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**OVER \$260,000 NETTED FOR NONPROFIT THE WOODEN FLOOR AT SOLD-OUT WINE TASTING BENEFIT**

**NEWPORT BEACH, Calif. (October 1, 2013) - [The Wooden Floor](#)**, a Santa Ana arts-based youth development organization, hosted its **7th Annual *Keep the Promise* Wine Tasting Benefit** on Thursday, September 26, 2013, at **Big Canyon Country Club** in Newport Beach. The sold-out event welcomed **over 280** Orange County community supporters and wine enthusiasts to raise funds to keep The Wooden Floor's promise to see its students through a 10-year journey from elementary school on to higher education. Guests tasted a selection of 14 highly-rated, hard-to-find wines from around the world, each hand-selected and graciously donated by Honorary Co-Chairs and Premier Sponsors **John and Janice Markley**.

The Benefit **netted over \$260,000** for The Wooden Floor's award-winning dance, academic, and family services—a 30% increase from 2012. Additional post-event gifts are still being received. Private community support accounts for 90 percent of The Wooden Floor's funding, and enables its year-round programs to be offered free of charge to the majority of its 375 low-income students.

Celebrating The Wooden Floor's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year with a champagne toast, guests listened as Honorary Co-Chairs **Joan and Don Beall** shared that they have been committed to the organization for almost 20 years because they are inspired by the students and the impressive results. Students Eliseo, Emma, and Wendolyn shared heartwarming testimonials of their time spent at The Wooden Floor. Rounding out the remarks, Executive Director and Co-CEO **Dawn S. Reese** said to the audience, "We believe the next 30 years will be as important as our first, as our students have become agents for change in their neighborhoods, our community and globally." The Wooden Floor's mission and tremendous outcomes include **100 percent of graduates completing high school on time and enrolling in higher education for nine consecutive years**.

**2013 *Keep the Promise* Sponsors**

**Premier:** Joan and Don Beall; Sharon and Terry Hartshorn; Janice and John Markley

**Silver Medal:** Ginnie and Rich Hunsaker; MVE Institutional; Rutan & Tucker, LLP

**Bronze Medal:** Doreen & Jack Bray; Capital Group Companies; Credit Suisse; The Ezralow Company; Frome Family Foundation; Kenny the Printer; Douglas Neff; Newmark Realty Capital ; Trish & John O'Donnell; Tim & Amber Smith; Nancy & Geoffrey Stack Family Foundation; Sayago & Pardon; William & Nancy Thompson; Mary & Gary Tolar; Turkish Airlines; Julie & Justin Wilson; Nancy & Arn Youngman

**Copper Medal:** Anaheim Ducks & Honda Center; Corinthian Colleges, Inc.; Pat & John Devine; Laurie & Steve Duncan; Karin Krogus & Scott Mason; Muzzy Family Fund; MVE & Partners; Newport Beach Magazine; The PIMCO Foundation; Kathy & Chuck Rosenberger; Carolyn & Peter Shea; Simon Foundation for Education & Housing; Union Bank; Vertical Fund Group; Barbara & Bill Yingling

**About The Wooden Floor**

Founded in 1983, The Wooden Floor is a Santa Ana based after-school organization that delivers hope and opportunity to 375 low-income youth annually. Dance education and performance are the core transformational elements through which youth change the way they think about themselves and aspire beyond the grip of the poverty cycle. In the dance studio, rigorous training, creativity, and self-knowledge lead to confidence, leadership, teamwork, well-being, and joy. Academic programs, pre-collegiate mentoring, and college scholarships ensure that students succeed in school and are college-ready. **Since 2005, 100 percent of graduates from The Wooden Floor have enrolled in college, exceeding the national average for their peers threefold.** Family Services at The Wooden Floor, including counseling, crisis intervention, and social service referrals, help families overcome hardships and navigate challenges. Community support enables these year-round programs to be offered free of charge. Bringing about generational change to break the cycle of poverty in our community is the long-term goal of The Wooden Floor. [www.TheWoodenFloor.org](http://www.TheWoodenFloor.org)

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*High-resolution event photos are available upon request.*