


Sonoma's Hanna Center to honor McNeely couple at gala

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Rosemary and Kevin McNeely will be honored as Hanna Center celebrates its 75 years in Sonoma at its annual gala on Saturday, April 20, 2024. The couple has helped to support several organizations in Sonoma Valley, including Hanna Center and Sonoma International Film Festival. Photo taken at the film festival offices on East Napa Street. (Robbi Pengelly/Index-Tribune)

Auction items at Hanna Center’s 75th Anniversary Fundraising

Gala

Items available for auction at Hanna Center's 75th Anniversary Fundraising Gala include both a tennis lesson and barbecue with Felipe Monroy.

Kevin and Rosemary McNeely said that they have "had the honor" of supporting Monroy — a tennis professional who has been in Sonoma Valley for more than 20 years — in expanding his community outreach programs, mentoring programs, and youth and adult programs.

"We believe in his expertise in teaching children of all ages, including mentoring children of our friends and staff," they wrote in a message to the Index-Tribune. "We look forward to continuing to support his excellent track record as he is loved in the community by all ages and provides the best tennis program Sonoma Valley has to offer."

They said that Monroy's collaboration with Hanna Center has facilitated the growth of tennis in the community.

"He remains committed to enhancing the program and facilities," the McNeelys wrote. "Plans are underway to add two courts and lighting, solidifying it as the premier public location in the county for lessons, clinics and tournaments."

Bidding has begun on the tennis lesson and barbecue with Monroy and these auction items, which will be available at Hanna Center's 75th Anniversary Fundraising Gala on Saturday, April 20. More information can be found on [the center's website](#).

- Sonoma spa getaway at the Fairmont Sonoma Mission Inn & Spa
- Dinner for eight featuring Hanna Center's all-star chefs
- Golf foursome at La Quinta Country Club
- Sonoma County helicopter tour by Gyrocopter with Ken Callander
- Private Bordeaux-style tasting and blending experience for six with Lisa Lee
- Tasting for four and complementary magnum of pinot at Crosby Roamann
- Private tasting experience for six at Auteur Wines
- Private "All Things Italian" tasting experience for four at Muscardini Cellars
- Mezcal tasting with Salvador Chavez
- Contribution to Fund a Future, which helps raise money for Hanna Center programming

Hanna Center will honor Kevin and Rosemary McNeely while celebrating its 75th year in Sonoma at a fundraising gala on Saturday, April 20.

“We have been so fortunate to have the McNeelys’ support in this monumental year as we’ve opened the campus to the community and created new programs like our Community Mental Health Hub,” said Marisa Binder, vice president of development for Hanna Center. “They have helped us create new partnerships and championed our work, and we wanted to acknowledge their support and belief in Hanna by honoring them at this important event.”

The McNeelys praised Hanna Center in a message to the Index-Tribune.

“Supporting the mental health hub adds to overall community health and wellness for youth and adults,” they wrote. “We believe Executive Director Cameron Safarloo and Vice President of Health and Advocacy Leslie Antonelli Petersen are extremely capable changemakers who will make optimal use of our support.”

Before the pandemic, the annual gala included honorees, and organizers decided to include them again moving forward. They are chosen based on their involvement with Hanna as a board member, donor or supporter in the community.

The McNeelys’ support and generous spirit will be acknowledged throughout Hanna Center’s 75th Anniversary Fundraising Gala, which Safarloo regards as especially significant.

“Our 75th anniversary is an opportunity to celebrate our beginnings as well as an occasion to look at Hanna’s new vision and bright future,” he said. “We are already successfully expanding our impact in the lives on not only students but also foster youth, community residents seeking mental health services or new recreation options and more.”

Slated for 5 to 10 p.m. on the Hanna Center campus, the gala will begin with a cocktail hour at 5 p.m., followed by a program shortly after 6 p.m., a live auction at 7:15 p.m., and dancing and lounge activities at 8:20 p.m.

Park Avenue Catering in Cotati will provide food and beverages throughout the evening. During the cocktail hour, guests will be treated to passed appetizers and during the program, they will enjoy a three-course meal.

Anthony Trucks, a former foster youth who went on to play in the National Football League, will serve as the emcee and share his inspiring personal story.

“We will also hear from Hanna Center alumni through interviews and them sharing stories of resilience, triumph and growth,” said Meredith Standing, vice president of marketing, communications and events for Hanna Center.

Singing auctioneer Shawna Ferris McNulty, who performed in the musical revue, “Beach Blanket Babylon,” will join Trucks in the live auction (see sidebar).

“The evening will end with a performance by the deluxe party band, Hella Fitzgerald,” Standing said. “From vintage jazz and blues to classic soul, funk, R&B, ‘90s hits and contemporary tunes, they promise an unforgettable night on the dance floor as we celebrate 75 years of changing lives.”

The galas began in 2006 to celebrate Hanna Center and its programs as well as to introduce new supporters to its work and raise funds.

“Our galas have helped to introduce key people to Hanna who have gone on to be major donors, board members, great community supporters and more,” Binder said.

She said that Hanna Center hopes to raise \$400,000 at this year’s gala and will use the money for its programs, including residential, which provides transitional housing to foster youth; mental health services, through the [Community Mental Health Hub](#); recreation, via summer camps and community sports; and [Hanna Institute](#), which equips and empowers individuals and agencies to build resilience into their culture.

Binder said that sponsorships are the “backbone” of the gala fundraising.

“They provide critical funds and an opportunity to introduce new people to Hanna,” she said.

Sponsorships range from \$1,000 to \$25,000. More information about sponsorships is available at [Gala 2024 — Hanna Center](#).

“A \$2,500 sponsorship includes eight seats, allowing our supporters to bring friends, family and others they think might also be interested in our work,” Binder said. “Sponsorships also provide a visual message: By supporting Hanna with a sponsorship, you are public demonstrating belief in our programs and our work.”

Single tickets can be purchased for \$275 by accessing [Tickets & Tables \(ejoinme.org\)](#).

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