

Casa Serena Celebrates 50th Anniversary

By **JEANETTE CASILLAS** / CASA

CASA SERENA CELEBRATED “50 YEARS OF GOLDEN OPPORTUNITIES” with an Anniversary luncheon recently this month at The Santa Barbara Club, in honor of the thousands of women who have walked through the Casa Serena doors



Greg Hackenthal, Laura Roby, Event Committee Member; and **Penny Jenkins**



Kathleen Dussaq, SBB&T; Randy Weiss, SBB&T; and Marcia Reed



Back: **Sheila Block; Kathy Neches**, Event Committee Member; **Niece Cox; Ted Karminski**. Front: **Shelley Meaney; Jillian Davis**, Board of Directors; **Frances Lipinski; and Tom Neches**

into successful, sober lives. Among those honored were Lillian Lovelace and Nan Schooley who were presented with The Mildred Pinheiro Award.

“A 50 year celebration gives a sense of accomplishment,” shared Jessie Stone, Casa Serena Development Director. “Casa Serena has become an important part of the community and continues to grow through the dedication of the people that keep it running. Evidently, we are doing something right.”

Named after Casa Serena’s founder, The Mildred Pinheiro Award, was awarded to Lovelace and Schooley for following in the footsteps of Pinheiro’s vision, showing great dedication, and for being pillars of strength to Casa Serena and women’s recovery over many years.

The celebration gathered 150 supporters, alumni,



Steve Olsen and Nan Schooley, Mildred Pinheiro Award Recipient



Mike and Pam Olsen

and friends of Casa Serena. “The event brought people together and helped raise awareness,” noted Stone. “It gave us an opportunity to share what it is that we do with people in the community.”

The program featured a silent auction and a moving speech by Natasha Thompson, an alumna of Casa Serena’s recovery program. Over \$70,000 was raised and will directly benefit Casa

Serena’s recovery programs and scholarship program.

“The event was a huge success and we hope to make it into

a yearly fundraiser,” concluded Stone.

For 50 years Casa Serena has changed women’s lives—over 10,000 to this day. Casa Serena opened its doors to alcoholic women in August of 1959. Casa Serena provides recovery and treatment services to women over the age of 18 who are seeking freedom from alcohol and drug dependence.

For more information about Casa Serena and its programs or to donate, call 564-8701 or visit www.casaserena.org.



Lillian Pierson Lovelace, Mildred Pinheiro Award Recipient; **Bonnie Campbell**, Mistress of Ceremonies; and **Sybil Rosen**, VP Board of Directors



Dick Ellison, Casa Serena Board of Directors Treasurer; **Craig Belknap**, Casa Serena Executive Director; and **Nancy Belknap**, Casa Serena Program Director



Jessie Stone; Casa Serena Development Director; **Natasha Thompson**, Alumna Keynote Speaker; **Marybeth Carly**, Venoco, Inc.; and **Ed Pena**, Cox Communications



Back: **Tim Aceves**, Deckers; **Jason Wojciechowski**. Front: **Denise MacIntosh, Kim Hyer, and Lynn Taylor**

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