

PUBLIC SECTOR NEWS

...continued from page 7

tournament's purse (\$5.6 million) and winner's check (\$1.008 million) are tied for the largest in event history.

During the past 53 years, the Humana Challenge has generated more than \$52 million in donations to charities in the Coachella Valley, primarily the Eisenhower Medical Center. The 2012 Humana Challenge announced record donations of nearly \$2.1 million to local organizations. Tournament and volunteer information, and registration for the Jan. 14 Couples Challenge Pro-Am and Jan. 16 Bob Hope Legacy Pro-Am is available at www.HumanaChallenge.com.

HANSON HOUSE HOSTS AN AFTERNOON WITH LILY TOMLIN

Actor and comedian Lily Tomlin and her partner, writer-producer Jane Wagner, will be the featured guests at an afternoon benefit for the Hanson House, the Coachella Valley's home away from home for families of the critically ill and injured in local hospitals.

Tomlin and Wagner were recently recognized with the 345th star on the Palm Springs Walk of Fame in a ceremony March 16. Tomlin and Wagner have teamed up on a large number of films and projects, including the Tony-award winning play, *The Search for Signs of Intelligent Life in the Universe*.

"Lily and Jane are so well-known here in the Coachella Valley for their incredible talent and generosity," said Donna King, executive director for the Hanson House. "It is such an honor that they would support the Hanson House and the families we serve, so many of whom are suffering through one of the most traumatic times in their lives."

Thanks to Lily Tomlin's generous donation, the kitchen area of the Hanson House has been named in honor of her mother, Lillie Mae Tomlin.

"The kitchen is a critical part of the Hanson House because it is an area where families can make their own meals, sharing some healing time with their family and with other families who are staying with us," King said. "Many of the families use food and supplies that have been donated to the Hanson House."

"I'm so pleased that Hanson House would honor my mother, Lillie Mae Tomlin, in such a lovely way," Lily Tomlin said. "She would have loved to volunteer at the Hanson House. Hanson House helps so many people, and I'm delighted that Jane and I can assist them in helping others."

Hanson House provides low or no-cost accommodations in a Spanish mission style surrounding on the campus of Desert Regional Medical Center. Hanson House was conceived and developed by Frank R. Ercoli, M.D., FACS, Medical Director of Trauma and Critical Care Services at Desert Regional. In 1999, Ercoli met project benefactor Lord James Hanson, a British industrialist and part-time resident of Palm Springs. Lord Hanson made a very generous seed donation to start the fund for the facility that is now named for him. Hanson House opened its doors on Christmas Eve 2003. Hanson House is staffed entirely by volunteers.

The fundraising event will be held 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Jan. 12 at Spencer's at the Mountain, 701 W. Baristo Road. Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres will be served, followed by questions and answers with Lily. Tickets are \$125, or \$175 for special VIP seating. Please call (760) 416-5070 for reservations and information. Reservations are required.

COACHELLA VALLEY HOUSING COALITION STAFF RAISES MORE THAN \$9,500 AT STAFF PARTY



For the Coachella Valley Housing Coalition (CVHC), charity begins at home. More than \$9,500 was raised Friday, Dec. 21 during the organization's annual Holiday Staff Party. Funds were collected through donations from CVHC's 38 staff members, who participated in a lively auction held at the staff event. The annual auction supports CVHC's John F. Mealey Scholarship Fund, and is one of the scholarship program's most important fundraising events of the year.

"It is a great honor and privilege to witness the generosity of CVHC's hard working staff as they reach into their wallets and pocket books to support the JFM Scholarship Fund every year," said CVHC Executive Director John F. Mealey. "The annual contributions by staff allow us to sponsor more and more deserving young men and women who are pursuing a higher education."

The staff bid back and forth amongst each other for such prizes as Brandini Toffee, cookies and fruit baskets, and tickets to the Palm Springs Tram. Most of the auction items are donated to CVHC by businesses CVHC works with throughout the year, including The Home Depot, Sun Country Builders and The Jones Agency.

As an added motivation for the staff, Mealey annually matches the highest bid of the event. This year the highest bid was \$1,200 for a bottle of wine.

The JFM Scholarship Fund was created 10 years ago by the CVHC staff and board of directors to honor the more than 30 years of service of CVHC's founding and present Executive Director, John Mealey. Since its inception in 2002, the JFM Scholarship Fund has awarded nearly \$400,000 scholarships to 380 university and college-enrolled students. Recipients must be current residents of one of CVHC's housing developments, including both its rental and Mutual Self Help homeownership housing.

The Fund also is supported by Southern California Edison, The Buster Family Foundation, Southwest Networks, MSA Consulting, the CVHC Board and private donors.

GRANT FROM AUEN FOUNDATION BENEFITS LOCAL SENIORS AND PALM SPRINGS INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL PROGRAMS



At the heart of what makes the Palm Springs International Film Festival a success are the hundreds of volunteers that work tirelessly through the holidays to roll out the red carpet in time for opening night. A \$20,000 grant from the Auen Foundation helps recruit and facilitate volunteers, about 650 of which are seniors, through the Festival's Senior and Active Retirement Programs.

"Anyone I talk to, I encourage them to volunteer at the film festival," said Carl Hursh. Now 72, Hursh moved to the valley from Pittsburgh in 2001. He has been volunteering with the credential team at the film festival office for four years. "I really enjoy the responsibility and working with people."

The Palm Springs International Film Festival depends greatly on senior volunteers like Hursh who assist at the theatres, at special events and in virtually every other area of the desert's premier event of the year.

"We appreciate the Auen Foundation for recognizing how essential our volunteers are to the success of the Palm Springs International Film Festival and the ShortFest in June," said Darryl Macdonald, director of both festivals. "This gift is one more way the Foundation is enhancing the lives of area seniors who are an integral part of our festivals. The word-of-mouth recruiting and promotion by our volunteers are priceless."

The Auen Foundation grant also partially underwrites the distribution of free screening tickets to local senior centers and assists with the Film Festival's free shuttle busses, which help defer transportation costs for seniors on fixed incomes. Shuttles also make it easier for patrons to see multiple screenings in one day.

"Whether seniors are enjoying this international event that is in their backyards or they are helping the operations of it through volunteering, we are happy to support this program, which connects seniors to their community," said Catharine Reed, program director for the Auen Foundation.

The 24th Annual Palm Springs International Film Festival runs through Jan. 14, screening more than 185 films from over 70 countries. For more information visit psfilmfest.org.

CVWBC PRESENTS "HOW TO QUALIFY FOR A BUSINESS LOAN" WEBINAR WITH CARLA ULLOA OF CDC SMALL BUSINESS FINANCE



Coachella Valley Women's Business Center, a grant-funded program of the U.S. Small Business Administration that provides free business counseling, free and low-cost workshops and events, and mentoring will present a webinar, "How to Qualify for a Business Loan" on Friday, Jan. 18 from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.

"How to Qualify for a Business Loan" is part of a regular weekly schedule of webinars hosted alternately by CVWBC and its sister center, IEWBC. Each webinar is one hour in length, and covers a business-related subject. Cost for the webinars is \$10 with online registration.

Carla Ulloa, of CDC Small Business Finance, will be facilitating. The webinar will feature information about how to make your business more attractive to a lender, the five C's of credit, and information about what you can do to plan to get a business loan.

For more information, or to register for the workshop, contact Kim Scanlan at (760) 345-9200. The Coachella Valley Women's Business Center's hours are Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday by appointment only.

To register online, visit the CVWBC website at cvwbc.org.

Continued on page 11...