no surprise that they found a way to continue to touch Challenge Center even after their passing. We are humbled and beyond grateful share with you that Oscar and Phyllis left a $50,000 donation to Challenge Center in their will. We know that you will share in our appreciation for the Ancira family, all they contributed in the past, and all they will continue to contribute in the future with their generous gift. They will be truly missed.
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of bidding for popular silent auction items while the San Diego Clarinet Quintet added to the ambiance by serenading the group with a beautiful arrangement of music. Following the Silent auction, guests were treated to a delicious dinner as we thanked the Boney Family for their philanthropy and generous support of Challenge Center. Also over dinner, a video featuring a few clients and the remarkable progress they have made at Challenge Center was shown, followed by an energetic and successful live auction. To wrap up the evening was the oh-so-funny Fred Willard, who gave a humorous talk, followed by a Q&A segment featuring experiences he has had throughout his lucrative career. Challenge Center would like to thank all who attended and/or supported this year’s Comedy Night Gala. It is because of you that this year’s Comedy Night Gala was a hit, and because of you that Challenge Center is able to continue to change lives in an environment of hope!

Classic Chevy’s of San Diego’s Picnic by the Bay, 2014

The Classic Chevys of San Diego Cub hosted their annual picnic by the bay on August 17th 2014. This is the second year that the club elected Challenge Center as the charity to benefit from the proceeds of the event. It was a beautiful day on the bay at the Embarcadero Marine Park North, and we want to sincerely thank the Classic Chevys club of San Diego, and all who attended and supported Challenge Center through this event. Come out to see Volunteers Jordan and Miguel, client Ed Gerber, and our PT Jaime us for next year’s Picnic by the Bay, as we are honored to share that the event will once again be supporting Challenge Center.

Jaime and her 1923 T-Bucket

CHANGE A LIFE THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

All of us at Challenge Center wish you a joyful and prosperous 2015, and would like to remind you that it is not too late to change a life through a tax deductible donation. A gift of just $25 will provide 15 minutes of the physical therapy that a client needs to learn to walk again. To make a donation visit challengecenter.org or call (619)667-8644

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