The “Good Vibrations” of The Beach Boys, one of pop music’s most successful and acclaimed bands of all time, will have the audience dancing in their seats on May 11 when the legendary group takes the stage at the Minneapolis Convention Center for PACER’s 37th Annual Benefit, presented by Starkey Hearing Technologies.

“We are so excited for PACER’s audience to see and hear this fabulous band perform all their top hits,” said PACER Executive Director Paula Goldberg. “I keep hearing how thrilled people are to see The Beach Boys. They are truly a legend and people just can’t wait to be entertained by them. The Beach Boys appeal to people of all ages and this will be an absolutely unforgettable evening of magical music!”

The Beach Boys have been performing for decades and have had the most songs on the charts of any U.S. rock band. One of the world’s best-selling musical acts and often called “America’s Band,” they have sold more than 100 million records, won Grammys, been named to the Rock and Roll Hall of fame, and performed at the Super Bowl and the White House. Many of pop’s biggest stars cite The Beach Boys as a major influence.

PACER’s Annual Benefit supports programs for children with disabilities and their families, as well as PACER’s National Bullying Prevention Center. Along with The Beach Boys performance, the evening includes the spectacular live and silent auctions. The silent auction begins at 6:00 p.m., and the live auction and performance are at 8:00 p.m. Tickets start at $75 and can be purchased at PACER.org/benefit or by calling PACER at (952) 838-9000.

Keep reading for more details!
PACER’s Live Auction: Once-in-a-lifetime prizes!

Disney Parks customized package: Three fantastic days for four guests

This incredible opportunity includes a three-night stay at Disney’s Animal Kingdom Lodge, 12 park-hopper tickets, a private seven-hour VIP tour experience, and more!

Get ready for a day-long adventure with your very own VIP Tour Guide, who will help you plan a seven-hour experience at any of the Disney Parks! Your day will include VIP seating for parades, select stage shows, and nighttime spectacles, completely customized to your preferences. On the other two days of your visit, use your park-hopper tickets to go from park to park as you desire. Consider visiting Disney’s Hollywood Studios, Animal Kingdom, Magic Kingdom, and Epcot.

A Wild Africa Trek at Disney’s Animal Kingdom is included in this fabulous package!

Beachfront Mexico getaway

This wonderful getaway features one week at the Casa Blanca boutique resort in charming Bucerias, Mexico, 30 minutes north of Puerto Vallarta. Your two-bedroom unit is one of just seven at this lovely boutique hotel, which was recently featured on HGTV. This ocean front property is beautifully landscaped and in a perfect location. Wake up to the gentle sound of waves on the quiet, pristine beach and enjoy a very short walk into the town, which features fantastic dining, art galleries, outdoor activities, wonderful shops and pubs. Includes round-trip airfare for two to Puerto Vallarta.

The Ultimate Sports package

This is a not to be missed opportunity for the professional sports fan! Attend Vikings, Twins, Timberwolves, Wild, and Minnesota United games. Meet the players and more!

Your amazing Vikings football package includes four game tickets plus sideline passes for pre-game. Your incredible Twins baseball package includes Batting Practice Buddies for up to four children ages 6 to 14, including player photos and autographs, and up to 12 game tickets for the Buddies and their guests! Your fabulous Timberwolves basketball package includes four tickets and pre-game bench sit opportunity to watch the team warm up. Your wonderful Wild hockey package includes four game tickets and the opportunity to meet a player after the game. Your tremendous Minnesota United soccer package includes a meet & greet with a player and four game tickets.

VIP tickets to see ‘The Ellen DeGeneres Show’ live and tour Warner Bros. Studio

Picture yourself and three guests in the live audience for the Emmy Award-winning “Ellen DeGeneres Show” during Ellen’s “12 Days of Giveaways,” when every guest receives fabulous gifts valued at nearly $3,000 per person! As part of this rare opportunity, you’ll enjoy an exclusive tour of Warner Bros. Studio and watch actors on the set of a popular Warner Bros. television show. This package includes round-trip airfare for four, and two nights of luxury hotel accommodations at the beautiful Sofitel Los Angeles at Beverly Hills.

