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Gala shines spotlight on riding center

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People Watch

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Grammy Award-winning husband-and-wife team **Marilyn McCoo** and **Billy Davis Jr.** and their band brought the house down Saturday night performing "Aquarius/Let the Sunshine In," the single they made famous in 1969 as two of the original members of the Fifth Dimension. The occasion was the San Juan Capistrano-based J.F. Shea Therapeutic Riding Center's 16th annual gala, "Treasures of the Heart," at the Montage Resort, which drew a record 500 guests for dinner and the spirited performance.

The gala's cocktail reception and silent auction on the Pacific View Lawn overlooking the ocean featured a pirate's theme, with treasure chests bursting with jewels, a pirate ship, and a map inspired, according to **Aileen Feuerberg** of Corporate Diversions, by the site's former name, Treasure Island. Inside the ballroom, an elegant, 17th-century Baroque theme featured walls draped in black, crushed velvet with huge floor-to-ceiling framed mirrors. The ornate centerpieces with silver bases featured crystal chandeliers with twinkling candles on red crushed-velvet pillars, red rose topiaries on mirrored pedestals and small wooden treasure boxes spilling red roses. Dinner was a crowd-pleaser with a scrumptious prime filet mignon and herb-crusted halibut entrée and a darling chocolate treasure box filled with orange crème and summer berries.

The Shea Center, dedicated to improving the lives of people with disabilities through therapeutic horse-related programs, annually presents the Michael Lewis Friends of the Disabled Award, named after the center's first rider.

Michael Lewis has cerebral palsy and was 10 years old when he became the center's first client in 1978. At 39, he continues to participate in the therapeutic riding programs. Michael was present at the gala with his parents, **Nancy** and **Derek Lewis**, and his sister **Dorie Hartman** and her husband, **Doug**, from Dallas.

The Individual Award was presented to 20-year Shea Center advocates and leaders **Penny** and **Jon Fosheim**. Jon, credited with recruiting many board members, said, "When we went to one of the riding events and saw kids with cerebral palsy and Down syndrome perform, we were hooked."

Penny added, "We love the fact that it's a hands-on charity right in our back yard."

The Scholarship Fund for the Center has been renamed the Fosheim Fund in Support of the Center in their honor, it was announced. The Community Advocate honorees, **Steph** and **Tim Busch**, were recognized for the youth

volunteer programs benefiting the Shea Center they established at JSerra Catholic High School in San Juan Capistrano and St. Anne's School in Laguna Niguel, two schools they co-founded. In their honor, the center's teen volunteer of the year award is named for them.