



Golf tourney: net funds top \$100,000

By Brian Wiersema

The 8th Annual VIP Golf Classic benefiting residents raised over \$15,000 this year, according to popular event chairman Robert Chakarian.

This added revenue pushes total net funds from the Classic over the \$100,000 mark. And, the tourney just gets better each year--securing a supportive flow toward the purchase of computers, scholarships, and enrichment field trips for Mountain Shadows residents. Additionally, the event--underwritten with loyal corporate sponsorship--raises awareness of the needs and capabilities of persons with development disabilities.

Credit Chakarian, a manager with the San Diego accounting firm of Considine & Considine. Praise the multi-faceted steering committee composed of Support Group activists, Mountain Shadows executives and staff, and business professionals.

The September tourney ran like clockwork at the venerable and verdant Mt. Woodson Country Club. It gave a lot *back* to the players in satisfaction and raffle and auction specialty items. Perhaps deservedly, a few raffle prizes fell to steering committee members who had themselves purchased stacks of tickets. Committee members were Portia Bibb, Doug and Linda Cook, Wade Wilde, Carol Haskin, Laura Iavelli, Fred Lindahl, and business representatives Dick Marrs, John Martindale, and Jackie Salon.

Martindale, in the raffle, bagged first the \$20 Moondoggies and then a Palm Springs getaway for two at the Hilton and rounds of golf. Haskin--our excellent Support Group president--took away golf for four at Mission Trails' course and a \$70 San Diego Symphony chit. In all, some two dozen prime prizes from donors like Harrah's, Disneyland, Barona Casino, the San Diego Padres, and Taylor Made Golf.

Tourney stalwarts got their just rewards. For example, Biff Ledgerwood (playing in his 3rd Classic)--who has donated hundreds of his Uncle Biff's California Killer Cookies to this cause--aced it. In the *special* raffle, he won \$1,000 cash in a see-through plastic bag. *And* he was part of the winning "low gross" foursome including Chakarian, W. Miltner, and J. Pirtle.

First place "low net" went to Jerry Butcher (who has never missed playing in this tourney in 8 years) and his partners C. Miller, and J. and E. Myers. Second finishing "low net" was awarded to Chris Meacham and partners C. Dove, B. Watkins,

and D. Clark. Meacham is also among the Golden Flight Returning Golfers who've played in all 8 Classics.

The award banquet's most generous spender: San Diego attorney Spencer Busby. He took high bid on a \$2,850 Utah ski vacation package (for only \$1850); and on a fine Taylor Made golf bag with two woods, which he won for \$425.

Tourney highlight was the evening dinner banquet/auction/raffle, which was attended by a tableful of residents under QMRP/Admin. Lindahl--who'd been busy earlier earning his 8th annual "high gross" trophy. Lindahl is a plucky gamer, and I watched him launch two balls into a 9th hole sand bunker and gracefully wack his way out. No one loves this tourney more than Lindahl. He has a blast. Really.

Golf and evening gala rally and showcase Mountain Shadows backers. Take the foursome from the Kiwanis Club of Escondido. They were Mary Ellen Alton (outgoing Club president), Joe Heard (new district Lt. Gov.), Nat Heard, (immediate past president), and Don Brown (incoming president 2001-02) --all heavy civic and links hitters. Alton took the award for Longest Drive (women) off the tee! She also was the printed Program graphic artist--*and* sponsor, along with Guy Hilll Cadillac.

"We had fun," said Joe Heard. "Mt. Woodson is always a terrific course; and in support of this cause, well, that makes it all the more enjoyable." **-MORE- (Continued on page 2)**

'Welcome home:' parents share their experiences

The third in a series of full-page newspaper "advertorials" tells the Mountain Shadows story from the perspective of parents. The ad-message, sponsored by Mountain Shadows Inc. (and published Oct. 3 in Escondido's North County Times), bridges to community understanding of the lives of persons with developmental disabilities.

Early articles congratulated (and promoted) our staff on their unprecedented *seven* Superstar winner and Merit awards from CAHF and focused on staff satisfaction. The series was published in support of Mountain Shadows' staff recruitment goals.