Exclusive tour of comedian Jay Leno’s Garage

Jay Leno loves all things automotive, and his Big Dog Garage houses one of America’s greatest collections of cars and motorcycles. Custom-built from the ground up, the garage is staffed by a talented team of mechanical wizards who fix, restore, and customize just about anything imaginable. You and a guest will have the exclusive opportunity to tour Jay Leno’s Garage to see his very own collection of classic cars to super cars, and everything in between.

Thank you to Benefit volunteers!

PACER would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all those who give so much time and energy to make the Benefit a success.

Special thanks to the volunteer leaders:

Benefit Committee co-chairs Jessica Broyles, Betty Kay Crothers, Mary Holmes, Nancy Kaysen, David Kaysen, and Colleen McGough-Wood

Corporate Sponsor Committee co-chairs Don Davidson, Hal Lieberman, and Jim Oricchio

Silent Auction Committee co-chairs Lee Heilicher, Gail Kenton, Carrie Kilberg, Don McNeil, Theresa Read, and Raleigh Segal

PACER also thanks the Benefit Committee members, generous sponsors, dedicated volunteers, and loyal attendees who are all Champions for Children.
Frank Vascellaro: ‘I love what PACER does’

Frank Vascellaro has been involved with PACER’s Benefit since 2007 in a variety of roles: narrating the event video, emceeing the event, and conducting the live auction. “Paula just reached out and asked me,” Frank said of his involvement. “I was very familiar with PACER because the sibling of one of my children’s classmates used PACER. The child’s mother explained all of PACER’s services. It was a real eye opener. I knew this organization made an incredible difference, so I was all in.”

In addition to his day job, co-anchoring the WCCO-TV evening news with wife Amelia Santaniello, Frank has become a certified charity auctioneer, a role he took on almost by accident. “Amelia and I went to charity events when we were dating,” Frank explained. “At one event, Amelia was emceeing and the auctioneer didn’t show up. They asked Amelia if she would do it and she said no, I’m not qualified or comfortable doing that. I wanted to impress Amelia so I said, hey, would it help you if I did the auction?”

The rest is history. After being asked to do a number of auctions, Frank took a week off from the news and took a training course that led to his accreditation as a certified charity auctioneer.

Frank really enjoys PACER’s Annual Benefit. “What sets it apart is the size of PACER’s event: the large number of guests, the enthusiasm people have for the cause, and the really unique live auction items. It’s always stayed relevant. It’s hard to sustain this type of event over time; lots of organizations struggle. PACER’s event has stayed fresh, and the live and silent auction items are so interesting and different; they generate a lot of excitement.”

Last year Frank worked with Andrew Zimmern on emceeing, and he said he looks forward to doing that again this year, along with conducting the live auction. “I love working with Andrew. He’s so spontaneous and hysterically funny! I’ve known him for almost 20 years. He’s just an awesome guy who was authentic before he became a superstar and is still authentic. He really understands PACER in his heart.”

Frank, too, has a deep understanding of PACER. “I have known so many people who use PACER’s services — some who have moved to this area because of the help PACER can provide.

“I love what PACER does.”

PACER’s Annual Benefit Extravaganza!

New this year! Each Extravaganza bag, sold for $100, will contain a unique item such as a necklace, beautiful earrings, and more! Two of the Extravaganza bags will include a man’s or woman’s beautiful Bulova watch.

Suggested retail values: $1,000 and $1,500 | Watches donated by Bulova

Extravaganza bags are only available for purchase at the Benefit.
Jessica Broyles plays many roles at PACER

Being involved with PACER is a family affair for Jessica Broyles, who's been a volunteer, Board of Directors member, staff member, and co-chair of PACER's Annual Benefit. Jessica's parents, Al and Kathy Lenzmeier, first connected with PACER through attending the Annual Benefit. Al went on to join PACER's Advisory Board, and Kathy became involved with PACER's National Symposium on Children's Mental Health and Learning Disabilities. Jessica's 17-year-old daughter, Maggie, is a student leader in PACER's Fun Times group, which holds social events for youth with disabilities and their typical peers.

