



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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New Beginnings Produces the Drama *Food and Shelter* to Help Community Gain a Deeper Understanding of Homelessness

(SANTA BARBARA, CALIF.) – New Beginnings culminated its 50th anniversary celebration with a one-night production of the drama *Food and Shelter* by Jane Anderson at the New Vic. *Food and Shelter* is the heartrending story of a homeless family who spends the night at Disneyland. As a leading provider of mental health, veteran, and homeless services in Santa Barbara County, New Beginnings created this evening to help community members gain a better understanding of how emotional instability, unemployment, and poverty can lead to homelessness.

200 community members attended the very powerful and moving performance, which also included remarks from New Beginnings' Board President, Diane Pannkuk and Executive Director, Kristine Schwarz, that connected the production to New Beginnings' work with the homeless, and encouraged audience members to reconsider how they view homelessness and the reasons why people become and remain homeless.

The evening began with an intimate dinner at Bouchon for the event's sponsors, and ended with a cast and crew reception at the New Vic immediately following the performance. Guests included Supervisor Gregg Hart, Glenn and Amy Bacheller, Mary Becker, Rinaldo and Lalla Brutoco, Charles and Eileen White Read, the Honorable Susan Rose, Judith Hopkinson, Anne Towbes, and Chuck and Merryl Zegar. For more information about the event, please visit, www.sbnbcc.org/annual-fundraiser/

The production starred Joe Spano (*NCIS, Apollo 13, NYPD Blue and Fracture*), Eric Lange (*Victorious, Lost, Narcos and The Bridge*), Chris Butler (*Designated Survivor, Rescue Dawn, The Good Wife, and King & Maxwell*), Faline England (*9-1-1, The Mentalist, Station 19, and Valentine's Day*), Stephanie Edwards (*AM America and Tournament of Roses Parade*), and Hope Dekkers (*The Nightingale and The Tower*). Screenwriter Jane Anderson is an Emmy award-winning writer and director whose many credits include *The Wife, Olive Kitteridge, How to Make an American Quilt, Looking for Normal, It Could Happen to You, The Baby Dance, If These Walls Could Talk II, and The Positively True Adventures of the Alleged Texas Cheerleader Murdering Mom*, for which Jane received an Emmy, Penn Award, and Writers Guild Award for best teleplay. Jenny Sullivan is an award-winning director whose many theatre credits include *Who's Afraid of Virginia Wolf, Hamlet, The Mystery of Irma Vep, One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest, Food Confessions, The Vagina Monologues, and Steel Magnolias*.

New Beginnings Counseling Center provides quality, affordable counseling, shelter, case management and education that strengthens our community and provides our clients with the ability to lead healthy and productive lives. New Beginnings Counseling Center, located at 324 East Carrillo Street, Suite C, Santa Barbara, CA 93101, is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization. For more information, please contact our development department at (805) 963-7777 x112 or email at mberton@sbnbcc.org.

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