



Playground of Dreams First Fundraiser Draws Huge Crowds and Raises \$30,000

More Than 500 People Attended The Mentoring Organization's Event

Los Angeles, Calif. (April 7, 2013)—Playground of Dreams (POD), a new innovative non-profit mentoring program that teams entertainment industry influencers with children to help foster their creativity, confidence, leadership skills and unique purpose in the world is proud to announce that its first-ever “Coolest Variety Show on Earth” raised \$30,000 in funds for the charity. Donations from the benefit will flow directly to the Los Angeles-based organization to help grow its presence and make it possible for more local children to get involved and realize their dreams.

For its first-ever full-scale benefit, POD saw an overwhelming amount of support from the community. More than 500 people attended the sold out “Coolest Variety Show on Earth,” including a slew of celebrities such as; actress Vanessa Williams, actress Frances Fisher, E! News correspondent Catt Sadler, actors Aldis and Edwin Hodge, NBA great Joe Smith, actor Ernie Hudson, actress Sharon Lawrence, actor Dash Mihok, actor Martin Kove, and actress Erin Cahill.

The main event at the benefit was an impressive variety showcase starring the children of Playground of Dreams expressing their number one passions through song, dance, science, spoken word poetry and other talents.

“I have never seen so many standing ovations in one place in my life,” says Brian Larrabee, Co-Founder of Playground of Dreams. “What was intended to be a day of our Playground of Dreams kids expressing and fulfilling their dreams, turned into a celebration of everybody in the theatre experiencing what it is like to live the life of their dreams.”

Special performances by The School of Rock, actor Dash Mihok, actor Travis Van Winkle, actress Sharon Pierre-Louis, international recording artist Kandace Lindsey, bands COED and Mosaic also wowed the crowd.

In addition to the live acts, the event included a “Dream Panel,” featuring Catt Sadler, Sharon Lawrence, Frances Fisher, Martin Kove, two time Oscar-winning sound engineer Ron Judkins, and talent manager Michael Greenwald. The event also included interactive “dream clinics” such as a build-your-own-superhero station, “Michael The Baker” baking station, E! News hosting clinic by Women Like Us foundation, an artistry station with live music and painting and hosted by World Peace Project 24 Peaces.

Event attendees enjoyed food, drinks and prizes donated by sponsors including Lacoste, Village Pizzeria, Level 3 Design Group, Sweet Crush Ice Bar, Duff Goldman’s Cake Mix, EarthBar, Hint Water, Ice Link, KB Covers, Chef Richie Million, Cinema Secrets, Blue Ice Vodka, Corozon Maya Tequila and Kickin’ Foods. Special thanks to our media sponsors Steven James Collins Photography, Delpha Baxter, Tim Delaney, Nabil Handem, Emerson Boergadine, Parisa Afsahi, Arianna Sinclair, Jacqueline Feldman, and Michael Bezjian.

"Our sincerest gratitude and thanks for the contributions of all of our sponsors, kids, volunteers and attendees – all of which made this possible", says Anna Herbert, Playground of Dreams Co-Founder. "Everyone was 100% invested in creating this magnificent event, and we really appreciate their commitment, patience, giving, and love. We are excited to work with all of them in the future!"

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About Playground of Dreams

The non-profit organization Playground of Dreams (POD) is an innovative mentoring program teaming industry leaders with children to foster their creativity, confidence, leadership, and unique purpose in the world. POD believes that when kids connect with a higher purpose in their lives they will make higher choices. POD provides a safe, trusting place for kids to discover and express exactly who they are, their unique gifts and their dreams. A main focus in their experiential curriculum is on service and spreading love, joy, and freedom throughout their communities.

www.playgroundofdreams.org

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