



NEWS RELEASE

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Makua's *Wild, Wild West* Is Kicking Its Heels on May 31, 2008

Round up your posse and head for Liberty Station! Makua's 55th annual dinner-dance to benefit the foster children in San Diego will be an evening of "wild" proportions. Makua's *Wild, Wild West* fundraiser will be held at NTC Promenade in Point Loma on May 31, 2008 and promises to follow the group's tradition of "putting the FUN back into fundraiser." Fundraising Co-Directors Maria Herman, Kris Barry and Heidi Grady aim to raise more than \$140,000 at the event to benefit Voices for Children.

"Between Calamity Jane's Happy Hour, a Gunslinger's Film Row, Wild Bill's picture "Shooting Gallery" and Coyote Ugly dancers, it'll be a *wild* event with a slick western twist! And we are lucky to have San Diego's own jailhouse rocker Lacy Younger—a rising star in the recording industry. She is a talented song writer with an amazing voice, and she's very excited about donating her time to such a worthwhile cause," described Ms. Herman about their 2008 fundraiser.

"Makua's long tradition of dressing in costume will be in full force for this event," elaborated co-director Ms. Grady about things to expect. "Guests can expect to see at least 30 saloon girls in plunging velvet necklines and lace ruffles, a pistol-toting sheriff and a leather-clad gunslinger or two, and that's just the ladies!" The menu also promises to excite the palate with new combinations for the San Diego fundraising scene. "We are trying something completely different with the food this year. A completely avante garde menu of Western Gourmet meets San Diego fresh and fabulous! The food alone will be a great reason to attend," explained Bridget Wear, professional event coordinator and Makua member.

Recently, Makua presented Voices for Children with a check for \$132,000 raised at Makua's *Casino Royale 007*. The event was held at Jimsair Charter in June. Co-Director Ms. Barry said, "Thanks to the success of the 2007 event we've already started accepting underwriting offers including \$5,000 from Bank of the West and \$10,000 from North American Communications, plus in-kind donations which include a brand-new blue Piaggio moped and a hip, western-style workout machine called the "i-gallop". Makua's *Wild, Wild West* will be our best event yet and we plan to raise more than \$500,000 in support of Voices for Children. We are very excited!"

For more information regarding tickets or donations, please contact Kris Barry at 619/222-2075.

ABOUT MAKUA

Makua, a Point Loma-based women's organization founded in 1953, strives to raise funds to benefit the foster children of San Diego County through its partnership with Voices for Children. The auxiliary is comprised of approximately 45 active members and hundreds of local Patronesses who provide ongoing financial contributions. Since 2003, Makua's fundraising efforts have directly benefitted Voices for Children—a private, nonprofit organization devoted to providing advocacy and mentoring services to San Diego's foster children.

ABOUT VOICES FOR CHILDREN

Voices for Children helps abused, neglected, and abandoned children in foster care through our network of Court Appointed Special Advocates—CASAs. These deeply committed volunteers are recruited, trained, and supervised by Voices for Children's staff. Empowered by the courts to "advocate" for particular children who have become dependents of the San Diego Juvenile Court, CASAs guide their case children through the complex and confusing foster care system, striving for resolution in a way that best serves each child.

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