

## 2019 "ATASCADERO'S DANCING WITH OUR STARS" A GRAND SUCCESS!

Submitted by Jeannie Malik, DWOS Producer with Friends of the Atascadero Library



**Pictured:** Community Star Tom Butler (Atascadero Greyhound Foundation) and choreographer Kara Frenzel won Saturday's People's Choice and raised the most overall funds at \$49,000 for LIGHTHOUSE Drug Education Program.

Thanks to all who collaborated in making our 10th annual Atascadero's Dancing with Our Stars, "Atascadero Time Machine: Back to the 80's!" an enormous success. Artistic Director Molly Comin knocked it out of the park! The three-night event raised over \$211,000 (prior to expenses) with \$173,000 benefitting Atascadero Library, Atascadero Greyhound Foundation, Atascadero Kiwanis, Atascadero Printery Foundation, El Camino Homeless Organization, Atascadero AAUW and Paso Robles Youth Arts Foundation. Last June the non-profits were invited to raise funds for their own causes from the highly successful FOAL/DWOS fundraising platform. It was a wonderful effort making a positive difference in our community.

Community Star **Jan Lynch**, representing **Atascadero Kiwanis**, paired with **Charley Bradley** and choreographed by legendary **Frank Sanchez** won **People's Choice opening night**. Community Star **Terrie Banish** paired with Pro Choreographer **Chris Harmon** won **People's Choice Friday night**. Saturday night Community Star **Tom Butler** representing **Atascadero Greyhound Foundation** and paired with Pro Choreographer **Kara Frenzel** won **People's Choice** and the coveted mirror ball trophy for raising the most overall funds totaling ~\$49,000. Funds will benefit the **LIGHTHOUSE Drug Education Program**.

**Second place** fundraising championship trophy was awarded to Community Star **Jan Lynch**, representing **Atascadero Kiwanis**, and paired with Charley Bradley. Jan raised \$35,191. to support Woods Humane Society's Education program created for teaching children about the importance of responsible animal care and positive pet welfare issues.

**Third place** fundraising championship trophy was awarded to Community Star Dancer **Karen McNamara**, representing **Atascadero Printery Foundation**, and paired with Pro Choreographer Chris Harmon. Karen raised \$24,231 to support the restoration of Atascadero Printery building into an Arts and Education Center for the entire community.

"**Good Sport**" trophy was awarded to **Justin McMillan** who paired with Community Star Atascadero **Mayor Heather Moreno** two weeks prior to the show when Heather's dance partner/choreographer, Rod Ware, had to bow out due to an old injury resurfacing. Justin is a professional ballet dancer and learned Heather's free style



**Pictured:** (left to right) Jeannie Malik, DWOS Producer with FOAL, second place fundraising champion dancer with Atascadero Kiwanis, Jan Lynch, paired with Charley Bradley, first place dancer with Atascadero Greyhound Foundation, Tom Butler, paired with Kara Frenzel, and third place dancer with Atascadero Printery Foundation, Karen McNamara, paired Pro Choreographer Chris Harmon.

dance routine in record time and helped her shine on stage! This was Justin's first year participating in DWOS and I hope he stays with our DWOS Family for many more years to follow.

**Rounding out the Community Star cast were Terrie Banish (Atascadero Library), Steffi Ketzler (El Camino Homeless Organization), Susan Funk (Atascadero AAUW), and Nancy Beckett (Paso Robles Youth Arts Foundation).** They are all champions for their causes.

This wonderful event exists because our dance professionals donate their time and talents: Artistic Director, Molly Comin and professional choreographers: Kara Frenzel, Chris Harmon, Judie Magona- celaya, Justin McMillan, Frank Sanchez, Laura Slania, Christina Troxel and Rod Ware. Frank Sanchez choreographed dance routines for two community stars in addition to choreographing "I Wanna Dance with Somebody" an entertaining vignette featuring his granddaughter Mia Sudmeier, pros and past community star dancers.

Artistic Director Molly Comin and Assistant Director Christina Troxel created "*Atascadero Time Machine: Back to the 80's!*" integrating popular 80's tunes, creative costumes and entertaining vignettes featured in between the community star dance performances. They are a dynamite team already planning the 2020 show!

Master of Ceremonies Paso Robles Mayor Steve Martin shared the spotlight with Las Vegas Pro Entertainer Joel Mason. They embraced "Back to the Future" 80's theme with efforts to save the "world", aka "Atascadero Participating Non-profits." The 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary show raised a record amount, setting the bar high for 2020!

Special thanks to Jim Patterson and Atascadero Kiwanis crew who transported the stage and built the dance floor the week prior to the event and disassembled it post event. Kiwanis Rocks!! They are a great community partner and we truly appreciate their approximately 100 hours supporting this event.

**The DWOS committee is 100% volunteer based. This event is made possible with the dedicated support of many individuals.** Grenda Ernst for scripting the dancer publicity articles, creating vote ballots and assisting event producer Jeannie Malik with numerous tasks. Special thanks to Leigh Livick for creating and managing the websites and ticket sales, Shirley Summers and Carol Gobler for organizing a group of 60+ community volunteers to assist with set up and each evening performance, Carol Collins- treasurer, Dyann Shepard - managing vote recording, Brenda May and Christina Troxel for their time and effort on creative costumes. Michelle Harms for recording minutes at our planning meetings. Susan Poteet for managing our inventory of linens and for custom folding napkins for the dinner shows. Thank you to Jeanne and Carl Robbins for coordinating cleanup efforts after the shows. Special kudos to Linda Zirk for the successful organization of the popular silent auction held all three nights. Linda and her mini, but mighty team, gathered and displayed over 100 auction items donated from local businesses. Kudos to technical coordinator Ryan Flores, lighting operator Scott Sebby, stage manager John Webster and our fabulous DJ Joy Bonner!! Special applause for professional photographer Cheryl Strahl who took hundreds of fabulous photos at the event. The photos shared on this site are compliments of Cheryl! Also, many thanks to Christina Bearce, owner of Highlight Media. Christina is creating a professional DVD of the show as a memorable keepsake. DVDs are \$20., checks are made payable to F.O.A.L. Please contact [Jeannie Malik](#) if you're interested in ordering a DVD.

**Interested in a special viewing of the DVD from 2019 Atascadero's Dancing with Our Stars?** You're in luck!! On Wednesday, June 19<sup>th</sup> 6:30-9:30 pm, the VIP theatre at Galaxy Theatres in Atascadero has been reserved for the DVD viewing. Tickets are \$10 each and available [online](#). This event is for 21 years and older. Wine and snacks will be available for purchase in the VIP lounge. Thank you, Leigh Livick, for managing the ticket site for this event.

**We are grateful to our 56 event sponsors, especially Opolo Vineyards for providing all the wine at every show.** Thank you Opolo attendant Anne for pouring wine, and always with a smile. And, thanks to George Peterson, we had plenty of beer every evening from Central Coast Brewing!

Thank you for your continued support of this community event! **Mark your calendars for next year's event. March 26, 27 and 28, 2020.**

Regards, Jeannie Malik