

Lady in Red Gala Raises \$2 Million!

March 18, 2025



Dear Friends:

Thirty-one years ago, when we hosted our inaugural Lady in Red Gala, I wanted to do things differently than other fundraising galas. Rather, I wanted to do it “my way,” to quote global music icon Paul Anka’s most famous song title.

That meant we would just have a great big party with great big entertainment and with a great big purpose.

The formula has worked ever so splendidly. Our great big party – the 31st Annual Lady in Red Gala – was just like all the previous ones – the philanthropic event of the entire social season in Palm Beach.



Jay Leno and Lois Pope at the 31st Annual Lady in Red Gala.

Indeed, more than 650 people, the crème de la crème of society and business and civic leadership in Southeast Florida, gathered in their most stunning gowns and cocktail dresses and tailored tuxedos at The Breakers Palm Beach for this year’s gala.

That great big entertainment? Well, Mr. Anka was one of our headline performers. His 45-minute set featured him on stage and in the audience crooning his greatest hits, including “Diana,” “Puppy Love,” “You’re Having My Baby,” and, of course, “My Way,” among so many of his chart-topping songs.

If that wasn’t enough, the legendary stand-up comedian and TV host Jay Leno kept everyone in attendance roaring with laughter with his own set of one-liners, quips, and observational, hilarious wisecracks about everything from modern healthcare and drug side effects to the top news headlines emanating from Washington D.C. and around the country.

Plus, the Palm Beach Symphony regaled the audience during the elegant cocktail hour with an array of popular Broadway show tunes, while the Danny Beck Band kept eventgoers out on the dance floor with a plethora of hits from the 1950s through the current day.

And that great big purpose? The gala raised \$2 million in support of:

- ★ **Pups4Patriots**, our partnership with American Humane that has rescued more than 300 dogs, trained them as certified service dogs, and gave them for free to veterans suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. A NIH-funded study last year proved that these dogs greatly diminish PTSD symptoms while increasing positive behaviors.
- ★ **Lois' Food4Kids**, our collaboration with Palm Beach County Food Bank that has distributed more than 50,000 backpacks filled with nutritious meals, food, snacks, and beverages to food insecure children throughout the county when they are not in school – on weekends, holidays, vacations, and school closures due to extreme weather and other events
- ★ **Lois' Vision4Kids**, an initiative we started with Bascom Palmer Eye Institute that has given hundreds of free annual vision screenings to children ages 2-18 in the region and, if necessary, provided them with two free pairs of prescription eyeglasses and a pair of prescription sunglasses.

The heads of all three organizations are united in their praise and gratitude for the profound impact we have had on the work they are doing to benefit their constituents.

“The generosity of the supporters of the annual Lady in Red gala has enabled American Humane Society to put 300 ‘healing leashes’ in the hands of our nation’s veterans,” said Dr. Robin Ganzert, AHS’ president and CEO.

"The Lady in Red Gala has once again proven that community spirit, when combined with action, can fill empty plates and hearts throughout Palm Beach County," added Jamie Kendall, chief executive officer of the Palm Beach County Food Bank.

Dr. Eduardo C. Alfonso, director of Bascom Palmer, echoed these sentiments, saying, “The unwavering partnership with Bascom Palmer is truly exceptional. The passion for eradicating blindness manifests itself through transformative initiatives.”



Paul Anka thrilled the crowd on stage and in the audience crooning his greatest hits!

All those who attended the Lady in Red Gala enjoyed both extraordinary food for thought to nourish their own philanthropic instincts and food to nourish their stomachs: a luscious poached Maine lobster and caviar appetizer, a scrumptious sea salt grilled filet mignon main course and a decadent ice cream sundae dessert.

In my very brief remarks prior to dinner, I thanked Milly Park, who designed and donated the magnificent outfit I was wearing; Christine Lynn, my unparalleled philanthropist extraordinaire co-chair; corporate ambassadors Moti Ferder, co-founder and CEO of Lugano Diamonds, also donated an elegant set of two freshwater pearl flex bracelets to all female attendees, Sally Kimball, President & Founder Ambassador Realty Corporation, Christiane Ouvier, Boutique Director • Van Cleef & Arpels, and Walt Schwenk, AAMS Managing Director - Investment Officer, Wells Fargo Advisors; the LIFE Board; and the other leaders whose time and energy ensured that tonight would once again be a total success.

Not resting on our laurels, I also told the guests to mark their calendars for next year’s 32nd Annual Lady in Red Gala: February 7, 2026, at The Breakers Palm Beach. For more information, contact: life@life-edu.org or call 561.582.8083. And until then,

Love Always,

Lois

Revelers Did It Their Way at the 31st Annual Lady in Red Gala



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LIFE'S 32ND ANNUAL

LADY IN RED GALA

FEBRUARY 7, 2026 ✨ 6 PM

THE BREAKERS | PALM BEACH

Reserve your tables and sponsorships early for
what promises to be a truly historic event.

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