

Montecito JOURNAL

October 6, 2016

reception featuring cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, dinner buffet, live and silent auctions, and dancing to live music. An added delight was the dessert dash, wherein tables bid and the highest bid gets to dash for their favorite sweet treat first. I think our table was last.

Arranging all of this were co-chairs **Stefanie Herrington** (board president) and **Donna Baird**. Honorary chairs were **Victor** and **Susan Schaff**, as well as title sponsors. The evening's honoree was **Betty Brown**. Stefanie told us, "She was a critical force in raising funds for the new campus, which greatly expanded Girls Inc.'s reach in the community." Before they operated out of a too small, two-bedroom home. Brown and her late husband spearheaded the capital campaign and raised \$2.4 million in two years. The girls now have a 16,000-square-foot facility. To top off Betty's special evening, she most deservedly won the raffle – \$1,000.

The special guest speaker was **Sylvia Martinez**. She told us that in the 7th grade, she was almost flunking out of school until Girls Inc. came along. She became a National Scholar and currently serves as the program director for Girls Inc. of Greater Los Angeles. She works to inspire girls to go forward as Girls Inc. did for her.

Girls Inc. of Carpinteria executive director **Victoria Juarez** wants us to know, "We serve more than 700 girls each year helping them become strong, smart, and bold." To learn

Evening in Bloom

It's pretty special when an organization such as Girls Inc. of Carpinteria gets to have their fundraiser in an orchid-growing greenhouse – Westerlay Orchids. Although the committee had to do work to transform it into a party place, still the backdrop is thousands of orchids in a rainbow of colors. Breathtaking! It was definitely "An Evening in Bloom."

It had all the makings of a successful soirée with a red-carpet photo



Girls Inc. Carpinteria executive director **Victoria Juarez**, honorary co-chairs and title sponsors **Susan** and **Victor Schaff** with board member **Theresa Huerta**



Girls Inc. event co-chair and board president **Stefanie Herrington** with honoree **Betty Brown** and co-chair **Donna Baird**

more, become a volunteer or offer support, please visit girlsinc-carp.org/.