The parents' sagas summarize child's medical condition and care history. Nine families were interviewed. The parents and their child are: Cheryl Edwards (Shawna, Orange House) of San Diego; Stephanie Miller (Wayne, Tangelo) of Escondido; Susan Weller (Kristen, Willow) of Laguna Beach; Jan Osuyos (Lisa, Apple) of San Diego; Julie Christensen (Betsy, Orange) of La Canada, Sandra Sterling (Sally, Willow) of San Diego; Chris Trogdon (Karen, Willow) Tujung, Vince Palumbo (Jeannie, Apple) of San Diego, and John and Linda Ireland, Nampa, Idaho. **-MORE- (Continued on page 2)**



... Golf net \$100,000

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In the spirit of the event, emcee Mark Walton, media personality and financial advisor with Morgan Stanley Dean Witter, denied Alton's only program typo. It said, Walton "hosed a health and fitness show on ESPN." Lots of yucks had on that missing "t". Walton, driving up auction prices, bid frequently on items. He stimulated a lot of interest in the bottom line.

Dedication: Tomas Prietto was the auction winner on a hard-fought-for piece of original art by Kristen, of Willow House. (Her mother, Susan Weller, is an accomplished Laguna Beach artist.) Prietto, for \$300, bought Kristen's bold green and red interpretation of Willow's willow tree. And on the spot he received huge smile congratulations from Kristen herself. "I've known the Weller family since I was a little boy," said Prietto. "That's why I am here. To support Kristen and Mountain Shadows and the cause."

More dedication: Portia Bibb, Support Group member and chair of the Endowment portion of the Classic, donated the last of her Picasso print collection to the auction. She has gifted these prints over three years to the event--and raised interest and much cash.

Resident art this year: Contributions were made by Robert G. "Got Golf?"; Amiel L.'s "Let golf for fun, let golf for kids". Also, Karen T.'s "Golf is a fore-letter word"; Brian S.'s "Pray for you and us to win..."; and a sporty collage by Orange House. Their art brought in hundreds of dollars more. One of the buyers: Doug Cook, who now has quite a collection.

The golf Open was founded by Jeff Dunham, CEO of Dunham and Associates and an angel to Mt. Shadows. Chairman Chakarian lives in Pacific Beach, and it's no surprise that many golf -sponsoring/participating merchants also reside there: Da Kine (providing lunch), Taco Surf (catering dinner), Pacific Drive Skateboard Shop (auction snowboard and bindings), Green Flash Restaurant (dinner gift certificate), and Pacific Beach Embroidery (300 stichery items for player shirts and windbreakers).

Corporate sponsors were Albertsons, Emerald Digital Diagnostics, and Belville Pharmacy Services. Program art illustration (neat!) was provided by resident Sheri M. --who also won brunch for two at Tom Ham's Lighthouse. Associate Sponsor Considine & Considine provided cash, Chakarian, and a half dozen hard-working volunteers who were persuasive raffle ticket sales persons.

Add: Special recognition to Support Group Pres. Haskin, who went digital with her golf foursome photos this year. And to North Park Trophy for a big tableful of impressive trophies. Thanks golf cart beverage sponsors (temps rose to the high 80s)

Marrs, Maddocks & Associates; Mrs. William Merritt, and Mountain Shadows, Inc. And a special thanks to all the hard-working volunteers who handled golf reservations, provided service on the course, and made this happening go. Thanks to Dunham, Marrs, Martindale, and the guy three busy years in the drivers seat: "Chico" Chakarian.

... Welcome home stories

(Continued from page one)

For example, Mrs. Christensen recalled the years of Betsy's battle with Refsun's disease--a disorder resulting in nerve deterioration. Betsy, now age 25, lived at home until three years ago, when she got an itch for independence, Mrs. Christensen recalled. In moving into Mountain Shadows in 1997, Betsy blossomed in Orange House.

