

An Interview with Philanthropist and Real Estate Entrepreneur Barry Saywitz

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By Vanessa Showalter



OCSS: As one of the top successful real estate entrepreneurs in Orange County, why do you feel giving back to the local community is so important?

Saywitz: I believe that it is always important to not only give back to the community but to also assist others that are less fortunate than you. Regardless of one's success, we should take the

time to help. This is why I've tried to reach out and give back to various organizations that I have a personal tie to. I encourage my employees to the same.

OCSS: Should we be looking forward to another An Evening for Autism in 2013? Why is this fundraising event so close to your heart?

Saywitz: The Evening for Autism charity event has been a huge success in not only raising awareness about autism and the various charities and organizations that were involved in the event, but it was also an opportunity for different organizations to come together for a common cause. Unfortunately, autism cases are on the rise, thus we need to continue to support these organizations with the goal of helping families impacted by the autism diagnosis. I would expect that you will see An Evening for Autism event in the near future. This is an event which touches my family personally as my son was diagnosed with autism at the age of two.

OCSS: Please describe An Evening for Autism?

Saywitz: The Evening for Autism event was created five years ago. Each year, the event grew in terms of notoriety, public support and the number of people and organizations which contributed towards it. Our last event had over 600 attendees and was supported by a variety of corporations and organizations throughout the community. The event benefits numerous charities associated with autism in providing programs for those individuals and families affected by autism. Last year's event benefited Easter Seals Southern CA, Talk About Curing Autism (TACA), ACT Today!, the Autism Society of America and the Newport Mesa School District for their special needs programs.

OCSS: You are also hosting the upcoming UCLA 2012 Orange County Bruin Bash for UCLA Athletics on June 2 — why did you decide to help out?

Saywitz: I became involved with the UCLA Orange County Wooden Athletic Fund event three years ago as I hosted the fundraiser at my home. In the past, the event was held at hotels and other public venues, which is extremely cost prohibitive. The goal of this event is to raise awareness for UCLA, its athletic department and their athletic programs at the university. Since hosting at my home, the amount of funds that were raised have increased significantly and the awareness of the event has created a following here in Orange County. I attended UCLA and enjoy watching and playing all types of sports, therefore, it is a great opportunity for me to become involved with the privilege of hosting the event at my home.

OCSS: What should we expect at the UCLA event?

Saywitz: Attendees will have a chance to mingle with UCLA Men's Basketball Head Coach, Ben Howland; UCLA Women's Volleyball Head Coach, Michael Sealy; UCLA Women's Golf Head Coach, Carrie Forsyth; UCLA Women's Water Polo Head Coach, Brandon Brooks, and other UCLA greats. Located at my home in Newport Beach starting at 6pm, Bruin legends such

as Rafer Johnson, Jamaal Wilkes, Cade McNown, DeShaun Foster, Toby Bailey, Jason Bell, Tyus Edney, Freddie Mitchell, Tasha Schwikert, Sinjin Smith, John Vallely, Ann Meyers Drysdale, Nick Pacelli, Nellie Spicer, Mike Roll, Danny Farmer, Matt Barnes, Marques Johnson, Keith Erickson, Andre McCarter, Lisa Longaker Hadfield, Kiki Vandeweghe and others will come together with Orange County fans, athletes and supporters to celebrate being a Bruin. The event will be catered by Beach Pit BBQ, Capital Grill and will have a wide variety of top notch food and beverages for the event. This year's event will have multiple bands and we expect over 400 alumni and supporters of the university's athletic programs to be in attendance. All proceeds benefit the Wooden Athletic Fund which generates financial support to assist all sports at UCLA.

OCSS: Besides your philanthropic commitments, how is business at The Saywitz Company?

Saywitz: My days are filled with continuing to own, operate and manage The Saywitz Company and its real estate activities. We expect this year to be better than the past several years as we are seeing more activity in both commercial and residential real estate markets throughout Southern California. We continue to work harder for less returns than in the past. No one said it would be easy as these are difficult times especially in the real estate world. Therefore, we continue to go forward on a daily basis with implementing our business plan and aggressively pursuing new business relationships and opportunities to continue to grow the company.

For more information about An Evening for Autism, visit <http://aneveningforautism.com>

To purchase tickets to the UCLA event, visit: <https://giving.ucla.edu/OCevent>