



CASINO NIGHT BENEFITS CHILDREN AT YOUTH ALTERNATIVES MEADOWLAND CAMPUS

Everyone had a winning hand when they turned out for the **1st Annual Casino Night** held at **The Don Strange Ranch**. Don Strange offered to host this party for Roy Maas' Youth Alternatives (RMYA), when RMYA received the **Mutual of America Merit Award** last year recognizing the partnership between RMYA and Don Strange of Texas, Inc.—one of only ten organizations in the entire country to be recognized. Don partnered with RMYA to create the Helping Hands and the Breakfast of Champions programs to allow the children at the RMYA programs the opportunity to meet community leaders and to enjoy a wonderful catered breakfast together. He recognized the importance of allowing our children the opportunity to have role-models in the community!

Don Strange is certainly a role-model himself—and he absolutely knows how to throw a party! The weather was great, the ranch was beautiful, and there were Signature Food Stations scattered around the pavilion area featuring Gorditas, Barbecue Poor boy Sandwiches, Spinach Quesadillas, sautéed Mushrooms, Shrimp Corn Cakes, Hill Country Sausage, Chili Con Queso, Grilled Vegetables, Seasonal Veggies and dip and, for dessert, double fudge brownies, pecan squares and chocolate chunk cookies...really GREAT food! There were Longhorns to feed and Armadillo Races going strong! Besides dinner, there was dancing to the music of the fabulous Court Jesters. And the “casino” tables were full of cheering players all night. A great time was had by one and all!

Troy and Kathryn Eckard were the Co-Chairs of the 2008 Casino Night and did a fabulous job of making sure it was a big success. Troy, Kathryn and all of the Eckard Companies staff worked tirelessly to get things in order! During the evening, Art & Pam Burdick, the 2006 Roy Maas Humanitarian Award recipients, proudly announced that Troy and Kathryn Eckard have been selected to receive the 2008 Roy Maas Humanitarian Award. They will be honored at a luncheon that will be held in the Spring of 2009.

While Casino Night was certainly a fundraiser, more importantly, it was also a “friend-raiser”—an opportunity for the Boerne community to enjoy a great party while learning more about how RMYA helps the traumatized children that call MeadowLand HOME. RMYA can not say thank you enough to the well over 300 guests that came out to support the RMYA programs and children. **Thank you one and all for your belief in our children!**

Everyone “hit the jackpot” as the proceeds from this event will help fund the **MeadowLand Charter School** which opens this fall. The school, for up to 120 students in grades 9-12, will specialize in educational services for at-risk students. For more information on the school, go to www.meadowlandcharterschool.org.

Once again, **THANK YOU** to the entire Don Strange family and staff, thank you to everyone that came out to celebrate, and thank you to Troy and Kathryn Eckard and all of the Eckard Companies employees...the Casino Night was wonderful...and together, we as a community, helped stack the deck in favor of the abused and traumatized children that need the help and support of our entire community.