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It's Not Too Late to Attend the Annual Dinner

Thursday, March 7



March is here, and that means our Annual Dinner is fast approaching. If you haven't yet purchased your ticket, act quickly as seats are

Former Foster Youth Empowered to Help Others



At the Alliance, there's nothing better than watching a foster youth reach their goals through hard work, perseverance and immense personal growth. Former client, and now Master of Social Work (MSW) intern, Jessica Chandler is making the transition from a foster youth to a social worker and is determined to help youth navigate the system through her experience and academic acumen.

Alliance Peer Advocate and former foster youth Alicia Guajardo is also on a path to help foster youth by pursuing a MSW. Jessica is pictured here helping Alicia with her graduate applications to NYU and Columbia. The words in Alicia's essay bring to life her transition from one side of the child welfare system to the other, while using the experiences that will enable her to make a real difference.

"Living in foster care made powerfully clear to me the role a social worker can play in a child's life. I have experienced both the desperation that is felt as a foster youth and the relief that comes with an adult's intervention and assistance. My passion to empower foster youth and the resilience that I developed throughout my life will help make me an effective social worker."

These accomplished women embody the spirit of the Alliance and we're very proud of them! We know they're going to have a powerful impact on the children

limited at the Beverly Hilton. Our Annual Dinner is next week on **Thursday, March 7.**

The event will honor WME's **Rick Rosen** as the 2013 National Champion for Children, and philanthropist and education reformer **Melanie Lundquist** will receive the Francis M. Wheat Community Service Award.

For tickets and sponsorship information, contact **Joelle** at j.warren-lane@kids-alliance.org or **(213) 368-6010 ex. 115.**

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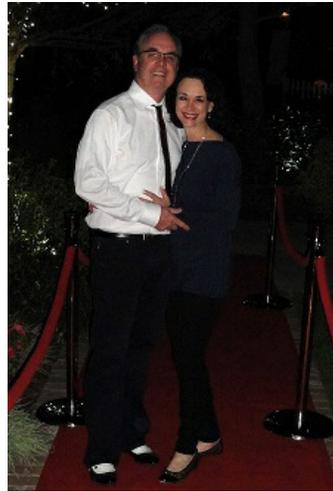


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they work with.

OSCAR Night a Win for Our Kids



Allyson Sanders and Derek Barton (left) on the red carpet in front of their home and Jim Maresca and Jeff King, guests at Pamela Soper's party, pose in a fun cutout.

The dresses were fabulous and the awards were plenty at the OSCARS, but Sunday, February 24, was also about our stars -- kids! Friends of the Alliance hosted individual "Dinner with Friends & OSCAR" parties, raising nearly \$20,000 for our programs.



Thank you to everyone who opened up their homes to make the OSCARS more than just an enjoyable viewing experience! Let us know if you'd like to host your own party next year to support Los Angeles' most vulnerable children.



Friends of the Alliance Council Chair and Oscar party host Pamela Soper with past Chair Ed Lodgen (left) and hosts Nicole Tilly, Marlene McGuirt and Jordana Schwartz enjoying the awards at Nicole's home (right).

Girl Power Proves Powerful



On February 2, 2013, the Alliance hosted Girl Power--a day of empowerment for young women in foster care. Seventy girls participated in workshops on employment, reproductive health, education, body image and healthy relationships. Speakers Mandy Teefy and Janet D. Thomas set a powerful tone for the day by telling their personal stories of struggle and success.

When one participant was asked what she learned at Girl Power, she said, "I learned that someone actually cares about me. I felt so alone in the world before today." These words encapsulate the feeling of the afternoon -- you could see girls come to life as they talked with the 20 workshop presenters and other youth.

Thank you to our wonderful volunteer speakers, workshop hosts, resource fair participants and to the companies who donated their time and products to Girl Power: Muse/ique, LOFT, Philosophy, Pretzel Crisps, Masa of Echo Park, Two Boots Pizza, Trader Joe's, Noah's Bagels, Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf and YAS DTLA. We also thank Children's Institute for loaning us their beautiful facility. Events like this would not be possible without the commitment of our donors-- thank you to everyone who contributes to this meaningful work!