



Board President Mike Zolnier and member, Veronica Barillas



Fashion Show Photos by Jennifer Kearns

A Fashion Show to Remember

Nancy LaBelle



When the Danville Children's Guild informed us that we would be the recipient of their Celebrate the Children, Annual Fashion Show and Luncheon event, we were very excited. Each year, the beautiful ladies of the Guild choose a different organization serving the needs of children to benefit from this event. The Guild has been proudly serving the San Francisco Bay Area since 1975.

The show was sold out with 300 attendees and held at the beautiful Diablo Country Club. Many vendors sold their products and services and generously donated 20 percent of their profit that day to our organization. It was exciting to meet Kristi Yamaguchi, who was in attendance selling her cloth-

ing line. While enjoying appetizers and cocktails, everyone had the opportunity to bid on many generous silent auction items. There were also raffles for a \$2,600 diamond necklace donated by B. Allan Jewelers of Danville and a large quantity of quality wines.

The luncheon started with speakers from the Guild, followed by our Board President, Mike Zolnier, and me. After a delicious lunch, we went on to a very exciting part of the day, the Fund-a-Need Auction. The Guild chose to raise funds for our 2015 Stride with Pride Bike Camp. Jessica Aguirre, NBC Bay Area News Anchor, was the MC for the afternoon, and she did an amazing job pumping everyone up to donate. The fun began as Katie Mack, a beautiful

five-year-old who happens to have Down syndrome, took the stage with a Strider bike she has been practicing on, through our bike lending program. She showed the crowd how a no-peddle bike can get kids of any age on a two-wheel bike with confidence, hard work, and motivation. As Katie pushed herself down the catwalk, Jessica asked everyone to raise their paddles. After \$500, \$100, and \$50 were called out, it looked like all paddles were raised. We are not aware of the total raised for the bike camp during this event; however, we know it was enough money to allow us to staff and conduct several bike camps for all ages, as well as to provide Strider Bikes and helmets for every camper. Danville Town Council members Newell

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Arnerich and Renee Morgan deserve a special thank you for attending and for their generous donations to our camp program.

The day continued with the main event. Many of our members' children and local community kids and adults volunteered to walk the catwalk in beautiful clothing from local designers and establishments, showing off their inner and outer beauty. It was so much fun to watch K. Leigh Alfrey, Addie Bender, LuLu Jensen, Katie Mack, and Will and Katy Drucker from the DSCBA take the runway in style. Thank you to all the DSCBA families who attended or volunteered to be part of this event.

We are truly grateful for the hard work and commitment from the ladies of the Guild for creating an elegant luncheon and a successful event that offered us a chance to gain community awareness and the funds necessary to continue our vital programs, which support Bay Area families who have children born with Down syndrome.

It was indeed a fashion show to remember—one I will never forget. A warm and sincere thank you again from all of us at the Down Syndrome Connection of the Bay Area to all of the generous ladies of the Danville Children's Guild for this amazing gift!

