

## **\$130,000 Anonymous Donation to SchoolPower Goes A Long Way**

On January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2011 SchoolPower will host its 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner Dance. This is the group's largest and most successful fundraising event. Last year's Dinner Dance netted \$180,000 for Laguna's four public schools. It is always a memorable evening with something for everyone: a beautiful location (Montage Laguna Beach), exquisite cuisine, an exciting live and silent auction, as well as top-notch live entertainment. Every year, the enthusiastic Dinner Dance Committee creates a new, exciting theme that makes this evening truly unique. This year's committee, led by Kristin Bunn, Melissa Cavanaugh, and Kim Ressler has selected "Diamonds in the Sand".

Based on recommendations from LBUSD leaders, SchoolPower selects a specific initiative for its annual Fund-A-Need. Dinner Dance attendees are asked to bid to support the Fund-a-Need during the live auction and additional supporters donate online. This year's Fund-A-Need is SuccessMaker, the software that allows students, at every level, to work, and be challenged, at their own pace. One generous family recently advanced the expansion of SuccessMaker with a \$130,000 anonymous donation to SchoolPower, the largest individual gift in the organization's 29-year history. The donation extended the use of the software and accompanying mini-laptops to all fourth and fifth grade students. For the 2011 Live Fund-A-Need, Dinner Dance patrons will be asked to raise their paddles so that this program can be expanded to all third grade classrooms at Top of the World and El Morro. (View the 2011 SuccessMaker video at [www.lbschoolpower.org](http://www.lbschoolpower.org).)

For the first time, SchoolPower is introducing two site-specific Fund-A-Needs during its silent auction where Dinner Dance and online donors have the opportunity to make an impact at specific schools. Supporters can invest in 32 new iMacs for the Thurston Middle School Mac Lab. Or, at the high school, donors can invest in a pilot program enhancing school support for students before and during the college application process.

To donate, or for more information, please contact SchoolPower, the Laguna Beach Education Foundation at (949) 494-6811, 733 St Anns, Laguna Beach, CA 92651 or at [www.lbschoolpower.org](http://www.lbschoolpower.org).

By Samantha Washer