

OVER \$340K NETTED FOR THE WOODEN FLOOR AT 10TH ANNIVERSARY WINE TASTING BENEFIT

NEWPORT BEACH, Calif. (September 30, 2016) – Over 300 guests gathered at the **10th Anniversary Keep the Promise Wine Tasting Benefit** at **Big Canyon Country Club** in support of **The Wooden Floor**, a Santa Ana arts-based youth development nonprofit with a track record of sending 100% of its low-income graduates to college. The evening, which has become Orange County's premier wine tasting benefit, netted a record-breaking \$340,000 for the organization. Over the past 10 years, the benefit has netted more than \$2 million to support The Wooden Floor's goal of transforming young people in low-income communities through the power of dance and access higher education.

More than 200 bottles of 12 of the globe's most extraordinary wines—each scoring in the top 1-3% in the world by leading wine critics—were uncorked throughout the evening, including the 100 point 2010 Casanova di Neri Brunello di Montalcino Tenuta Nuova from Tuscany, Italy. The wines were hand-selected over the period of several years and generously donated by Laguna Beach residents **Janice and John Markley**, long-time and fervent supporters of The Wooden Floor who founded the benefit in 2007 as a way to use their love of wine to raise funds for the actively-growing organization.

Under candlelight in Big Canyon's richly-appointed clubhouse, guests sampled small plates of Sottish Quail Egg, Duck Confit Tartlets, assorted fine cheeses including Swiss Raclette, Mushroom and Black Truffle Risotto, carved Prime Rib, a raw bar, and other stunning global fare created by **Executive Chef Nick Wynn** and **Master Sommelier Steven Poe** to compliment the wine selections. Guests enjoyed music from a live jazz trio in a setting with rustic, raised bouquets of orchids, dahlias, and roses in muted fall colors. The blind tasting competition, a favorite of attendees, was won by **Meghan Hubbard**, who guessed 10 out of the 12 covered wines correctly, taking home a selection of the night's featured wines. Other items up for grabs included Opportunity Drawings for a \$1,000 shopping spree to South Coast Plaza, and a Golden Ticket Drawing for a Hermès gift basket valued at \$12,000. Silent auction items included a 4-night stay at a luxury cabin in Park City, Utah, a private 5-course wine dinner for 10 and signed magnums of rare wines.

The Wooden Floor's successful outcomes and poised students were the main focal point of the celebration. The highlight of the evening came as the organization announced that it would have its **largest graduating class ever** – 36 students, who strikingly stood before the crowd of supporters to great applause. 17-year old **Jocelyn Magana**, speaking on behalf of The Wooden Floor Class of 2017, said, "Many of us have known since day one at The Wooden Floor that our end goal was college and all 36 of us are able to stand here tonight and say, we are going to college!" Remarks and a celebratory champagne toast closed the evening's program made by **Honorary Chair John Markley** and **Executive Director & CEO** of The Wooden Floor **Dawn S. Reese**.

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About The Wooden Floor

Founded in 1983, The Wooden Floor is one of the most progressive arts-for-youth nonprofit organizations in the country. We transform the lives of young people in low-income communities through the power of dance and access to higher education. In Orange County

and through our national licensed partners, we use a long-term approach grounded in exploratory dance education to foster the resources within each child to innovate, communicate, and collaborate – skills necessary for success in school and in life. 100 percent of students who graduate from The Wooden Floor immediately enroll in higher education. Our students become change agents and beacons of hope within their own families, their neighborhoods, our community, and our world.

www.TheWoodenFloor.org

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High-resolution event photos are available upon request.