

# Parca Auxiliary

**Amy Underwood**  
*President*

**Suzy Lester**  
*VP – Membership*

**Keara Meyercord**  
*VP – Membership*

**Lara McDonald**  
*VP – Auction*

**Nicole Goligoski**  
*VP – Development*

**Paige Cattano**  
*VP – Events*

**Carolyn McCusker**  
*VP – Events*

**Paige Meek**  
*VP-Program Services*

**Kim Bottoms**  
*Publicity*

**Amelia Nash**  
*Secretary*

**Anita Cole**  
*Database/RSVP's*

**Ann Aristides**  
*Treasurer*

**Julie Lev**  
*Social Coordinator*

**Paige Farsad**  
*Sustainer Liaison*

**Vicky Jones**  
*Sustainer Liaison*

**Paige Burns**  
*Parliamentarian*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

## **PARCA AUXILIARY'S "CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF GOODWILL, GROWTH & GRATITUDE" SPRING LUNCHEON AND FASHION SHOW WAS A STYLISH AND SUCCESSFUL AFFAIR TO REMEMBER**

A Record \$200,000 was Raised for the Developmentally Disabled

HILLSBOROUGH, CA, May 22, 2008 – Just over 400 Peninsula women stepped out in style to support the Parca Auxiliary's 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring Luncheon and Fashion Show. A huge success with donations totaling at least \$200,000, the luncheon raised funds for Parca Organization, a non-profit association serving people with developmental disabilities and their families in the Bay Area.

High fashion and fantastic fundraising was brought to Hillsborough with the "Celebrating 20 Years of Goodwill, Growth & Gratitude" event. The sold-out luncheon was held at a beautiful private home in Hillsborough with glorious gardens. The centerpiece of the luncheon setting was a sleek runway reminiscent of a New York Fashion Show. Guests sat beneath an elegant white canopy at garden-themed tables decorated with pink peonies and chartreuse green spring flowers, and silk butterflies adorned the centerpieces and chairs. Guests dined on a delicious lunch provided by St. Clair's Catering.

Amy Underwood, President of the Parca Auxiliary, welcomed guests and thanked everyone for attending the luncheon. "I am so proud of this amazing group of women who are committed to enriching the lives of Parca clients both through fundraising activities as well as organizing special events for the clients throughout the year" said Underwood. She went on to honor Barbara Brown, one of the Auxiliary's founders, and Jennifer Brown Moriarty as Sustainers of the Year.

The Masters of Ceremonies were Carolyn Johnson, Anchor of the ABC7 News, and Chris Kruse, a Hillsborough resident. The dynamic pair encouraged guests to give generously during the Live Auction which raised over \$72,000. One lucky bidder won an exotic vacation for \$12,000! The Silent Auction which included fabulous catered dinners and parties, wine country getaways, golf outings, shopping extravaganzas, and pampering packages brought in \$25,555.

The "Fund-A-Need" appeal brought in \$25,905 for a new, large passenger van which will be used for all Parca programs and residences. There are several Parca clients who are immobile or in wheelchairs, and the new van will enable the adults to be transported to their jobs and other outings; and younger clients at Raji House will be able to ride in the van to field trips.

A cake auction also captured everyone's sweet side. Three beautiful cakes and a cupcake tower from local bakeries brought in \$2,200. One lucky guest was the winner of the raffle item: a dazzling pair of pave diamond hoop earrings. Generously donated by Steiner's Jewelry, these elegant platinum earrings contain approximately 1.9 carats of diamonds.

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The afternoon's grand finale was a high style fashion show featuring the latest trends of spring and summer fashion from Burlingame's hottest boutiques including Malouf's, Les Deux Copines, Loft, Fina, Lulu Boutique and Head Over Heels. Male and female models, styled by Wowpretty and the Chapin Court Salon, strutted down the elevated stage to funky, hip music, while wearing cutting-edge fashions ranging from casual to chic, eventually bringing the fashion forward crowd to their feet with applause.

Luncheon Co-Chairs Paige Cattano and Carolyn McCusker were delighted with the success of the event. "We are thrilled to be celebrating the 20th year anniversary of the Auxiliary. We have amazing founders who have created a legacy that we are proud to continue. Raising funds for developmentally disabled adults and children served by the Parca Organization is a purpose that inspires all of us. We are confident that the proceeds from this annual fundraiser change their lives for the better, and in return, our lives are enriched because we have made a difference in our community," said McCusker.

Diana Conti, Executive Director of Parca Organization, thanked everyone for their dedication to making a difference in the lives of Parca Organization's developmentally disabled clients. "Because of all of you, all of the people in San Mateo County who have developmental disabilities that need community support systems are able to receive that support so that they may live as independently as possible," said Conti. She went on to introduce a mother and her child who is developmentally disabled. Judy Brown and her daughter Ionella shared their inspiring and moving story. "Parca has made a huge difference in our life. Parca is the lifeline for our children and gives hope, one to one, now and for the future," said Brown.

The funds raised at the luncheon will benefit three critical areas of the Parca Organization: All Fund-A-Need donations will be used towards the purchase of a new passenger van. The Family Support Services program which offers a variety of services to adults and children with developmental disabilities and their families will benefit. Funds will also be allocated to the Courtney Jones Memorial Endowment, a long-term financial safety net for the operations of Parca Organization.

### **About Parca Organization**

Parca Organization is a private, nonprofit association that serves people with developmental disabilities and their families in the Bay Area. Since its founding in 1952, Parca has been committed to providing opportunities for disabled people of all ages to help them experience choice, control and individuality in every area of their lives. In addition to skills training for adults, Parca offers respite care for children and teens; childcare and recreational programs for children; and support groups, information and referral services for families. Developmental disabilities include mental retardation, autism, cerebral palsy, epilepsy and other similar neurological disorders.

### **About Parca Auxiliary**

Founded in 1985, the Parca Auxiliary is a small group of Peninsula-based women dedicated to raising money and awareness for Parca Organization. Parca is a private, nonprofit association that serves people with developmental disabilities and their families in the Bay Area. Every spring, the Auxiliary hosts a luncheon and fashion show that is the primary fundraiser for Parca Organization. The generous donations from the event's sponsors and guests help contribute to the success of Parca's clients throughout the year. Today, the Auxiliary consists of 54 Actives, 11 Provisionals, 68 Sustainers and 14 Founding members.

For more information, please contact:

Kim Bottoms, Publicity Chair, 650.652.9739, [parcapr@yahoo.com](mailto:parcapr@yahoo.com)

For more information about Parca, please contact:

Diana Conti, Executive Director, 650.312.0730, <http://www.parca.org>

Photos courtesy of Sara Wood.