

Santa Barbara Rescue Mission

# Bayou Italiano: a Taste of Tuscany

By **JEANETTE CASILLAS** / CASA

**T**O FURTHER THEIR WORK of providing support for those in need, the Santa Barbara Rescue Mission held their 7th Annual benefit, *Bayou Italiano*, at the historic Rancho Dos Pueblos estate on Saturday, October 4th. “Benvenuto- Welcome!” Gerd Jordano, Bayou emcee welcomed about 300 guests to the annual benefit. “Thanks for supporting the organization and the great work that they do.”

Santa Barbara Chief of Police Cam Sanchez was the honoree of the afternoon for his outstanding leadership in addressing the complexities of homelessness and addiction in our community. “The Leni Fé Bland Award honors Cam Sanchez, a person of character and someone that’s dedicated to keeping our community safe,” noted Santa Barbara Rescue Mission President Rolf Geyling.

Sanchez accepted the award on behalf of the Santa Barbara Police Department and shared an anecdote about his late mentor, Joe Weigrich.



**Karl Willig**, Board of Directors Chair; **Gerd Jordano**, Event Emcee; and Honoree Chief of Police **Cam Sanchez**



**Henry and Dundie Schulte**, Rancho Dos Pueblos Owners

“He taught me what police work really is,” began Sanchez. “Being a police officer is not about chasing criminals, it’s about learning to treat everyone with dignity, especially those in need...What matters is that we meet our responsibility.”

Program graduate Scott Walters was also invited to share his story about how the Rescue Mission’s 12-month residential recovery program changed his life. After experimenting with drugs at an early age and moving into being an addict, Walter’s wake up call came when he was arrested for illegal drug possession. He was sentenced to a year in prison and one year in a rehabilitation center. “My life now does not reflect what it did back then,” shared Walters who is married and the father of two. Geyling concluded the evening by sharing

some facts about the Rescue Mission, “There are 81 people in the program, 57 men and 51 women, who are endeavouring



SBRM Program Graduate **Scott Walters** with wife **Lisa Walters**



**Joyce Enright**, SBRM Women’s Auxiliary member and **Diane Waterloo**, SBRM Women’s Auxiliary Founder



**Rolf Geyling**, SB Rescue Mission President; **Dianne Davis**, Event Decorations Chair; **Rose Hodge**, Event Co-Chair; **Sydney Tredick**, SBRM Women’s Auxiliary President; and **Susan Hughes**, Event Co-Chair



**Laura Case** and **Craig Case**



**Donna Brown** and Sheriff **Bill Brown**

to make the same journey to get their lives back. Fifty will graduate and find sobriety, with 97 percent being employed after graduation.”

The *Bayou Italiano* included a silent auction with select gifts. Ray Ketzal was the winner of the Bellissimo Bayou Grand Prize Drawing, a New York City vacation package for two, including airfare and tickets to the Broadway show, *Mamma Mia*.

A family style dinner was served and provided by Lorraine Lim Catering. The event raised over \$200,000 and the proceeds will directly benefit the Mission’s 12-Month Residential Recovery Program and Homeless Guest Services.



**Carol Ohman**, **Marilyn Rickard**, **Jo Harris**, and **Julie Willig**

**The Santa Barbara Rescue Mission** is a ministry of Christian people bringing physical, emotional, educational, and spiritual resources to men,

women, and children in need, particularly those struggling with addictions. For more information call 966-1316 or visit [www.sbrm.org](http://www.sbrm.org).