

# Eleventh annual governor's black-tie invitational raises \$820,000 for local charities

*Charles Mathewson receives prestigious Governor's Philanthropist of the Year Award*

With over a decade of fundraising, the Eleventh Annual Governor's Black-Tie Invitational sponsored by Southern Highlands Charitable Foundation, raised an astonishing \$820,000 for local charities. Held on March 31 – April 2, the invitational brought residents and charitable members of the Las Vegas community together for a golf tournament, live entertainment, and a variety of silent and live auction items. This was Governor Brian Sandoval's first year hosting the invitational, where he awarded Chuck Mathewson with the esteemed Governor's Philanthropist of the Year Award. This year's event brings the grand total of funds raised by Southern Highlands Charitable Foundation to over \$9 million in the past 11 years.

"We are so thrilled to have had Governor Sandoval host this event. It was an amazing display of the Las Vegas community and their dedication to charitable giving," said Garry Goett.

The highly anticipated three-day event began with the Governor's Black-Tie Gala on Thursday night with a live performance by Street Corner Symphony, the a cappella runner-up group from season two of NBC's "The Sing-Off." Chuck Mathewson was honored with the Governor's Philanthropists of the Year award for his compassionate support of dozens of non-profit groups in Las Vegas and the surrounding area, including children, health, educational, arts, family, and research-oriented organizations. The evening concluded with a variety of live auction items including a brand new 2012 CLS 550, generously donated by Fletcher's Jones Imports and Mercedes of Henderson.

The evening events concluded with the Governor's Grand Bash on Friday featuring a special private performance by Grammy-winning artist, Train. The audience was treated to award-winning hits like "Drops of Jupiter" and "Marry Me," as well as some cover songs like Rhianna's "Umbrella" and Led Zeppelin for the men. The biggest treat of all however, was when Train surprised the audience with an a cappella rendition of "When I look to the Sky." "It was very touching performance," said Shelley Caiazzo, Director of Marketing for Southern Highlands Golf Club.

The tournament champion from the two-day invitational golf tournament was Patriot Environmental Services which included Tom Scranton, Ted Mansfield, Steve Isgro, Mike Stevens. While the golfers enjoyed the competition on the course, the ladies were treated to a luncheon on Saturday at Neiman Marcus Mariposa while they watched a fashion show presented by the store.

Due to a large portion of the funds raised at the Eleventh Annual Governor's Black-Tie Invitational, the much anticipated Southern Highlands Boys & Girls Club will open this summer. Other charities that benefitted from the event include Assistance League of Las Vegas, Candlelighters for Childhood Cancer, Opportunity Village, Nevada Childhood Cancer Foundation, Children's Heart Foundation, and Make-A-Wish Foundation of Southern Nevada. Additionally, the monies raised from the ladies luncheon raffle will send 23 kids to summer camps including Camp Firefly, Camp Cartwheel and Camp Mend-A-Heart.



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