

Taste of the Nation Raises \$50,000

TASTINGS FROM ONE OF THE LARGEST WINE OFFERINGS OF THE YEAR,

in Santa Barbara, the Taste of the Nation®, drew more than 600 people and raised over \$50,000 to fight childhood hunger locally and nationally.

“We are thrilled that this year’s Taste of the Nation Santa Barbara was such a success,” said Jessica Knight, Event Chair. “Every year, Taste of the Nation provides a meaningful way for the whole community to join the fight to end childhood hunger.”

The area’s top chefs and restaurants

prepared food for over 600 attendees at the Montecito Country Club on Sunday, June 5th to benefit Share Our Strength®, the nation’s leading organization working to end childhood hunger in America by 2015. Normally

held outdoors, the event was moved indoors to the historic ballroom which boasts panoramic views of the coastline due to inclement weather.

Event organizers truly proved what it meant to be a team when they re-assembled the festivities within mere hours of guests arriving!

Attendees enjoyed masterful creations such as Scallop Ceviche, Truffle Infused Mac’n’Cheese, and Vietnamese Pork Sandwiches from the area’s top chefs, sipped the finest wine and spirits, and bid in live and silent auctions featuring a variety of fabulous packages, emceed by John Palminteri. The evening’s highlights included live music by the Margie Nelson Jazz Band, a cigar and cocktail bar, and on-site games.

With nearly 17 million children facing hunger in America (that’s almost one in four) and 32 percent of families having to choose between paying for food or rent in SantaBarbara County,



Performing at the Taste of the Nation: Jazz Singer **Margie Nelson** with the Montecito Jazz Project group guitarist **Mark Coffin**; drummer, **John Landsberg**; Saxophone, **Mike Farley**; bass guitarist, **Tom Towle** with **John Palminteri**, emcee and **Jessica Knight**, event chair.



John Palminteri, Emcee and **Michael Blackwell**, Montecito Country Club Exec Chef



John Kochis of Bridlewood Estate Winery pouring the Bridlewood Blend 175 to **Wendy Laub** and **Dr. David Laub**

funds raised at Share Our Strength’s Taste of the Nation are even more vital. Share Our Strength works to end childhood hunger in America by connecting children with the

nutritious food they need to lead healthy, active lives.

Funds raised through Taste of the Nation events support No Kid Hungry™, Share Our Strength’s campaign to end childhood hunger in America. Local beneficiaries include Foodbank of Santa Barbara County and United Boys and Girls Club of Santa Barbara. One hundred percent of ticket sales support Share Our Strength.



Brian Parks, Coast Restaurant & Bar Chef with **MaryBeth Carty** of Venoco and **Allison Mana** of the Coast Restaurant



Annie Moot, Wine Cask Restaurant Server with **Pamela Galvin** and **Rosie Gerard**, Wine Cask Pastry Chef



Tasters **Kimberly Delgado**, **Suzanne Lawson** and **Andrea Newquist**

Share Our Strength’s Taste of the Nation® is the nation’s premier culinary benefit dedicated to making sure no kid grows up hungry. Each spring and summer, the nation’s hottest chefs and mixologists donate their time, talent and passion at nearly 50 events across the United States and Canada, with one goal in mind: to raise the critical funds needed to end childhood hunger. Since 1988, Taste of the Nation has raised more than \$75 million.

For more information visit www.taste.strength.org.

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