

Transition House Paarry!

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"Anchors aweigh!"

It was the 19th annual Mad Hatter Luncheon, benefiting Transition House. Board President **Jim Buckley** told the audience this fundraiser marks his favorite day of the year because it helps allow homeless families to move into permanent housing.

Executive Director **Kathleen Baushke**, who runs a tight ship at Transition House, gave some statistics: more than 300 families with children sought shelter, typically because of job loss, disabilities, sickness or lack of funds. Through Transition House's life skills training programs and counseling, 70 percent of clients are able to secure permanent housing.

Auxiliary members, under the leadership of co-chairs **Kathryn Dinkin** and **Diana White**, were responsible for the event, which was held at Bacara Resort & Spa; among those in attendance: **Kerri Kilpatrick-Weinberg**, **Stefanie Davis**, **Bert Curtain**, **Amie Parrish**, **Monique Littlejohn**, **Irene Chambers**, **Carolyn Creasey**, **Judy Cresap**, **Barbara Cunningham**, **Mary Anne Harrison** and **Beverly Zaleski**. Silent auction chair was **Darlene Amundsen** (a huge job!); **Anna**

Ylvisaker handled reservations.

Andrew Firestone was again a wonderful emcee and steered our course, decked out smartly in a captain's coat.

The luncheon included a style show featuring fashions from Lana Marme in Montecito. Volunteer models walking the plank, er, runway were **Kathryn Dinkin**, **Pam Graham**, **Beverly Lewis**, **Rachel McKeone**, **Lynda Millner**, **Kira Plymire**, **Kristen Meadows** and **Eileen Mielko**.

A hat contest was held, and such a variety on board! The top toppers were **Lynn McCabe** and **Ann Case** (who fashioned a "crow's nest").

It was all smooth sailing, when — avast! — **Mike Sheldon**, CEO of Network Hardware Resale (longtime Transition House supporter) came to the podium ...

unscripted! He explained that he recently toured Transition House to understand more about its programs and was so deeply moved by seeing lives changed that he announced at the event, "Just whatever you can give — no matter how small ... I will match every gift, up to \$30,000."

The women and men looted their purses and wallets, resulting in a record booty to benefit Transition House!



Erin Graffy



From left, decorations chair **Florence Michel**; event co-chair **Kathryn Dinkin**; **Missy Sheldon**, Transition House board member and auxiliary president; and **Walter Clapp**, a hearty ship's mate!

ERIN GRAFFY/NEWS-PRESS

