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Hillsides

CREATING LASTING CHANGE

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Gala Co-Chairs, Joan McCarthy and Diane Hough

**Hillsides Annual Gala, *La Dolce Vita, A Tuscan Affair*
Raises \$535,000 to Benefit Children, Youth, and Families**

LOS ANGELES – February 26, 2025 – [Hillsides](https://hillsides.org), a nonprofit focused on children and youth behavioral health services and foster care and adoption, raised \$535,000 Saturday night at its annual fundraising gala at The Westin Bonaventure Hotel & Suites in Los Angeles. This year's event, *La Dolce Vita, A Tuscan Affair*, was attended by 300 guests who donated both in-person and online to support Hillsides' work and help provide hope to clients for a better life ahead.

Under the vision of gala co-chairs and sisters, Joan McCarthy and Diane Hough, guests were transported to the sun-drenched hillsides of Tuscany to savor the sweet moments of life. The evening began with an operatic quartet performance by [Opera Italia LA](https://www.operaitalia.com) and featured live music from John Mahon of the Elton John band and the Mark LeVang Band. Fritz Coleman, a longtime

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friend and supporter of HillSides, led the live auction and paddle auction to raise funds for the organization.

The benefit was dedicated to the [Youth Moving On](#) division of HillSides which supports transitional-aged youth with temporary housing, therapeutic services, and job training and placement. Sophia Tobar, a former HillSides client, was honored and joined by her current employer and Youth Moving On internship partner, [Kidspace Children's Museum](#). Sophia shared her [story](#) and provided a hopeful message to other young adults facing challenges that things can get better.

“What a beautiful night celebrating “the sweet life” with our friends and supporters! We were thrilled to honor Sophia, a former client and one of our bright stars. We are so proud of her and all that she has achieved. A heartfelt thank you to all who contributed, attended, and participated in our auctions. Your support is what fuels our ability to continue to create lasting change in the lives of children, youth, and families,” remarked Stacey Roth, CEO of HillSides.

The gala was made possible by many generous sponsors, including the presenting sponsor, The Donald Zonshine Family Foundation and the Galletly Family, Revolution Office, Ayrshire Foundation, Los Angeles County Supervisor Kathryn Barger, Don and Sally Clark, Farmers & Merchants Bank, Mario and Shelly Fiumani of Pin USA, the Franke Family, Jacob Maarse Florists, the Noce Family, Sherm and Marge Telleen, USI Insurance Services, Warner Bros. Discovery, and Whittier Trust Company.

The gala committee consisted of co-chairs, Joan McCarthy and Diane Hough, Jill Allen, Edison Barbosa, Armida Baylon, Anna Butturini, Donna De Mond, Katie Driscoll, William Eichler, Tania H. Farha, John S. Gong, Sara Jane Guzman, Ava Herrera, Sara Jennings, Pamela Mahon, Susan Pinsky, Jennifer Shen, Lyn Spector, Maureen Staley, Chelisa Vagim, Uyen-Uyen Vo, and Kim Weleba.

[About HillSides](#)

HillSides is a leading health and human services nonprofit with programs throughout Greater Los Angeles. For 110 years, the organization has helped children, youth, and families heal through trauma-informed care, behavioral health treatment, and foster care and adoption services. HillSides also provides support to young adults with transitional housing, life skills training, and job training and placement. Learn how you can help children to heal, grow, and thrive at [HillSides.org](#).

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