



*The Shea Center is dedicated to improving the lives of people with disabilities through therapeutic horse-related programs.*



## VOLUNTEER BANQUET

*Extraordinary People,  
Extraordinary Volunteers!*

A helping hand, miles walked through sand and dirt, a smile and "high five," celebrating the successes of our many clients; these and more are the many gifts our volunteers give to The Shea Center riders and families. One of the unique aspects of what we do is our tremendous community volunteerism. More than 15,000 hours from 450 community volunteers transforms the lives of our clients and parents each year. Those outstanding individuals are truly set apart by their dedication and love for their work at the Center.

We celebrate our volunteers each summer with awards and a fantastic BBQ dinner from our good friends at Claim Jumper Restaurants. This summer, we held our first volunteer banquet on the patio of the Klein Family Education & Therapy Building on July 23 with more than 200 guests. Rider Reo Kobayashi spoke to the group and shared what The Shea Center volunteers have meant to him. Jim Washburn of DPR Construction, an Award of Excellence winner, has been Reo's sidewalker for several years.

CONTINUED PAGE 2



## *Brendan's World*

Brendan is a beautiful little boy. He smiles – he claps his hands with delight when he rides – Director of Therapeutic Programs, Janelle Robinson PT says, "He looks like a little Russell Crowe! He's a great kid – he rides all our new horses as he has good balance and strength, is sure of himself in the saddle, and he loves to ride."

It was not always so for Brendan. He was born with an excess of fluid around his brain (hydrocephalus) and missing the structure that connected both sides of his brain (agenesis of the corpus callosum). He had started learning to talk, but then at just a little over one year old, Brendan began having seizures and lost his then-growing ability to speak. Brendan's world began to get smaller and smaller as he retreated into himself: unaware of his surroundings, no eye contact, he could not walk, did not like to be touched and was delayed in his cognitive skills.

When Brendan was four, grandfather Sydney Wakeling encouraged son Dave and his wife Julianna to bring Brendan to The Shea Center. Then Brendan's world slowly but surely began to open up.

"He really didn't like riding for that first month – he cried a lot," says his mother Julianna. "But over time – and working with the expert staff and wonderful volunteers, he began to change."

CONTINUED PAGE 2

*"Brendan is a wonderful study in patience and progress that comes with consistent and steady treatment..."* JANELLE ROBINSON PT



## Shea Center Parents Talk with the Board of Directors

At the invitation of the board, six rider parents came to our recent board meeting to share their views and experiences in a panel discussion.

Some of the questions posed to the parents were:

- Tell us about one challenge or obstacle you may have in a typical day as the parent of a person with special needs?
  - ~ Making friends and having a dialogue with other children. He so wants friends, but it's so hard to facilitate!
  - ~ Lack of tolerance – there is still a high level of ignorance about people with challenges.
  - ~ There are no typical days; every day is an unknown. It's easy to plan for vacations, football, dining out, but when you've got a child with exceptional needs, even the seemingly ordinary becomes extraordinary.
- What's the best thing we do for you at The Shea Center?
  - ~ Self confidence and happiness! My daughter has the opportunity to do things that fill her with joy and be with people who accept her fully.
  - ~ My son experiences so many new things, but one of those that he loves is being outside with people he trusts and enjoys.
- What kind of need is there for parent networking?
  - ~ Wheel reinvention goes along with being the parent of a special needs child. Anything that helps us share experiences and directs us to resources would be wonderful.

Thank you Mark Eddy, Tiffany Martinez, Fred Neuman, Sian Shook, Julianna Wakeling and Ali Wolf for visiting with our board.

The board will take this information and other feedback into the planning for our services in 2011. Any more suggestions and thoughts can be directed to [dbutler@sheacenter.org](mailto:dbutler@sheacenter.org).

**Mark Aldrich**  
Chairman of the Board

**Dana Butler-Moburg**  
Executive Director



### VOLUNTEERS (CONT. FROM PAGE 1)

#### *Award recipients include:*

- Jackie Smith** – longtime Shea Center rider and active community volunteer.
- Susan Alexander** – Adult Volunteer of the Year
- Tara Ippoliti** – Tim & Steph Busch Youth Volunteer of the Year
- Kate Bonde** – Youth Rookie Volunteer of the Year
- Janie Greyson** – Adult Rookie Volunteer of the Year
- Harry Cusack, Mark Eddy and Jim Washburn** – Award of Excellence

#### *Hall of Fame (volunteers inducted into the hall of fame have 500 hours of service or more)*

- Terry Bayless** – 744 hours
- Lisa Salazar-Murphy** – 603 hours
- Chris Gamble** – 1,199 hours
- Diane Brashier** – ten year certificate

A big thank you to these special volunteers. To become a volunteer at The Shea Center, start with our volunteer information form at [www.sheacenter.org](http://www.sheacenter.org).

Top to bottom: Jackie Smith, Tara Ippoliti with 2009 Youth Volunteer of the Year Brianna Eddy, Kate Bonde.

Pictured on page 1: Susan Alexander with Jill Schreiber, Volunteer of the Year 2009.

### BRENDAN (CONT. FROM PAGE 1)

“Brendan is a wonderful study in patience and progress that comes with consistent and steady treatment,” says Robinson. “He went from a little boy, very weak, his world closed to others, to a happy, strong and ever-changing young boy.”