"A doctor-neighbor whose daughter has cerebral palsy recommended Mountain Shadows," said Mrs. Christensen. "We made several [inquiry] trips, and we just loved it... Betsy wanted a social life. And today, she has all of that. Betsy lives in a community that she loves. It's been wonderful for her."

The parents stressed excellent placement fit and accommodation. They attributed this careful screening and "staff dedication". Also praised were campus grounds (green, spacious) and the availability of new friends to visit. John Ireland said finding Mountain Shadows was "like finding a diamond". "My son couldn't make the kind of improvements he has made without a good, supportive environment."

There was no "typical" story. However, many parents said they struggled for years looking for the right community home for their child. Vince Palumbo said he searched "for more precise care." Today his daughter receives [at Mountain Shadows] more individual attention and "there is more space available to her." "Jeanne thrives on personal attention... Staff anticipate changes that might affect her and will ease in a new care person before the one Jeanne is used to leaves," Palumbo said.

In many ways, the stories are parent-to-parent messages. From Mountain Shadows to vastly surrounding neighborhoods. From mothers to other mothers. "Wayne is just Wayne," said Mrs. Miller. "I wouldn't know him any other way. He is just another child to me. To me there are no differences."

Susan Weller, a professional artist: "Kristen seems very independent now. We call Mountain Shadows her home. She is able to get along in this world without me. And that's the goal we parents have. The best part is that Kristen is in a loving environment. She's very much at ease there. She has her own routines, her own friends and freedom. And she gets a lot more socialization than if she were living with me. Kristen is accepted, happy. She is very much at ease."



Gone fishing? Not exactly, but we do have some catching up to do... Featured: changes and new administrators

Apologies for our not producing a summer newsletter issue. We missed, for the record, putting out an August edition. Blame vacations and a couple of health issues. We now return to our regular bi-monthly publication schedule.

Administration changes you should know about: Mountain Shadows has upgraded administrative structure to provide better and more training. This exec strengthening will also free up time for Stacy Kendall--Dir. of Developmental Services--to redesign and improve both the IPP (Individual Program Plan) and operational manuals. In the shift, both Lisa Powell and Fred Lindahl assume more administrative duties.

Lindahl remains QMRP for Jacaranda and Palm; he will supervise the Q's for Olive, Lemon, Orange, and Tangelo. Powell, QMRP for Spruce, will supervise the Q's for Oak, Elm, Birch, Crepe Myrtle, Willow, Apple, Plum, and Maple.

Additionally, Powell assumes responsible for the Specialists--15 experienced staff who are trained to fill any shift opening among all the Houses. She will also fill in for Kendall as needed. Powell graduated from the U. of West Florida and obtained her M.S. from Troy State in Alabama. A QMRP for six years, Powell joined Mountain Shadows in Feb. 1998. "I am very excited about my new role and its challenge," said Powell. "The new structuring provides more training for QMRPs who come aboard," Kendall said.

Speaking of new Q's: Michelle Ridgeway is QMRP-in-training for Jacaranda and Palm. In Olive, Michelle Deckard replaces outgoing "Q" Tammy Bailey. Bailey returned to San Diego State to pursue a master's degree. In Birch, Crepe Myrtle, and Willow the new Q is Stacy Craft. Martha Darsch replaces Sandy Neuburg (who's moving to Arizona) for Lemon, Orange, Tangelo.... In Olive, Luz Belver replaces nurse Carol Johnston.

Congrats to Cheryl Edwards, who is our new Support Group Treasurer. Cheryl is a corporate credit manager. Her husband Bob is director of construction for a major corporation--and is helping direct the future building of the Client Recreation Platform....

Mountain Shadows hosts a mid-day Oct. 17 Job Fair. Lunch provided to staff prospects, along with House tours and orientations. "One objective is to get the information out on our new benefits package and wage scales," said Toni

Albright, Human Resources Director. "This is another opportunity for us to connect to the community and let people know what Mountain Shadows is all about." Know of a potential staffer? Every referral helps. Call the Office, (760) 743-3714.

