

THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER



Gala chairwoman Laura Khouri; Robin McGraw, founder of When Georgia Smiled; and Margaret Bayston, executive director of Laura's House, attend the Bahama Nights gala to support Laura's House.

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LAURA'S HOUSE RAISES \$400,000

In light of October being National Domestic Violence Awareness month, more than 300 people raised nearly \$400,000 for Laura's House, South County's domestic abuse shelter, during its annual Bahama Nights Gala in Newport Beach on Oct. 10. Proceeds from the event, sponsored by **Laura Khouri** and **Michael Hayde**, will benefit the Ladera Ranch-based nonprofit's emergency shelter, community programs and legal advocacy services. The event featured a speech by domestic violence survivor **Nancy Tran**, a silent auction and awards presented to **Robin McGraw**, founder of When Georgia Smiled: The Robin McGraw Revelation Foundation; **Troy Marston**, volunteer of the Courthouse Advocacy Program; and **Pimco**.

LADERA RANCH TEAM WINS TRIP TO JAPAN

Team GalacTechs, which includes two sets of Ladera Ranch siblings – **Rayyan** and **Aleena Ali** and **Kamran** and **Nadia Ansari** – has been selected as the grand prize winner of the 2015 Moonbots Challenge. The foursome's futuristic project imagined that people could vacation on the moon, so the team simulated a lunar mission using the Vex Iq robotic platform and presented its features during a live

webcast with the judges. In the second round, the team developed a lunar rover and shared its innovation with children at the Columbia Space Center in Downey and the Boys & Girls Clubs of Santa Ana. The team, which beat 235 teams from 29 countries, was awarded with a trip to Japan on Oct. 24 to meet the adult teams competing for a \$30 million Google Lunar Xprize, a global competition to land a privately funded robot on the moon.

VARIETY SHOW TO aid MILITARY FAMILIES

Dana Hills High School students **Ashley Patrick** of Dana Point and **Kyla Stone** of Laguna Niguel are among the performers in the annual variety show at 7 p.m. on Saturday at the San Clemente Community Center. The show, sponsored by San Clemente Military Family Outreach, is raising funds to support Military Family Outreach emergency aid that provides struggling families with infant formula, diapers, school supplies, food, gas, car repair and a financial safety net, said producer Bob Crittendon. Funds will also go toward 1,000 Thanksgiving turkeys to low-income Marine and Navy families in north Camp Pendleton. Tickets:[militaryfamily outreach.com](http://militaryfamilyoutreach.com).

GLOBAL GENES gets \$1.2 MILLION

More than 800 people raised more than \$1.2 million for rare disease research and advocacy during Aliso Viejo-based Global Genes' fourth annual Tribute to Champions of Hope Gala and Patient Advocacy Summit in Huntington Beach. **Nicole Boice**, founder of the group, recognized seven honorees who have worked toward making a difference in the lives of people with rare diseases. Champions included Teen Advocacy honoree **Shira Strongin**, who suffers from Ehlers Danlos Syndrome and has founded the Sick Chick Network; Awareness honoree **Andrew Lenchewski**, executive producer of Royal Pains; and Brave Feats of Courage honoree **Noah Coughlan**, a transcontinental racer and patient advocate.

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