

Happy 40th Anniversary Meadowlarks

A charitable organization with Heart...

Elegant Living Magazine Applauds Your Incredible Generosity, Dedication & Hard Work and so Does the Entire Community of Ventura County

BY CAMILLE BOVÉE

Last year the Meadowlark Service League (MSL) celebrated its 40th Birthday. This charitable group began as an auxiliary to the Children's Home Society of Los Angeles until 1972 when it was incorporated **"to initiate, educate, promote and develop charitable endeavors in the community and to raise funds to support such purposes."**

MSL

is a non-profit organization comprised of approximately 40 active, energetic and heartfelt women dedicated to raising funds for a variety of local charitable organizations and programs that provide services to meet the needs of Camarillo and the greater Ventura County area. These funds are obtained from three major fundraisers each year "Tennis Tournament & Luncheon" in the spring, "A Taste of Camarillo" Wine & Food Festival in July and "Homes for the Holidays" in December. To date MSL has donated nearly \$3,000,000. to various local charities and scholarships to graduating high school seniors.

This year, MSL will host its' annual Charity Tennis Tournament and Luncheon at the scenic Spanish Hills Country Club in Camarillo. The format is a Women's Doubles Round Robin Tennis Tournament - emphasis is on having fun. For those who don't play tennis, there are lots of activities to enjoy; in fact half of the guests come just to enjoy the luncheon which features a

fashion show, raffle, live and silent auctions as well as Boutique shopping and Opportunity drawings.

Meadowlarks' largest fundraiser is the renowned "A Taste of Camarillo" Food and Wine Festival held on the last weekend in July and has become a premier annual event in Ventura County. It starts with an evening of fine dining and live auction at the Wine Auction Gala on Saturday, July 27th, from 5 to 9 pm. Guests enjoy a gourmet vintner's candlelight dinner buffet, sip on the official wine of 'A Taste of Camarillo' compliments of Bridlewood Winery, while having the opportunity to bid on amazing wines and activities. This all takes place on the beautiful grounds of the historic Adolfo Camarillo Ranch House East Garden and in the unique Red Barn ... a truly elegant evening.

The Wine and Food Festival on Sunday afternoon at the Ranch offers a cornucopia of delights. Participants sip fabulous wines from over 100 well known and boutique wineries. They can also enjoy a medley of beer varietals from around the world, all the while enjoying the taste of over 50 of

Ventura County's finest restaurants. This event includes live music and dancing, artisan boutique shopping and a grand selection of auction items to tempt everyone. Friendly, enthusiastic participants stroll leisurely under 100 year old trees meeting and greeting, tasting and enjoying the ambiance of the day.

December finds Meadowlarks preparing for their final charity event of the year - "Homes for the Holidays". Purchasing a ticket to this popular event means viewing a variety of delightful Camarillo homes dressed in holiday attire. The tours have included an Italian Villa, a three-story Queen Anne style mansion and a contemporary gem nestled amidst lush landscaping. Guests experience, state-of-the-art kitchens, priceless antiques, exotic outdoor living areas, picturesque settings and panoramic views. This event also features complimentary refreshments, boutique shopping

and opportunity drawings. Part of the joy of the Holiday Season is attending this event, meeting up with old friends and welcoming newcomers. A great way to get into the Holiday spirit!

Meadowlark Service League distributes funds and scholarships at its annual spring luncheon. MSL provided the initial funding for Camarillo Hospice in 1987. That tradition is continued today with funding for the Brain Injury Center and SOKM (Save Our Kids Music). Donations are balanced to provide services for children and adults, as well as cultural and social benefits. Last year MSL distributed over \$233,000 in grants to 29 deserving charities and scholarships to high school graduates. ■

For more information as to how to be a volunteer or to inquire about donations please visit our website. www.meadowlarkserviceleague.com

RECIPIENTS OF THE GRANTS IN 2012 WERE:

ACHS Camarillo High After Prom Program, Alzheimer's Association, American Red Cross, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Ventura County, Boys & Girls Club of Camarillo, Brain Injury Center, Camarillo Arts Council, Camarillo Family YMCA, Camarillo Hospice, Camarillo Ranch Foundation, CASA of Ventura County, Conejo Free Clinic, Food Share, Luggage of Love, Make-A-Wish Foundation, Mary Health of the Sick Convalescent Hospital, New West Symphony, OASIS, Ombudsman Program, Pleasant Valley Education Foundation, Project Understanding Homeless Program, RAIN Communities, Rescue Mission Mens & Lighthouse Women's, Rio Mesa High School After Prom Program, SOKM, Special Olympics of Ventura County, St. John's Healthcare Foundation, St. John's Cancer Center of Ventura County and Ventura County Search & Rescue.



MEADOWLARKS 40TH BIRTHDAY



MEADOWLARK LADIES



THE SELECTION OF WINERIES ARE ALWAYS TOP NOTCH



THREE GAL PALS ENJOYING THE FESTIVAL



PLENTY OF GOURMET FOOD FOR EVERYONE



SOME OF THE CHILDREN THE MEADOWLARKS ASSIST WITH DONATIONS



THE FESTIVAL ALWAYS HAS A GREAT BAND



MEADOWLARKS TENNIS TOURNAMENT



MASTROS BOOTH



TASTE OF CAMARILLO FOOD AND WINE FESTIVAL



HOMES FOR THE HOLIDAY'S ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TOUR- ADOLFO CAMARILLO HOUSE 2012.