

JFS Express Provides a Lifeline to Coachella Valley Seniors

In the summer of 2007, Esther began to experience a persistent feeling of fatigue. Since she no longer drives, she called a friend to ask for a ride to her doctor. At the last minute, her friend had to cancel. She considered taking the bus, but the nearest bus stop was several blocks away.

She knew she did not have the stamina to walk several blocks to the bus stop in 110 degree heat. There wasn't enough money left from her monthly social security check for the thirty dollar cab fare, so she reluctantly cancelled the doctor's appointment.

In the coming weeks she noticed a shortness of breath and dizziness. Late one night, barely able to breathe, Esther called "911". An ambulance rushed her to the hospital where she was diagnosed with pneumonia.

"Esther's experience is not uncommon in the Coachella Valley," according to Transportation Coordinator Laura Jacobs. "Lack of transportation is one of the most significant barriers to treatment that seniors encounter."

Fortunately, Coachella Valley seniors like Esther now have a lifeline in the JFS Express. Since its inception in August 2008, JFS Express has provided more than 700 rides to low income seniors who might otherwise not have the means to get to medical and social service appointments. The program relies heavily on volunteer drivers to reduce costs and increase the number of rides that can be provided.

JFS Express is partially funded by a generous grant from the Jewish Federation of Palm Springs and the Desert Area. For more information about JFS Express or to become a volunteer driver, contact JFS at (760) 325-4088.

Michael Childers' One Night Only Sells Out McCallum Theatre for JFS Benefit



Photo by Jay Jorgenson

Barbara Fromm, Sally Kellerman, Vicki Lewis, Ron Abel, Valarie Pettiford, Michael Childers, Sean McDermott, Freda Payne, Rita Moreno, Brent Barrett, and Liliane Montevecchi.

On April 30, 2009, 18 of Broadway and Hollywood's best and brightest performers donated their extraordinary talents to benefit Jewish Family Service of the Desert in Michael Childers' production of "One Night Only" at the McCallum Theatre for the Performing Arts.

For the second consecutive year, the sold out audience of more than 1,100 was treated to a seamless blend of stellar performances featuring such entertainment industry icons as Rita Moreno, Michele Lee, and Sally Kellerman, along with sensational up and coming stars, including Shoshana Bean and 12 year old prodigy Rocky Fiorentino.

The concert also starred Brent Barrett,
Continues on page 2

Save the Dates:

ANNUAL PATRON PARTY

Thursday, December 3, 2009

12TH ANNUAL HOUSE & GARDEN WALK

Sunday, March 14, 2010

MICHAEL CHILDERS PRESENTS ONE NIGHT ONLY

McCallum Theatre

Thursday, April 8, 2010

Continued from page 1

Michael Childers' One Night Only Sells Out McCallum Theatre for JFS Benefit



Sherrie Breyer Photography

Michele Lee, Valarie Pettiford, Alix Korey, Sean McDermott, Linda Purl, Michael Childers, Davis Gaines, Rita Moreno, Ty Taylor and Liliane Montevecchi.

Loretta Devine, Davis Gaines, Alix Korey, Vicki Lewis, Sean McDermott, Sharon McNight, Liliane Montevecchi,



Barbara Keller, Ty Taylor, Alix Korey and Rocco Fiorentino.

Photo by Jay Jorgenson

Freda Payne, Valarie Pettiford, Linda Purl, Ty Taylor and Bruce Vilanch. In addition to Michael Childers, the creative team responsible for the spectacular production included Director Stuart Ross, Musical Director Ron Abel and Choreographer Mark Esposito.

More than 400 guests attended the VIP reception with the cast after the performance at Piero's Acqua Pazza at the River. On the night before the event, David Lee & Mark Nichols hosted a private party for the cast and special guests at their lovely Las Palmas estate.

The phenomenal success of 'One Night Only' would not have been possible without the extraordinary dedication of our event committee, including Honorary Co-Chairs Helene Galen, Barbara Keller, and Harold Matzner, along with Event Co-Chairs Barbara Fromm and Sherry Schor.

We're delighted to announce that the next Michael Childers production of "One Night Only" will once again benefit JFS on Thursday, April 8, 2010 at the McCallum Theatre for the Performing Arts.



Photo by Jay Jorgenson

Helene Galen, Harold Matzner, Bruce Vilanch and Sherry Schor.

Dear Friends,

Although we are in the middle of summer, I feel it is "Thanksgiving" season for JFS. This issue of "Voices" is basically a thank you note to all of you.

I personally have some "thank you's". To our major funders, Jewish Federation of the Palm Springs and Desert Area, Desert Healthcare District, and United Way... thank you. To our wonderful, diverse board of directors who never say "no"... thank you. To Michael Childers and his band of supporters, actors and staff who gave us "One Night Only"... thank you. To our House & Garden Hosts who opened their doors to us...thank you. To our volunteers who do everything from answering our phones to visiting lonely clients, to driving Hollywood stars and needy seniors...thank you. To our fabulous staff headed by Dan Bass...thank you.

This has been a troubling year, but because of all of you, our clients have been able to avail themselves of all of our services. We have not turned anyone away. And that is why I feel that this is the Thanksgiving season.

Sincerely,

Judy Wallis
President
Board of Directors



DONOR LISTING

The JFS fiscal year ended on June 30, 2009. We would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge all of our supporters and donors in the past twelve months. We have made every effort to list all donations received, but apologize for any inadvertent omissions. We would greatly appreciate that any errors be brought to our attention so we can strive for the highest possible accuracy in the future. Please contact us at (760) 325-4088.

*For contributions received between
7/01/08 – 06/30/2009*

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Jewish Family Service is a beneficiary of the Jewish Federation of Palm Springs & Desert Area, the United Way of the Desert, and a member of the Association of Jewish Family & Children's Agencies.



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Our mission is to provide for the social service needs of the Jewish and general community throughout the greater Coachella Valley with a commitment to promote the well-being of persons of all ages, incomes and lifestyles.

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