When Sam, Jessica's second child, was born in 2004, the first call his mother made was to PACER Center. “Sam was born a month early,” Jessica recalls. She and her husband, R.J., had been told that their son might have Down syndrome, so the diagnosis wasn’t a shock. Jessica knew the Broyles needed help. “PACER was there for us,” she said. “PACER's always been there.”

That first call led to Jessica attending a number of workshops, volunteering at PACER, and eventually working as an early childhood parent advocate at PACER. She was a long-serving member of PACER’s Board prior to joining the staff as a parent advocate, and she has co-chaired the Annual Benefit for several years.

“I attended my first Benefit in 2004,” Jessica recalled, “when Sam was just a few months old. The next fall I was helping out, addressing invitations. I asked how else I could help, and a year later I joined the PACER Board of Directors.”

After attending several workshops, Jessica began to volunteer on the board of her school district’s Special Education Advisory Committee. “It was a great group of parents,” Jessica said. “I remember one parent said how nice it was that the district had this group. I knew, because of PACER, that they were required to do so.

“The work PACER does has made special education better in Minnesota, and PACER is a role model nationally. Even parents who don't use PACER benefit, because PACER's advocacy has helped shape the whole special education system in the state.”

After two terms on the PACER Board of Directors, Jessica became a parent advocate for several years. “PACER has an amazing staff,” she said. “The advocates are tireless, knowledgeable, and caring.”

Jessica says that performing in PACER puppet shows is one of her favorite roles. “I usually do maybe 20, 30 per year, but last week I did five!” she said with delight. Jessica performs in the “Count Me In” puppet show with Sally (who has a physical disability and uses a wheelchair) and Corey (who has Down syndrome), and with Carmen in the “Kids Against Bullying” puppet show.

She looks forward to the Benefit every year. “The staff is so organized that it is easy for the volunteers,” she says. “The other Benefit co-chairs, Nancy and David Kaysen, Mary Holmes, Betty Kay Crothers, and Colleen McGough-Wood, are so dedicated and each contributes so much to the event’s success.”

As a long-time Benefit co-chair, Jessica has seen the event from every angle. She didn't hesitate when asked what her favorite part of the Benefit is: “The set up on the day of the Benefit is a blast! I love working with other volunteers to make everything come together. It’s wonderful to be part of an amazing event that supports children and families. It’s a real testament to PACER that so many people come back year after year, both to volunteer and as guests,” Jessica said.
Unforgettable experiences at PACER’s silent auction

Each year, the silent auction at PACER’s Annual Benefit is one of the largest in Minnesota! PACER supporters are invited to bid on an incredible range of exciting items—from the latest in tech to breathtaking jewelry and iconic sports memorabilia.

The auction also includes a number of one-of-a-kind experiences. Here are just a few of the must-watch packages you can win at the 2019 Annual Benefit.

**Vikings VIP package**

You and a guest will be seated in the VIP section near the owners’ seats and 50 yard line. This fabulous package includes food and beverages.

**Tickets to ‘Wheel of Fortune’**

You and your guests will be treated to four VIP tickets for a live taping of “Wheel of Fortune” in Culver City, CA. Experience all the excitement of this classic game show with iconic hosts Pat Sajak and Vanna White.

**Group tickets to ‘The Jason Show’**

You and up to ten guests will enjoy the ultimate behind-the-scenes visit to one of the Twin Cities’ leading entertainment talk shows, “The Jason Show.” This package includes tickets to a live taping of the show, plus a meet & greet with Jason and his staff, and tour of the station.

**Twins Champions’ Club tickets**

Upgrade your ballpark experience with the premiere Champions’ Club experience to a Twins home game. Along with your four tickets to the game, you and your guests will also enjoy valet parking, seat-side serving, and access to the Champions’ Club, stocked with catered food and beverages.

**Activison custom game box**

Enter for your chance to win one of two custom-curated game boxes from Activision available at this year’s auction. Each game box includes a brand new PlayStation 4 Console and a selection of the most exciting game titles.

