

HARVEY HOUSE

## **Old Hollywood Gala proves to be a hit**

Event benefits Greater Hope Foundation foster children

By Jose Quintero

Staff Writer

BARSTOW — The Greater Hope Foundation's inaugural Old Hollywood Gala was a success on Saturday night.

The inaugural event was held at the Harvey House, with proceeds benefiting the foster children of the Greater Hope Foundation.

The gala began with Marissa Chavez, a seven-year-old Barstow resident, singing the National Anthem and continued with various acts. The gala featured live entertainment from Hollywood impersonators and musical acts, casino tables, a photo booth and raffle prizes. Barstow Fire Protection District Capt. Nick DiNapoli, Joe Cruz and the Coast to Coast Jazz Ensemble performed a number of jazz standards.

Greater Hope Foundation administrator Elena Rivera said she was grateful to see the Harvey House packed for the event.

"I'm very thankful the community came out to support us in our inaugural event," Rivera said.

Rivera said the proceeds from the gala will provide the foundation with extra resources to provide "enrichment activities" for the children.

"Anytime you can support organizations like this is wonderful, especially because the Greater Hope Foundation staff does such a great job here in Barstow and also in the Victor Valley," President of The Bradco Companies Joseph W. Brady said.

The Greater Hope Foundation cares for over 300 foster children annually in the High Desert. The foundation's goal is to offer a "loving" foster home with trained foster parents to provide a "fantastic" community for children in foster care.

"We just want to provide the children with experiences that are good and memorable through their difficult times," Rivera said. "Many of these children have gone through so much so we want to be able to provide something that they will remember and something that may motivate and inspire them for the future."



Little Miss Barstow Marissa Chavez opens the show with the national anthem at the Old Hollywood Gala benefit for foster children at the Harvey House. JANICE OSBORNE/FOR THE PRESS DISPATCH