



News Release

Contact: Amanda Schaap, Marketing & Communications Manager
Phone: (858) 598-2213 Email: amandas@speakupnow.org

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Starry Starry Night Gala Benefiting Voices for Children September 9 at Del Dios Ranch

2017 Event Chaired by Lany and Alex Zikakis

(June 14, 2017) San Diego, CA— Starry Starry Night, the signature event of [Voices for Children](#) (VFC), will be held on Saturday, September 9, 2017. The 15th annual gala, chaired by Carlsbad residents Lany and Alex Zikakis, will take place at the renowned Sahm Estate at Del Dios Ranch. All event proceeds will benefit Voices for Children, a nonprofit organization which transforms the lives of children in foster care by providing them with volunteer Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs). CASAs offer a sense of stability and advocate for foster children in the courtroom, at school, and in the community.

Starry Starry Night is considered one of San Diego's premier fundraising events. The annual gala has grown from an intimate event in a private home to one of our community's most anticipated events, grossing more than \$1 million in each of the past five years. A fitting venue, Del Dios Ranch in Rancho Santa Fe boasts the magnificent Sahm Estate, home to the late Ramona and Roland Sahm. The residence has hosted numerous philanthropic events and is currently on the market for \$85 million.

The evening will begin with an elegant cocktail hour featuring signature creations by Snake Oil Cocktail Co. followed by a custom, gourmet menu. Guests will have the opportunity to bid on irresistible items during the Live Auction and raise their paddle to directly Fund-A-CASA. The evening will conclude with a spirited after-party with dancing and dessert stations. Event designer and producer Janice Dodge and her team will create a sophisticated evening that pays homage to historic Southern California and the stunning backdrop of Rancho Santa Fe hills.

Of serving as event chairs, Lany and Alex Zikakis shared, "We are honored to carry forward the legacy of celebration and generosity of Starry Starry Night. We look forward to a memorable event and record-breaking support for Voices for Children. Most importantly, Starry Starry Night will make it possible for Voices for Children to serve more than 3,200 foster children in San Diego County in FY2017-2018 through the advocacy of more than 1,500 CASA volunteers."

For more information about Starry Starry Night and sponsorship opportunities, contact Sheila Owens, Special Events Manager, at events@speakupnow.org or (858) 598-2261.

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STARRY STARRY NIGHT 2017 CHAIRS

Lany Zikakis has served on the Board of Directors of Voices for Children since July 2013, and she currently serves on its Development Committee. Ms. Zikakis' past work experience includes print production, advertising and media buying at Esprit de Corp., and managing new product introductions for Jack in the Box restaurants. She has been an active community volunteer in local schools, including Pacific Ridge School, her church, and HOA board for many years. Ms. Zikakis has a B.S. in consumer economics from the University of Vermont and a M.B.A. from Cornell University.

Alex Zikakis is president and founder of Capstone Advisors, a diversified real estate investment and development company based in Carlsbad, CA. Mr. Zikakis holds a M.B.A. from Cornell University and a B.A. in finance from the University of Colorado in Boulder. He is a member of the Building Industry Association, the International Council of Shopping Centers, the National Association of Industrial and Office Properties and the Urban Land Institute. He serves on advisory board positions at Cornell University, the University of Colorado, and the University of San Diego. Mr. Zikakis was awarded the 2005 Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year award for real estate and financial services.

Lany and Alex Zikakis reside in Carlsbad. They recently celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary and are the proud parents of three wonderful young men.

ABOUT VOICES FOR CHILDREN

Voices for Children (VFC), founded in 1980, transforms the lives of foster children in San Diego and Riverside Counties by providing them with volunteer Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs). CASA volunteers advocate for a foster child or sibling group in Court, in school, and in the community to ensure their needs are met. Voices for Children believes that every child deserves a safe and permanent home and strives to provide a CASA volunteer to every child in the foster care system who needs one. Last year, Voices for Children CASAs and staff advocated on behalf of 3,190 foster children. For more information, visit www.speakupnow.org.