



Auxiliary Raises \$84,500 Through Laughs

Hermosa Beach, CA: Sometimes it helps to laugh, so on May 2 at the Comedy and Magic Club, the South Bay Auxiliary of Harbor Interfaith Services provided the chance. It produced its Fourth Annual, evening of laughs to raise money for the agency. By night's end, our Children's Center had \$84,500 more dollars in support.



The evening headliner was Ismo Leikola, a Finnish comedian who has appeared on NBC's *Last Call*, the *Conan O'Brien* show, and elsewhere. Leikola

poked fun at the complicated English language and social customs.

"The English language is so hard," he said. "It has lots of silent letters. Like letters that you write down, but never say. Like shhh. That letter is only for the paper, not for the mouth. I have a secret for you. They are unnecessary. But I have an idea. Since you have silent letters, why don't you have silent

numbers? I think that would be more useful. Like saying, 'I owe you \$70,' instead of saying \$75."

Another comedian who took the stage was one of

Hollywood's most recognizable faces, Larry Miller. Miller has appeared in over 100 film and TV shows. He began his career with a memorable cameo as the brown-nosing store manager in *Pretty Woman*, and has since performed in films such as *Best in Show*, and *The Princess Diaries I & II*.

"We, in one generation, have gone so very far from toughness," Miller said. "Your parents were twice as tough as you. Their parents were twice as tough as them. It keeps going back. My father had three jobs, went to school at night, had a house and a mortgage. I have built none of these things. If I just go to the bank and the drycleaners, I need a nap."

The evening included a inspiring presentation by Kenya O'Neil, a



homeless client on her way to self-empowerment. There was also a raffle, live auction, fund-a-need opportunity, and meal. Eleven auction items were presented including a VIP pass for four to the Magic Castle, a boat ride on a Los Angeles Fire Department fireboat, and a five-night vacation in Maui.

The event's donors are listed on the inside, but we wanted to bring attention to the lead sponsors, including Torrance Memorial Medical Center, PDM Certified Public Accountants, June and George Romine, Anne St. Cyr-Vista Sotheby's International Realty, Continental Development Corp., American Honda Motor Co., Janet and Stewart Paperin, Kathy and Howard Siegel, Susan and Ron Maehl, Peta and Chris Noble, and John Spielman and Kathy Christie.

A big thanks to the event committee chaired by Christine Accavitti, and to the Auxiliary President Anne St. Cyr and the group's members. Thanks to them, children of the homeless and working poor will receive care and education. The Children's Center provides licensed care for over 125 children per year.

Kenya O'Neil: Mother of Two

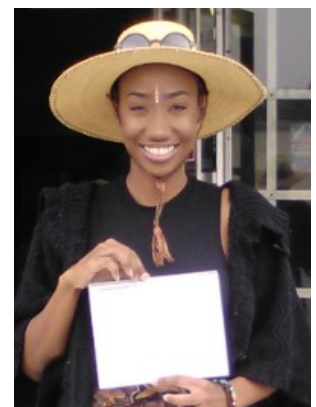
The Auxiliary's Comedy & Magic Night's activities included a success story told by one of Harbor Interfaith's clients, Kenya O'Neil. Ms. O'Neil is a single mother of twin 13-year-old daughters.

The family had been living with a roommate until the roommate vacated the apartment without notice. Ms. O'Neil was unable to pay the rent on her own so she left the apartment and moved in with family. The family environment was abusive, so she had to leave, making Kenya and the children homeless. They lived in a car before seeking help from Harbor Interfaith (HIS).

HIS enrolled the family in our Accelerated Learning & Living Program (ALL). ALL is a transitional housing program for homeless families in which the head of household improves the family's finances by getting additional education. ALL provides support for the education and helps the family find permanent housing.

While with ALL, Ms. O'Neil worked part-time as a freelance make-up artist and completed her educational goal of becoming a cosmetologist. She passed the State Board exam and is now a licensed cosmetologist.

Today, Ms. O'Neil has a new job and has moved into permanent housing. Next, she wants to become a Licensed Barber, adding that to her list of skills.



Inside: Comedy & Magic Donor List

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Vol. 20, No. 2, Summer 2018

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A Message from the Board Chair, *Anne Laguzza*



Harbor Interfaith Services' Fourth Annual Comedy & Magic Night was held on Wednesday, May 2nd at the Comedy & Magic Club in Hermosa Beach. The comedians were hilarious, energetic and really engaged the audience. I thought the live auction was especially fun! It was a night filled to the brim with laughter and a lot of discussion about an organization we are all so committed to.

Due to the Auxiliary's concerted efforts, a whopping \$84,500 was raised for the children's center! The effects of preschool on a child's life are long-lasting and life-changing; especially for "at

risk" children. Those who do not attend preschool are 60% more likely not to go to college and are 70% more likely to be arrested for a violent crime. With the money raised, we can continue to change the lives of the children who come to our doorstep.

My deepest gratitude to the Auxiliary for coordinating and executing such a successful event. As the newly-elected Board Chair, I look forward to assisting in whatever way possible to ensure the success and growth of Harbor Interfaith Services' Comedy & Magic Night. Can't wait for next year!

Thank You to the Event's Donors

The South Bay Auxiliary of Harbor Interfaith Services and Harbor Interfaith Services thanks the 125 donors who made the evening a success. We were humbled by their generosity.

Bronze, \$10,000+

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At the event L/R: Tahia Hayslet, Executive Director; Anne St. Cyr, Auxiliary President; Christine Accavitti, Event Chair; Nanci Browning, Past President.

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*Back Side:
 25 years on the streets*



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www.HarborInterfaith.org

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Our Mission

The mission of Harbor Interfaith Services is to empower the homeless and working poor to achieve self-sufficiency by providing support services including shelter, transitional housing, food, job placement, advocacy, childcare, education, and life-skills training.

25 Years on the Streets

Harbor Interfaith Finds Bob a Home

Homelessness is nondiscriminatory. It happens to people of all ages, and Harbor Interfaith (HIS) serves them all across the South Bay, including in San Pedro, Long Beach, the Peninsula, the Beach Communities, and as far north as Inglewood. We are the county's regional coordinator for the area. To reach region's corners, we enlist the help of subcontracted partners. It was one of these partners that found Robert (Bob) Hammond, age 82, on the streets and brought him to us.

Bob is pictured to the right. He had been living on the streets for twenty-five years, most recently on the corner of Magnolia Ave. and Anaheim St. in Long Beach, one of the many spots he'd been sleeping over the years on a blanket spread on

hard pavement.

Bob had gotten used to be homeless, assuming he'd be living on the streets until the day he died. It had never occurred to him to seek help. He thought that available services were for younger people who had a life ahead of them. Many seniors believe this, homeless or not.

It was on that Magnolia corner where our subcontractor, the Long Beach Multi Service Center Outreach Team, found Bob and connected him to us.

We located a home for Bob at Century Villages at Cabrillo, a 27-acre campus of housing geared designed to break the cycle of homelessness. HIS places



clients in two of the Villages many buildings, providing case management for our clients in residence.

Above, Bob holds the key to his new home. He is also working on completing his GED and wants to become a counselor to give back, helping others like him to get off the streets.

Hope and a future are possible at any age.