Brendan is nonverbal and uses a picture exchange communication system (PECS) to express his needs and he has become more adept at understanding speech. His strength has progressed well – he was not walking when he came to The Shea Center. Now – he’s able to run off by himself (another new set of challenges to conquer) but he’s learning “Brendan WAIT!” He has even learned the fine motor skills of using his own fork and spoon.

Brendan’s world has gotten much larger and today, at age 10, he has also become a loving and affectionate child.

“What I would love to see is networking among parents of non-verbal children here at The Shea Center,” says Julianna. “Part of helping Brendan as his parents is knowing what roads to travel in his care – shared experiences can help us more quickly find good solutions for our son.”

“We are so grateful for what The Shea Center has done for our son. I thought this would be something we tried for a couple of years, but now – six years later and counting – this is one of the things that we KNOW makes a profound difference in Brendan’s life. The staff have been there for Brendan all these years and never give up hope.”

*did you know?*

*The Shea Center served more than 54 disabilities in 2009. Eighty percent of our clients have both a physical and a cognitive disability.*

## 32nd Annual Shea Center BBQ & Family Faire

Over 1,600 guests attended the 32nd Annual Shea Center BBQ & Family Faire on Saturday, September 25th. Presented by Claim Jumper Restaurants, Rancho Mission Viejo Rodeo and Jenny and Bill Klein, the event raised over \$400,000 to benefit therapeutic equestrian programs for people with special needs.



As a major sponsor, Claim Jumper Restaurants "built a restaurant in one day" and provided a crew of 140 volunteers to prepare food and serve 1600 guests. Claim Jumper also invited the participation of more than 20 of their vendors who made the Blazin' Saddles Saloon a raving success and helped to make this the most successful Shea Center BBQ ever.

Special activities that evening included the country faire family games, barn tours, rider demonstrations and the client "parade of stars" lead by Adam Wolf speaking of his experiences at The Shea Center. After the silent auction, the final highlight of the evening was the live auction emceed by Shawn Parr of Go Country 105.

Thank you to our fantastic committee led by Bill Story, the sponsors, donors, attendees and the generous donors to the Fosheim Fund, who together helped us surpass our goal!

### Presenting Sponsors

Jenny & Bill Klein  
Rancho Mission Viejo Rodeo

### Entertainment Sponsor

O'Connell Family Foundation Trust

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Wells Fargo Bank

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Jaime & Rudi Weber

## La Vida Shea Gala

Many thanks to all the generous sponsors and donors to the La Vida Shea Gala! Over \$450,000 was raised to support The Shea Center programs and financial aid. The event was held at the Laguna Beach Montage Resort and Spa where the Michael Lewis Friends of the Disabled Awards were presented.

The recipients included Jenny and Bill Klein whose generosity enabled the Klein Family Education & Therapy Building to be built and Kevin Walker who donated his time for 8 months as construction committee chair and de facto project manager to oversee the construction of the building and site completion.

The committee wishes to thank the many guests whose generosity supported the event.

### Premier Sponsors

Jenny & Bill Klein

### Center Table

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### Platinum Sponsors

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### Committee Members

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Barbara Downing  
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Julie Frost  
Julie Holley  
Michele Holmen  
Jenny Klein  
Debbie Martin  
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Gay Rams  
Susie Roof  
Georgina Seek  
Lyndie Slack  
Carine Thacker  
Kandy Williams



Above: Gala committee members.



Left: Gala honorees Bill & Jenny Klein and Kevin & Tina Walker.



Fall/Winter 2010

The Shea Center  
for Therapeutic Riding

# NEWS

The J.F. Shea Therapeutic Riding Center  
26284 Oso Road, San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675  
T (949) 240-8441 | F (949) 240-3447

[www.sheacenter.org](http://www.sheacenter.org)



## SAVE THE DATES!

**Annual Gala:** May 21, 2011 | Laguna Beach Montage Resort & Spa  
**Annual BBQ & Family Faire:** September 24, 2011 | The Shea Center

If you would like your address corrected or removed from this mailing list, please send us your mailing label with instructions.



On August 21st, more than 400 guests attended **"Life on the Range, But at The Shea Center"** with Baxter Black who makes his living shining a spotlight on the flaws and foibles of everyday cowboy life. Baxter Black is considered by the *New York Times* as "probably the nation's most successful living poet."

This event generated over \$60,000 to help support The Shea Center's therapeutic riding programs. The evening featured a BBQ dinner, client demonstrations, and tours of the Klein Family Education & Therapy Building and the Parr Family Barn. Thank you to the O'Connell Family Foundation Trust and Rancho Mission Viejo for their presenting sponsorships!



*As you make plans for your family this season, please keep The Shea Center family in mind for holiday giving. Consider making an "alternative" holiday gift for someone you love by giving a gift for another.*

Purchase equipment, fund financial aid, sponsor a class, sponsor a horse, name a room in the new building – all of these and other thoughtful gifts will make a lasting difference in the lives of others this holiday season.

Contact Dana Butler-Moburg at 949-240-8441 x102 for more information on making a holiday gift!

## Foundation Giving at The Shea Center

As of November 1, 2010, The Shea Center has received over \$850,000 in gifts from foundations that support our mission to improve the lives of people with disabilities through therapeutic horse-related programs. It is with great appreciation that we acknowledge the generosity of these foundations. These generous gifts support everything from general needs to specific equipment purchases.

Amerman Family Foundation	Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southern California*
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Anonymous	The Bengard Foundation
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\* Denotes first time gifts.