The spring, the Covenant House of California’s annual gala brought Hollywood philanthropists together for a night at The Globe Theater at Universal Studios Hollywood. Honoring Delta Air Lines, the event helped raise funds and awareness for the thousands of homeless and trafficked youth that Covenant House of California aids each year. Emcees, Graham Patrick Martin, from TNT’s Major Crimes, and Anthony E. Zuiker the creator of CSI, led the program for the night. The evening’s speakers included Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti, Los Angeles City Councilmember of the 13th district, Mitch O’Farrell, and Anthony E. Zuiker the creator of CSI.

President and CEO of Covenant House California, Bill Bedrossian spoke about the future of the organization, as it plans to greatly expand facilities and services to increase the opportunities that youth have to succeed in their futures. The evening progressed while the celebrities including TNT’s Major Crimes and Into The Badlands watched as awards were presented to deserving individuals who have made a difference for Covenant House’s homeless youth.

Covenant House of California is a non-profit organization with locations in Hollywood, CA, Oakland, CA and Berkeley, CA whose mission is to help homeless and trafficked youth by providing shelter and sanctuary for those who have nowhere to go.

THE COVENANT HOUSE OF CALIFORNIA GALA

PHOTOGRAPHY: BOIVIN PHOTOGRAPHE

Photographs by: Boivin Photographie

Gala Coverage:

Love is Opulence

Los Angeles is home of the largest number of homeless youth in the United States. The Covenant House is the largest privately-funded institution that provides services to homeless youth. Every year the Covenant House of California throws what is one of the county’s most attended Gala’s to raise funds and grant a voice to those whose cries often go unheeded.

This year, the Mayor of Los Angeles, Eric Garcetti attended and spoke about the current attacks on sanctuary cities and how key to rehabilitating the homeless. Addressing the issue of homeless youth in Los Angeles is of particular importance, not only in reducing the amount of long-term homeless people, but also because one-fourth of homeless youth become as a result of being “age out” from the foster system. These foster youth turned homeless “adults,” start off at a severe disadvantage in life that when not addressed early, has a trickle down effect that puts a disproportionate amount of stress on social services.

The mayor was joined by many within the community including the cast of Major Crimes and the Creator of the CSI television franchise. The gala precipitated with success stories as those who are served by the covenant house mixed with celebrities and other attendees in a way that spoke to my heart delivering the message that homelessness is a human condition that can be put to an end through human kindness.

As the night continued, both activists of Covenant House staff, volunteers, and alumni; Phillip Keene and Kearran Giovanni were once homeless told the stories of their life. The stories addressed youth homelessness as well as those who have helped to raise awareness of this social services.

The Gala coincided with same date and times as the Museum of Contemporary Art’s annual gala, perhaps LA’s most illustrious and exclusive gala. Rather than attend, supporters of the Covenant House of California’s Gala choose to focus on giving rather than status and sharing rather than overindulgence.

I have attended my fair share of galas, but never one where such a large proportion were clearly involved with the non-profit’s mission. The beautiful dining hall was populated by those who care the world, not from a position of life being a zero sum game, but instead screamed out that more is more and that as we grow, we create more to be had.

Words and Images: Jeremy Bandele

Photographs by: Boivin Photographie