

The

Wednesday, November 24, 2004 - Published on Wednesday & Friday

SIERRA STAR

**GET ALL
THE STORIES**
[HOME](#) [SUBSCRIPTIONS](#) [CLASSIFIEDS](#) [SUBMISSIONS](#) [COMMUNITY](#) [ARCHIVES](#) [SITEMAP](#)
[HOME](#) • [ABOUT US](#) • [CONTACT INFO](#)

Angels without wings

By Irene Thirlwall and Kristine Escoto
editorial@sierrastar.com
kescoto@sierrastar.us

Eighth annual Angel Dinner was held last weekend in Oakhurst



Kristine Escoto

This year's recipients take a few moments during the evening to pose for a picture.

The 2004 Angels Amongst Us

- Man - Dale Miller, "Rotary Community" Angel
- Women - Fern Facchino, "Ahwahnee Park" Angel
- Beverly Scott, "Oakhurst Town Mother" Angel
- Couple - J.D. and Ann Droshe, "Extreme Parenting" Angels
- Business - Ken and Tina Bender (McDonald's), "Carved Bear Gifting" Angels
- Norma and John Rogers (Mountain Comforts), "Warm and Fuzzy" Angels
- Heavenly - Jane Gyer, "Talented Lifetime Achievement"
- Bear cubs - Alexander Brown, "11-year-old Salesman" Cherub
- Kaiden Grossi, "12-year-old Teaching" Cherub
- Angels Revisited - Jean and Bruce Eaton, "We can make it work" Angel
- Marshall (Mike) Allen and Jim Darling, "Amazing Husbands" Angels
- Pat Augustine and Lian Rausch, "Wild Wonderful Chocolate" Angels
- Mike Harrington and Ken Peterson,

Tears, joy and love were just some of the emotions that filled the Elks Lodge this past weekend. Many Mountain Area residents joined together to acknowledge other members of the community who have gone above and beyond in their actions and generosity.

Saturday evening, Nov. 20 guests were welcomed by many bears at the eighth annual Angels Amongst Us Dinner. It was held at the Elks Lodge, hosted by the Mountain Bear Fan Club a local den of Good Bears of the World.

Gold adorned the tablecloths and walls. Volunteers from the Mountain Bear Fan Club turned the Elks Lodge into a bear haven. A small Christmas tree with ornaments and small bears were featured as the center piece of each table. Guests and nominees were eager to donate to help those in need.

Good Bears of the World

Good Bears of the World is an international organization that spreads love and caring by giving away teddy bears to hurt, abused and traumatized children, and the lonely forgotten adults in the world.

Good Bears of the World members are people who come from all walks

"Good Deed" Angels

- Teena Hagerman and Monica Moulin, "Performing Arts" Angels
- Judy Jackson and Troy Sinor, "Thrift shop" Angels
- Gail and Phil Lippman, "Children's Museum" Angels

Angels

- JoAnn Newsom and Bernadine Sweetser, "Helping Hands" Angels
- Carrie Pereira, "Renaissance" Angel
- Isabelle Rajcon, "Youth Scholarship and Senior Help" Angel
- Lacey Rees, "Honorary Newsworthy" Angel

Area Ski School, nursing homes, schools, and individuals and families in need. They meet the third Thursday of the month. Everyone is welcome and appreciated.

The Dinner

The Angels Amongst Us Dinner was an evening spent recognizing certain members (or "membears") of the community for their special good deeds for others or the community in general.

Food wasn't really the focus of the evening; spending time to recognize the incredible members in our community took precedence. The herb chicken, red potatoes, salad, rolls and mixed vegetables were provided by Flying Deer Catering.

The evening began with Bill Atwood, the emcee for the evening, welcoming everyone and explaining the itinerary for the evening. Father Gordon Kamaai, of St. Raphael's Episcopal Church, gave the invocation.

Before dinner was served there was time to mingle and take part in a raffle and silent auction with monies raised donated to the Mountain Bear Fan Club.

For the raffle, there was a selection of items that had been donated. Participants who bought raffle tickets were able to place their tickets in a container next to the particular item(s) that they wanted to win. Items ranged from women's jewelry to plush snowmen. In addition to the raffle items there were two rooms that contained items that were up for bid in the silent auction. There were items from teddy bears to snow globes.

Just before dinner was served, Atwood acknowledged the Yosemite Youth Basketball Association as the servers for the evening. The girls then proceeded to serve dinner to a crowd of more than 200 people.



Irene Thirlwall

This year's awards are displayed for all attendees of the Eighth annual Angel Dinner over the weekend.

presentations. there were 26 angels honored, they are pictured above and listed in sidebar at far left.

of life and share an interest in giving comfort in a quiet, low-key fashion. Good Bears have special feelings for children and elderly people and know how a teddy bear helps soften the harshness of this world. Good Bears' hearts are open with the aim of putting the comfort of a teddy bear into the arms and hearts of every traumatized child or lonely, forgotten adult in the world. Good Bears can and do make a difference.

The Mountain Bear Fan Club

The Mountain Bear Fan Club is a local den of Good Bears of the World. They serve the mountain community by providing teddy bears to Urgent Care, volunteer Fire Departments, shelters, churches, California Highway Patrol, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, Mountain

The Awards

After dinner was finished, individuals and businesses were awarded bears for their sponsorship and support. Here is a list of just a few of the sponsors:

- Jean Volner, reservations
- Mary Ann Hutcherson, table decorations
- Jan Dayhoff, Betty Dutra, BeBe Haussman, Nancy Hyde, Barbara Mattice, Rhonda Powel, Bobbi Sloan, Bea Walden, and Bruce Eaton for the decorated angel award bears.
- Toni Lagunoff, Jean Eaton, BeBe Haussmann, Jan Dayhoff, Betty Dutra, Barbara Mattice, Bob Worley of the Angel Committee.

Prior Angels were recognized as well as a few members that are forming a new group, called the Band of Angels.

The new group will perform duties for others in the community that are in need of help or assistance. This was followed by the angel award

[Home](#) • [Subscriptions](#) • [Classifieds](#) • [Submissions](#) • [Community](#) • [Archive](#) • [Sitemap](#)

[Search this site](#) or [the web](#) powered by [FreeFind](#)

Site search Web search

The Sierra Star

49165 Crane Valley Rd [426] • PO Box 305 • Oakhurst, CA 93644-8621
Phone (559) 683-4464 • Fax (559) 683-8102

Copyright © 2004 The Sierra Star

To report discrepancies with this site please contact the [webmaster](#).

*49165 Crane Valley Rd [426] • PO Box 305 • Oakhurst, CA 93644-8621
(559) 683-4464 • Fax (559) 683-8102*