**Las Vegas condo getaway**

Take in the sights and sounds of the Las Vegas strip from a luxury condo at The Signature at MGM Grand. Your accommodations at The Signature will include an up to five-night stay in a beautiful one-bedroom condo with a full kitchen and relaxing living space.

**Attend ‘The Price is Right’**

Enjoy four tickets to a live taping of “The Price is Right” at CBS Television City in Hollywood. Take your place among one of the most animated live audiences in game show history.

**New this year: Mobile bidding**

For the first time ever, we’ll be using mobile bidding for the silent auction! Bidding opens online at PACER.org/Benefit on Thursday, May 9, and will remain open until the silent auction closes on the night of the event at 8:15 p.m. Don’t forget to bring your charged mobile phone to the Benefit! We will have many volunteers available to help with mobile bidding.

Bid on these items during the silent auction at PACER’s Benefit on May 11!
An amazing auction prize: Win a private dinner with Chef Gavin Kaysen

Gavin Kaysen, the Minnesota-grown culinary superstar and recipient of two James Beard awards, has cooked for celebrities, politicians, and the Dalai Lama. Now, guests at PACER’s Annual Benefit will have the chance of a lifetime. PACER will auction off a dinner for six, personally prepared by Gavin at the home of his parents, Nancy and David Kaysen. Nancy and David are devoted PACER volunteers and Benefit co-chairs.

Gavin, owner and executive chef of Spoon and Stable and Demi in Minneapolis and Bellecour in Wayzata, says he rarely has time to prepare dinners in private homes. “It’s very, very time consuming,” he explained. “I do maybe two per year.” Gavin will devise a special menu for the dinner, and guests will have the opportunity to see him in action.

“We have an open kitchen with an island that seats six,” Nancy said. “The guests will have the chance to watch Gavin and Spencer cook, ask questions, and maybe learn a little something! Gavin really enjoys talking with guests as he cooks.”

Spencer Venancio is a 14-year-old chef who has been featured in a number of publications, including Mpls St. Paul Magazine and Minnesota Monthly. He got his start at age 12, preparing six-course meals for 10 guests at a time at his parents’ home.

“I wanted to do more, so I reached out to chefs,” Spencer explained. An email to Gavin resulted in a meeting, and now he is in the kitchen at Spoon and Stable every Saturday.

Though Gavin is a generous contributor to many organizations, this private dinner is an extraordinary gift to give. Gavin says his reason for supporting PACER is simple: “PACER is the organization my parents are deeply involved with. Since they have always been so supportive of me, I enjoy having the chance to support them by giving to PACER.”

Bid on this amazing opportunity during at PACER’s Annual Benefit on May 11!

Buy your raffle tickets now! VIP culinary experience in Chicago

Experience Chicago like you never have before on this Michelin-quality culinary stay. You and a guest will savor the Salon Experience at three-star Michelin-rated restaurant Alinea, a multi-course tour courtesy of executive chef Stephanie Izard, and more. Airfare and two nights at a hotel for two are included in this remarkable dining getaway.

**Alinea Restaurant — The Salon Experience**

Enjoy a 10- to 14-course tasting menu complete with wine pairings at this three-star Michelin-rated restaurant, led by renowned Chef Grant Achatz. The Salon Experience is valued at $1,200.

**A Goat Hop for Two — Culinary Tour**

Begin with drinks and dim sum at Duck Duck Goat, then dinner at Girl & the Goat, and finish with dessert and a night cap at Little Goat Diner, compliments of Executive Chef Stephanie Izard.

**Smith and Wollensky Restaurant — $100 gift certificate**

Have lunch at Smith and Wollensky, with views of the Chicago River.

