

NEWS

# Fearless Women raise \$40,000 for autism



From left, actress Kate Linder, Nancy Alspaugh-Jackson (Executive Director of ACT Today!), Katherine Schwarzenegger, Julie Ann Ulcickas (Ms. Newport Beach 2010), Laura Marroquin (Director of Marketing and Development for ACT Today!) and Doreen Granpeesheh (Founder of ACT Today!).

By **JO ASHLINE** | Orange County Register

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Set atop the lush hills of Newport Coast, the [Pelican Hill Resort](#) is the perfect place to indulge in relaxing spa treatments, feast on delicious cuisine, and soak in some of that Southern California sunshine we covet so much.

Or, you could follow in the footsteps of the women who attended this year's [Fearless Women Mother's Day Luncheon](#) and raise \$40,000 for [ACT Today!](#), a "national non-profit organization whose mission is to raise awareness and provide treatment services and support to families to help their children with autism reach their full potential."

The event, hosted by Nancy Alspaugh-Jackson (executive director of ACT Today!), was attended by such prominent figures as Young & the Restless actress Kate Linder, renowned Los Angeles photographer Mary Ann Halpin, six-time Emmy Award-winning television anchor, writer and producer, Nancy Glass, Mrs. Newport Beach 2010 – Julie Ann Ulcickas and two musical performances by country singer/songwriter Stephanie Quayle.

Additional guests included autism ACTivists Doreen Granpeesheh (Founder of ACT-Today and CARD CEO), Lisa Ackerman (Founder of Talk About Curing Autism – TACA) and Becky Estep, a fearless mother and autism advocate who was honored during the event for her tireless work towards making vaccines safe for all children.

Keynote speaker [Katherine Schwarzenegger](#) inspired the audience with her four tips to a healthy mother-daughter relationship and signed copies of her new book, *Rock What You've Got, Secrets to Loving your Inner and Outer Beauty from Someone Who Has Been There and Back*.

But the true spirit of the day was embodied with a speech given by a mother of a son with autism, who had been an ACT Today! grant recipient in the amount of \$5,000.

After several decades of service, her husband retired from the military, and the family discovered their medical benefits would no longer cover the overwhelming costs associated with the interventions that had proven to be successful in the treatment of her son's symptoms.

After hearing about ACT Today! for Military Families, she applied for a grant and was accepted. Tearing up at the podium as she thanked everyone in attendance for their continued support of this program, the audience was reminded that every dollar raised was benefiting a child on the spectrum in need.

And while Pelican Hill is typically reserved for rest and relaxation, the Fearless Women who participated in this event were there to roll up their sleeves and raise big bucks for a cause they believed in; and that's just what they did.

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