A belated thanks to Open House "hostess" Tammy Bailey. Though she is now back studying full-time at San Diego State, Bailey deserves our thanks for hard work and enthusiastic preparations for the annual Open House (held in Olive).

This year's 7th annual event for care professionals statewide showcased in Olive's gleaming welcoming. From immaculately groomed yard to warming interior decor, Olive invited. It set the tone for the best Open House yet. "Our landscapers have been wonderful," Bailey said of heartfelt efforts spearheaded by Maintenance Supervisor Wayne Walther.

"My goal was to make Olive show as the *home* it really is," Bailey said. "And we accomplished that." Bailey joined staff in 1999. (She had worked full time for ARC (Assoc. of Retarded Citizens--one of Mt. Shadows' day programs--before starting at San Diego State University. Once into her studies there, Bailey also served as a La Mesa-Spring Valley School Dist. aide for severely emotionally disturbed 4th-6th graders).

"Mountain Shadows was my first job *after* college," Bailey recalled. "I loved working here. There was tremendous satisfaction in getting to know all 15 residents in Olive."

Employees of the Month, going back a few months, were:
--March, Mike Clark. Mike is the House Manager for Ash House. "He transferred to Ash in January and has worked very hard to provide training and consistency to staff--which resulted in Ash's best survey in years," says Toni Albright, Human Resources manager.

--April, Melanie Chorak. Melanie is the receptionist at Mountain Shadows. "She is always cheerful and courteous, willing to assist with any task. Melanie treats all residents with respect and kindness, and many of them visit her on a regular basis," says Albright.

--May, Todd Antrim. Todd is House Manager for Spruce. "Todd is always helpful, willing to do whatever he can to benefit the residents. He is always smiling and makes his job look easy because he does it so well," says Albright.

--June, Suzanne Wright. "Suzanne, a NOC Specialist II, is dependable and very consistent in her job performance. She is often requested to train new staff because of her thorough knowledge of her position," says Albright.

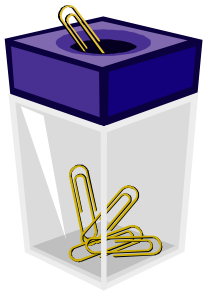
Apologies to the House Managers for not printing your House Activities dating from June. They were typeset but, of course, not finalized in the unpublished August issue.



Staff publish new employee newsletter: items of note

Congratulations to the Mountain Shadows staff on the recent publication of their first newsletter. (Fred Lindahl, Stacy Kendall, Vicki Federici, Nicki Corley, and Toni Albright are writers and editors.) At the invitation of editor Toni Albright, we share some of the content of Vol. 1, No. 1:

--In June, several residents graduated from high school or a transition program. High school grads were Michael, of Palm;



James, of Jacaranda; Jacob, of Tangelo; Keisha, of Orange. All graduated from transition programs.



Mountain Shadows Support Group

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--Recent client moves over summer: Joy went from Crepe Myrtle to Oak. Nancy relocated from Jacaranda to Cedar. Mountain Shadows also welcomes all new residents, including: Allysa (Jacaranda), Beverly (Crepe Myrtle), and Amiel (Tangelo).

--Happy employment anniversaries went to 33 staff (for April, May, June). They included Marissa DeCrom, 5 years; and 3 years each to JoAnne Gatzman, Christy Biller, Sandra Davidson, Carolina Cervantes, Roland Lerma, Dion Funk, Jelena Bryant.

Additionally: CEO Doug Cook and several Mountain Shadows employees were pictured attending a rally in Sacramento. The rally --for MediCal rate and wage increases--was sponsored by CAHF. Staff were represented by direct care employees, house managers, and QMRPs. "Many of you and your families joined in our efforts by writing letters, sending E-Mails, and making phone calls," said Cook. "The results were great, and all of you helped make the difference. The Governor and legislature actually did leave us in the budget!"

**** New sign at Mountain Shadows' entrance reflects a name change to Mountain Shadows Community Homes--"to better reflect who we are and what we do," says CEO Doug Cook. "The change is in name only and does NOT affect operations or services to residents.****