

Boys & Girls Club of Santa Barbara

Saddle up for Kids!

By ERIN J. SMITH / CASA

WITH AN ENTHUSIASTIC 'HOWDY'

from the kids involved with the Boys & Girls Club of Santa Barbara, guests were welcomed in from the rain at the "Saddle Up for Kids" event, a Western-themed dinner and auction held recently at the Carriage & Western Art Museum.

"What a great night. Everyone looks fantastic in their Western wear,"

said Arturo Santiago, emceed the event with his Central Coast News co-anchor Katie Marzullo. "The Boys & Girls Club of Santa Barbara is a phenomenally impressive organization, serving 1,500 kids at or below the poverty level," added Marzullo, who emceed the event with her Central Coast News co-anchor. "It provides these kids the chance to learn and play, from sun-up to sun-down."

Over 200 guests packed the tent and enjoyed a scrumptious dinner catered by Elements Restaurant and Bar, which featured BBQ pork spare ribs, mint and garlic roasted chicken, scalloped yukon gold potatoes, and ranch-style pinto beans with molasses. Coupled with a margarita or sangria by State and A Bar & Grill, the meal was every cowboy and cowgirl's dream.

There were no losses in the ever-popular



Katie Marzullo and Arturo Santiago

Dessert Dash, referred to this year as the "Sweet Stampede," where the table with the most pledges earned the first chance to choose their favorite dessert. Bank of Santa Barbara pledged nearly \$1,400 for the honor of choosing the most delectable dessert and the 25 tables donated an overall total of \$10,000.

Barry Sweet got the crowd going for the live auction with his fast-talking, auctioneering

year. It's essential to help us keep running programs to keep kids off the street and on a positive path in life. We were able to raise much needed funds for our after-school, weekend, and summer programs for over 1,500 kids, ages 6 to 18."

charm, and the evening ended with dancing to live music by Grant Langston and the Supermodels.

"It was great to see everyone have so much fun," said Carolyn Brown, Boys & Girls Club Executive Director. "This is our biggest fundraiser of the



A Boot-Scootin' Good Time: Back: Carolyn Brown (Boys & Girls Club Executive Director), Syerra, Issaiah, and Griffin. Front: Emily, Sadie, Nickolas, and Jalen.

For more information, call 962-2382 or visit www.boysgirls.org.



Robert Giaimo, Board Member; David Edelman, Event Chair; Bruce Heavin, Co-founder of Lynda.com



Adam and Katie Schuette, Nicole True, and Zohe Felici



Dessert Dash Winners: Eloy Ortega, John Vandenberg, and Melissa McEacheron



Barbara Spalding, Jim Turner, Deanne Turner, Joyce Green, and Pat Van Every



Sue Axelband, Laurie Burruss, and Cynthia Scott