



*Evening  
Under  
the Stars*

THE 25TH  
ANNIVERSARY  
GALA



*Saturday  
May 5*

INTRODUCING  
OUR ILLUSTRIOUS  
HONOREES!





EVENING UNDER THE STARS IS THE LARGEST ANNUAL FUNDRAISER FOR AAP – FOOD SAMARITANS, A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION THAT PROVIDES NUTRITIONAL SUPPORT FOR LOW-INCOME PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV/AIDS AND OTHER CHRONIC ILLNESSES IN THE COACHELLA VALLEY.

Gladys Knight will be the headline entertainment for the 25th annual Evening Under the Stars gala, to be held on Saturday, May 5, 2018 at the O'Donnell Golf Club in Palm Springs. She is a seven-time Grammy winner and one of the greatest singers of our time.

Evening Under the Stars is not only a great fundraiser, it's also a great show. This year, as we celebrate the 25th anniversary of this iconic Palm Springs event, we'll pull out all the stops to make it extra special.

Now in its 27th year of service to the community, AAP – Food Samaritans of Palm Springs remains dedicated to its core mission.

HIV/AIDS continues to be a major health challenge in the Coachella Valley and across the world. While some people who have a diagnosis of HIV or AIDS are able to work and maintain a relatively healthy lifestyle, AAP serves those who are unable to do so. Cancer, Multiple Sclerosis, heart and liver disease all present similar hardships to those who are living with these debilitating conditions. While there have been developments in treating these chronic illnesses, our clients are faced with daily challenges. AAP – Food Samaritans is there to provide comfort and support to improve the quality of life for those who need it the most.

You can help support the mission of AAP – Food Samaritans by purchasing an advertisement in the event program, either as a tribute to one of this year's honorees, or to promote your business.

PLEASE READ ON AND LEARN ABOUT THIS YEAR'S HONOREES.



## JEANNETTE ROCKEFELLER HUMANITARIAN AWARD

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AUEN  
FOUNDATION  
HONOREE

Jeannette Rockefeller was the founding president of AAP – Food Samaritans. Established in 1997 to honor the humanitarian efforts of outstanding community members such as Jeannette, this award recognizes individuals who have contributed their energy, commitment, and influence to raise awareness and funding for important issues including HIV/AIDS.

The same year this award was created, the Auen Foundation relocated to the Coachella Valley and chose to support AAP for the first time, and the foundation has done so ever since.

Sherrie Auen, Ron Auen, and Catharine Reed – three of the most caring people in the world – have a gift for knowing how to make significant impacts. Since first establishing the Auen Foundation in 1991, the private family foundation has redefined its mission as times and needs have evolved. The Auen Foundation primarily focuses on assisting the aging population, which its trustees believe is an important component of a vibrant community. The Auen Foundation is dedicated to supporting programs that benefit mature adults and connect generations. To date, the Auen Foundation has awarded more than 1000 grants to charitable and educational programs and services, primarily in the Coachella Valley.

It is with deep gratitude we are able to count ourselves among those who are positively affected by the kindness and generosity of the Auen Foundation. The folks at the foundation are true pleasures to know and work with.

THEY HAVE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN THOUSANDS OF LIVES THROUGH  
THEIR CHARITABLE GIVING TO AAP AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS.



THE  
GLORIA GREENE  
INSPIRATION  
AWARD

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THE DESERT SUN  
HONOREE

The Desert Sun celebrated its 90th anniversary last year. Just like AAP it started small, covering Palm Springs as a regional newspaper and then incorporating Indio. Through the years we have watched it grow, covering the entire valley, reaching a digital audience of 9 million unique visitors and expanding further as part of the USA TODAY network.

Throughout its growth its dedication to AAP – Food Samaritans has never faltered. For years they were represented on the board of directors and have continued their support through sponsorship and representation at all of our functions. Their coverage of this particular event is anticipated every year.

The Desert Sun's commitment to the community doesn't stop at AAP. We all count on them to help us get our message out, from Well in the Desert to Animal Samaritans and causes in between. They devote much of their resources to those that need it most. While The Desert Sun is now a part of a national organization, their local presence is still important to them and felt by everyone.

THE DESERT SUN'S PURPOSE IS TO BRING NEWS TO THE COMMUNITY  
AND HELP US TO HELP EACH OTHER. WE ARE PROUD TO CALL THEM  
OUR PARTNERS.



