



**PARCA AUXILIARY'S *Luncheon in the Serengeti goes wild!***  
**EVENT RAISES MORE THAN \$150,000 FOR PARCA**

**Lara McDonald**  
*President*

**Katie Amoroso**  
*VP – Membership*

**Adrienne Siegfried**  
*VP – Membership*

**Wendy Grad**  
*VP – Auction*

**Julie Veit**  
*VP – Auction*

**Sara Shank**  
*VP – Development*

**Jenny Vitro**  
*VP – Development*

**Liat Bishko**  
*VP – Events*

**Tara Klein**  
*VP – Events*

**Carolyn Way**  
*VP-Program Services*

**Ahna Dudley**  
*Publicity*

**Lindsay Folk**  
*Secretary*

**Paige Bacon**  
*Database/RSVP's*

**Ali Zaro Fitzgerald**  
*Treasurer*

**Gwen Taylor**  
*Social Coordinator*

**Jennifer Bressie**  
*Sustainer Liaison*

**Julie Lev**  
*Parliamentarian*

**Jen Sanders**  
*Archivist*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

BURLINGAME, CA, May 27th, 2012 –

**HILLSBOROUGH, CA MAY 16<sup>th</sup>, 2012** – The Parca Auxiliary would like to thank the 400 Peninsula-based women who made the organizations 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring Luncheon and Fashion Show a tremendous success. The sold out event combined high fashion, fabulous food, and philanthropy and resulted in the community uniting to raise over \$150,000 for Parca Organization, a non-profit Association serving people with developmental disabilities and their families in the Bay Area.

This year's event, "Luncheon in the Serengeti," was held at a beautiful estate in Hillsborough where the crowd socialized, bid on fabulous live auction packages and were dazzled by the sophisticated and elegant fashion show sponsored by Wilkes Bashford and his eponymous store. The safari theme was evident throughout the décor, music and entertainment. Numerous local dignitaries were on hand including the San Francisco Zoo, which introduced the crowd to exotic creatures indigenous to Africa, while authentic entertainers danced and played native African tribal music throughout the afternoon!

Lara McDonald, President of the Parca Auxiliary, thanked the Auxiliary members and the community. "The Auxiliary is very grateful to be a part of such a caring community that generously supports our organization." She went on to acknowledge Tera Gilmartin, as Sustainer of the Year and Honorary Luncheon Chairs, Kelly and Bruce Bligh.

Diana Conti, CEO of Parca Organization, introduced the guest speaker Tryn Miller, a San Bruno based Parca client. Tryn touched the crowd's heart as she spoke about how Parca staff and advocates helped her to achieve successful independent living. "I have learned how to cook, budget, clean, keep up with my doctor appointments, do my own grocery shopping and laundry." Her comments received a standing ovation from the enthusiastic and loving crowd!

Luncheon Co-Chairs Liat Bishko and Tara Klein were delighted with the success of the event. "We are overwhelmed by the support of our community to "Luncheon in the Serengeti". Our live auction, silent auction and fund-a-need program reached our highest expectations! We truly appreciate the incredible support for Parca."

Donors bid and during the afternoon through an energetic live auction. One very happy bidder won "Fashion Week in New York" while another will relax and enjoy the "Three Nights at the Four Seasons Punta Mita Resort." The Silent Auction was also a magnificent success with one lucky winner receiving a raffle item containing a \$3,000 gift certificate generously donated by Steiner's Jewelry.

The "Serengeti" theme came full circle at the afternoon's grand finale-a high-style fashion show where guests were "taken away" by the exciting clothes, jewelry and accessories from Wilkes Bashford. The crowd cheered as the models walked the runway and showed the stylish designs featured at the store. The Parca Auxiliary would like to extend its heartfelt thanks and express its sincere gratitude to all of the generous individuals and business who donated their time and provided their financial support. Their efforts contributed to the tremendous success of this year's "Luncheon in the Serengeti."

The Parca Auxiliary hosts an annual Spring Luncheon fundraiser in support of Parca Organization and is excited to commemorate its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary in the spring of 2013.

### **About Parca Organization**

Parca Organization is a private, nonprofit association that serves people with developmental disabilities and their families in the Bay Area. Since its founding in 1952, Parca has been committed to providing opportunities for disabled people of all ages to help them experience choice, control and individuality in every aspect of their lives. In addition to skills training for adults, Parca offers a range of residential programs, respite care for children and teens; childcare and recreational programs for children and support groups, information and referral services for families.

### **About Parca Auxiliary**

Founded in 1985, the Parca Auxiliary is a small group of Peninsula-based women dedicated to raising money and awareness for Parca Organization. Every spring, the Auxiliary hosts a luncheon and fashion show that is the primary fundraiser for Parca Organization. The generous donations from the event's sponsors and guests help contribute to the success of Parca's clients throughout the year. Over the last 13 years, the Parca Auxiliary has raised over \$1 million.

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For more information about Parca, please contact:

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