

C.A.L.M. and Cool: *A Night at the Casbah*

By ERIN J. SMITH / CASA

**W**HILE SIPPING MOROCCAN-MINT JULEPS UNDER THE SETTING SUN, nearly 250 guests gathered recently for A Night at the Casbah, a Moroccan-inspired fundraiser in support of Child Abuse Listening and Mediation (CALM). The event was held at the 2004 CALM Design Showcase Home, which was donated to CALM for the evening by owners Mark and Adriana Shuman.

"We wanted to be proactive about raising money, but in a fun and light event," said Donna B. Fisher-Yates, who co-chaired the event along with Dan Bifano. "Our funding has been reduced by 30



Rick Erickson, CALM Board Trustee, and Kristina Erickson

percent, but our requests for services have increased by 30 percent."

Guests were handed a festive sarong upon arrival, lending a rich and colorful flair to the already vibrant atmosphere while the 'Casbah Cuties' peddled raffle tickets from their baskets and the Alastair Greene band grooved on the lawn.

During a sit-down dessert, guests were inspired by a video documenting one family's success story. A

family torn apart by addiction and neglect was reunited after undergoing sessions mediated by CALM, such as Parent-Child Interaction Therapy. Parents Troy and Melissa Reed were on hand during the event to express their gratitude and put a face to the many that CALM has given support to since its inception 40 years

ago. "CALM gave me a better relationship with my children," said Melissa Reed. "Thank goodness CALM was there with open arms to help us."

Inspired by the Reed's testimony, Emcee Andrew

Firestone riled up the already passionate crowd in a jolly live auction, with several items valued at \$25,000, including ten days of luxury living in Saint Barthélemy and the ultimate cruise of the Orient aboard the Seabourne Pride. All funds raised during the evening go toward supporting CALM's mission to prevent and treat child abuse in Santa Barbara County.

"You've heard just one story, but there are thousands of stories like this day in and day at CALM," said Cecilia Rodriguez, CALM Executive Director, in an emotional speech. "Because of you, children benefit. I thank you from my heart."

For more information, contact CALM at 965-2376 or visit [www.calm4kids.org](http://www.calm4kids.org).



Don Bifano, Event Co-Chair; Cecilia Rodriguez, CALM Executive Director; Donna B. Fisher-Yates, Event Co-Chair; Mark and Adriana Shuman with daughter Summer



Mark and Bridget Foreman, Bonnie Zappacosta, and Chris Fawcett



Rich Schuette, CALM Board President, with his wife Trudi Schuette



CALM Board Trustees Rebecca Anderson, Patricia Durham, D'Arcy Cornwall, and Dr. Charish Barry



Susan Day-Hosea, Terry Ryken, and Sheila Zimmerman, CALM Board Trustee