## THE HERB LAZENBY COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

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## DESERT TENNIS ASSOCIATION REPRESENTED BY NABIL NAJJAR

HONOREE

The Herb Lazenby Community Service Award was created to recognize an individual's outstanding commitment to service within their community. The award carries the name of its inaugural recipient, Dr. Herb Lazenby, whose name became synonymous with Community Service here in the Coachella Valley.

We have been honored that the Desert Tennis Association, represented by Nabil Najjar, has supported AAP - Food Samaritans with their annual event for many years. Before moving to Rancho Mirage Nabil had been a Los Angeles resident and a long-time tennis coach for the Los Angeles Tennis Association. For more than 15 years he has been the Tournament Director of the Palm Springs Open which takes place over the Thanksgiving weekend, and he developed, organized and served as Tournament Director of the Palm Springs Doubles and the GLTA Grass Court Championships held at Mission Hills Country Club in Rancho Mirage.

He became tournament director for the Palm Springs Open in 2001 and AAP has been the designated beneficiary of this tournament since 2005. We are extremely grateful for the ongoing support. This type of continued sponsorship directly funds our food voucher program, which helps the Valley's most needful residents who struggle to maintain their strength and well-being.

IT IS THIS DEDICATED COMMITMENT THAT MAKES NABIL NAJJAR AND THE DESERT TENNIS ASSOCIATION AN OBVIOUS CHOICE FOR THE HERB LAZENBY COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD 2018.



## THE FRANK JURCZYK VOLUNTEER AWARD

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DENISE HASLAM  
HONOREE

Without volunteers, no non-profit organization could survive, let alone thrive. AAP – Food Samaritans relies on the dedication and commitment of an amazing group of volunteers. This award is named after Frank Jurczyk, who was a volunteer and cornerstone of our Volunteer program for many years. Frank was the organization's right arm in the late '90s when we operated with a staff of one. In honor of him, AAP frequently honors a single volunteer or pair of volunteers who stand out. Previous recipients of the award include Michael Leppen, Dana Adkins, and Bob Crebo. The 2018 award is going to two such volunteers.

Denise Haslam was born in Petersburg, Alaska and grew up in Riverside, California. She received a Master's degree from the University of Redlands in Communicative Disorders and has been working as a Speech Pathologist with school-aged children and adult stroke recovery patients since 1986.

She says that volunteering came naturally to her because she watched her mother give of her time to help organize community events and fund raisers even though she was a single mother of three and worked full-time.

She became a volunteer in middle school helping out at a convalescent home, and a Candy Striper in high school volunteering at a local hospital.

While Denise has volunteered for many other organizations since arriving in the desert almost 30 years ago, she says that nothing has brought home the need for nutritional support more than what this organization provides for its clients.

HEARING THEIR STORIES AND SEEING JUST HOW IMPERATIVE THE MONTHLY FOOD VOUCHERS ARE TO THEIR WELL-BEING MOTIVATES HER EVEN MORE TO DO WHAT SHE CAN TO HELP RAISE FUNDS.



## THE FRANK JURCZYK VOLUNTEER AWARD

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ANGELA SLATER  
HONOREE

Angela Slater started volunteering for AAP – Food Samaritans in 2010 when she first moved to Palm Springs.

Originally from England, she emigrated to Vancouver, Canada as a speech therapist and then as an actress on stage, film, TV and in commercials.

Her dream of coming to the US was realized when she moved to Los Angeles in the 1980's, continued acting, married, and then had a business called "Professionally Speaking" to aid clients with presentation and public speaking skills.

Over the years she has volunteered for many charitable groups including M.S. Society, Indian Center, and the Malibu Wildlife Center and she helped form the group "Save Old Buildings" (SOB's) in Vancouver.

Last year she proudly became an American citizen and presently works as a health coach, and is writing a book "No Kidding with Your Kidneys!"

Like Denise, Angela has helping others and volunteering in her blood.

Her favorite quote: "What is the essence of life? To serve others and do good."  
*Aristotle (2,300 years ago)*

SHE STRONGLY BELIEVES IN AAP'S MISSION AND CONSIDERS  
LENDING HER TIME AND SKILLS TO THEM AN HONOR.

PLEASE  
JOIN  
US!

The O'Donnell Golf Club  
Palm Springs

5:30 Cocktails  
7:30 Dinner & Awards

aapfoodsamaritans.org  
760.325.8481

Saturday  
May 5

FEATURING  
*Gladys  
Knight*



PRESENTING SPONSOR



BENEFITING



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