*Some restrictions apply. Need not be present to win. To purchase, call PACER at (952) 838-9000 by May 9, or purchase at the Benefit on May 11.*
‘PACERTalks About Bullying’ video series expanded

PACERTalks About Bullying, the popular series of short videos produced by PACER’s National Bullying Prevention Center, is just wrapping up its second season. The video series, which runs weekly from September through April, has produced an amazing total of 60 short videos. “The video series is a great way to share content about bullying prevention from the perspectives of students, experts, and community leaders,” said Bailey Huston, who is coordinator of PACER’s National Bullying Prevention Center and hosts PACERTalks About Bullying. Each video is approximately five minutes in length. The idea for the series came from Chris Moore, the producer of Good Will Hunting and Manchester By the Sea, who is a member of PACER’s National Business Advisory Board. During a visit to PACER, Chris encouraged staff to take advantage of video as a way to spread PACER’s message.

The video series is an engaging and lively way to engage students in learning about bullying prevention. Series guests have included everyone from child and adolescent psychiatrist Dr. Barry Garfinkel, who talked about the impact of bullying on mental health, to Carmen, a puppet in PACER’s Kids Against Bullying puppet show. PACER staff, children who have been bullied, and student leaders are among the other featured guests.

Bailey said that cyberbullying is a major concern of students, and this is reflected in the series content. “We are very responsive to what we hear from students,” Bailey said. In fact, student input led to a new feature within the series, she said.

The series is widely viewed by many teachers and schools nationwide. “A teacher in South Dakota emailed us, asking if we could Skype with her middle school students to answer their questions,” Bailey explained. After Skyping with the students, Bailey and Julie Hertzog, Director of PACER’s National Bullying Prevention Center, decided to offer other students the opportunity to ask questions as part of the series. “We now answer student questions once or twice a month in the ‘Ask Us’ portion of the series,” Bailey said. “It gives students a chance to tell us what’s important to them and for us to respond to their concerns.”

At the end of every video, Bailey signs off with her signature two-handed wave. “I am pretty animated, I talk with my hands. Once I did it, people noticed, and I think they really liked it, so I had to keep doing it!”

Sharp-eyed viewers this season may have noticed that Bailey’s two-handed wave is a little different. “I broke my wrist in a fall on the ice, but I can still wave,” Bailey said. “It’s just that one wrist is in a cast!”

To view PACERTalks About Bullying, go to PACER.org/ bullying/video/PACERTalks. Videos from seasons one and two are available. Season three will begin in September 2019.

ShopAmazon.com to support PACER!

Next time you need to make a purchase from Amazon, you can support PACER programs at the same time! When you visit smile.amazon.com for the first time, you will be asked to select a charity. Simply pick PACER Center and every time you log in, your eligible purchases will result in a donation!

AmazonSmile is a wonderful charitable program that lets you donate a portion of the cost of your purchase to PACER at no additional cost to you. AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know — same products, same prices, same service — but with a generous twist.
PACER’s endowment fund: Helping families today and tomorrow

The families of children with disabilities and children who are bullied count on PACER. That’s why PACER has established an endowment fund goal of $20 million: to ensure that PACER will always be there to help children and families now and in the future.

The endowment is important to Beth Simermeyer, who is involved with PACER as a volunteer and the parent of three children with disabilities. “I have used PACER’s services on many occasions,” Beth said. “The work PACER does is so important to families like mine. I give to PACER’s endowment because I know my gift makes a difference, ensuring that PACER’s programs will be there to serve children and families, no matter whether economic times are good or bad.”

Beth has worked with a PACER advocate on her children’s Individualized Education Program (IEP), has attended PACER workshops, and plans to attend more. Beth said that it gives her peace of mind to know that she can continue to use PACER’s services. “PACER is a strong organization. Paula Goldberg is an exceptional leader. The Board is committed and passionate. The staff is hardworking and talented. It’s a pleasure to support an organization that helps so many families.”

How it works

There are many ways to give. You may make an annual gift, a one-time gift, or a structured gift. Some donors prefer to use their wills or a trust. Donors who are older than 70-1/2 may give up to $100,000 per year directly to PACER without incurring income taxes on the contribution.

Your gift to PACER’s endowment fund is permanently invested; only the investment income is spent.

It’s important to consult your attorney or financial advisor to discuss how to make your gift to PACER in a tax-friendly way.

For more information about PACER’s endowment, contact Paula Goldberg, PACER’s Executive Director, at (952) 838-9000 or pgoldberg@PACER.org.