

JULY 22,
2011

THE COAST NEWS

Stars shine bright for Jammer Foundation benefit

By Tony Cagala

RANCHO SANTA FE — It was an evening spent under and alongside the stars during the second annual Jammer Foundation's Jammin Under the Stars fundraiser benefit.

The event, organized by San Diego Charger Quentin Jammer and his wife Alicia, along with Jolane Crawford, Ginger Levy and Maria Barry and hosted at the private estate of Sean and Maria Barry, was in benefit of the San Pasqual Academy.

The San Pasqual Academy, in Escondido, opened in 2001. It's a first-in-the-nation accredited high school with on-site housing for the student body, which is made up of foster youths who are victims of child abuse or neglect.

"At the Academy, kids can have a family," Quentin said. "It really can put a halt on kids moving through the foster system."

The Jammer Foundation came to the aid of the San Pasqual Academy by chance, Alicia said. But they knew these were the kids they wanted to help, she added. "We never wanted to just write a check," she said. "It's an honor and a privilege to be a part of their lives."

"Alicia and Quentin have really put their arms around the kids," said Debby Syverson, development director of the Academy.



SHINING STARS Clockwise from top, Quentin Jammer, left, with wife Alicia, Michel and Darren Sproles and Charles James. Charger cheerleader Jacquelyn, left, with event attendees Cesar Rodriguez, Susumo Azamo, Mark Chase and cheerleader Angelica. San Pasqual Academy graduates Jabriel Jordan, left, Josh Racette and Development Director for the Academy Debby Syverson. Photos by Tony Cagala

"They are very involved, not just providing funds, but in time and energy."

The evening's fundraising campaign benefits the school's "Shop 'till you drop" program which allows the students to purchase all of the necessary items they will need for the school year, Syverson said.

The money raised also goes towards scholarships and mentoring programs, she added.

Josh Racette graduated from the Academy in June. While a student, Racette played football and said that he's seen the football program grow a great deal since the Jammer Foundation became involved with the school.

Racette will be attending Mayville State University in the fall, where he will continue

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to play football.

The foundation, which formed in 2007, has not only assisted the growth of the football program, including the construction of the brand new football field, which is slated to have a grand opening in the next few weeks, but has developed health and wellness programs for all of the Academy's students and given them a chance to feel at "home" while developing life skills.

Quentin couldn't thank Charger's quarterback and teammate Philip Rivers enough for his efforts and support in the building of the football field. For the first time, the field will allow the team to host home games.

The next goal of the foundation is to build a track for the track and field team, Quentin said. He also hopes that in the future, the foundation can take the San Pasqual Academy model nationwide so that other foster teens might experience the same one-of-a-kind care.

Last year's event raised



FOR THE KIDS Co-founder of the Jammer Foundation Alicia Jammer with Jane Mitchell. Photo by Tony Cagala

The Jammer Foundation (c) (3). For more information