

STOPPING DRUG USE BEFORE IT STARTS

*VIP League luncheon benefits
Addiction Prevention Services*

Three times might usually be the charm, but EMQ's VIP (Volunteers Inspiring People) League didn't need to wait that long for a good dose of fortune.

Since its inception in 2001, the League's "Entertaining Throughout the Seasons" luncheon has been nothing short of tremendous, raising \$320,000 in two years.

This year's event will likely continue that fortuitous tradition, with a silent auction, special guest Dan McCall of San Francisco, and eight theme tables designed by Fiori's, Creations by Jan, The French Cellar, The Butter Paddle, Macy's, Linda L. Floyd Design & Decoration, Sur La Table, and Avery's.

Given its grand sense of style, the luncheon's popularity could easily be credited to its illustrious offerings. Yet in truth, it is due to the importance of the cause: addiction prevention.

Conceived by Jeannette Barney, the event benefits EMQ's Addiction Prevention Services program, which provides middle and high school students a host of resources and education regarding alcohol, illegal and prescription drug use.

Barney began her quest to promote drug prevention four years ago, when she lost her 25-year-old daughter, Kimberley, to a prescription painkiller overdose.



Craig Wolfe, April Showers, Ginny Cutler, Georgette Benjamin, Carla Barney Wilson, Toni Welch, Janet Pullen and Patricia Prado



Above: Jeannette Barney, NBC-11 co-anchors Brent Cannon and Laura Garcia-Cannon, Jerry Doyle, Lynne Seay and Jeanne Case.

This personal tie to the program, in addition to a close connection with the community, is what makes the luncheon so successful, says VIP League event co-chair Annette Reavis. "It touches everybody in one way or another. I honestly believe we save kids. That's why I put so much time and energy into it," she says. And, as Reavis notes, for every dollar raised in prevention, it is equivalent to \$5 spent on treatment.

With the money raised thus far, EMQ has been able to expand APS to serve 15 schools—from East San Jose to Los Gatos—and offer 40 different programs.

According to APS director Toni Welch, programs run the gamut from first time use prevention, education for casual users, to intervention in high-risk situations. Each school is provided all levels of services, which cost roughly \$15,000 per school.

The luncheon "is the largest fundraiser for us," Welch says. "It is so valuable and the League is really committed to helping people. They're not just writing a check; there is additional community involvement and education."

The third annual "Entertaining Throughout the Seasons" luncheon will be held at the Fairmont Hotel in San Jose on May 6 at 10:30 a.m. Tickets are \$75 each. For more information or tickets call 408.335.1832. **SJM** Mandy Major

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