

CELEBRATING OUR 21ST YEAR BY  
HONORING ABBOTT, TIA CARRERE, KATE ZANKOWICZ  
& BOB BLUMER



SHINE ON:  
LIGHTING THE WAY TO  
BRIGHTER FUTURES

 MENDING  
KIDS  
[MENDINGKIDS.ORG](http://MENDINGKIDS.ORG)

MARCH 21ST  
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SKIRBALL  
CULTURAL  
CENTER  
LA · CA

# IMAGINE GALA 2026

SPONSORSHIP DECK • MENDING KIDS

# SHINE ON:

## Light the Way to Brighter Futures

Every day, children around the world, and right here at home, wait for the chance to heal. For some, a single surgery means the difference between life and loss, between struggle and possibility.

Through your partnership with *Mending Kids*, that light of hope shines brighter. Each sponsorship, each mission, each mended child becomes part of a growing constellation of healing that reaches far beyond the operating room.

**On March 21st, 2026**

we will gather to celebrate the lives transformed through your generosity and the futures illuminated by your compassion. Together, we shine on — lighting the way to brighter futures for children everywhere.



# OUR MISSION:

## Healing Children, Transforming Lives

At Mending Kids, we're dedicated to a simple yet powerful mission: healing children and transforming their lives. For nearly two decades, we have tirelessly worked to provide critical surgical care to children and mend their futures. Our commitment knows no borders, as we extend our reach to children in need both at home and abroad.

## Why Your Support Matters:

Every child deserves a chance at a brighter, healthier future. By sponsoring the "Imagine Gala: Shine On," you're not only supporting an unforgettable event but also contributing to our life-changing work. Your support is a catalyst for hope, love, and mending – the driving forces behind our mission.



As a sponsor, you play a vital role in making a tangible difference in the lives of children. Your commitment directly impacts their well-being and opens doors to a world of possibilities they may not have had otherwise.

*Join us in this extraordinary journey as we celebrate our 21st year, honor exceptional individuals, and work together to create a world where every child's dream can be realized. Your support will help us continue our mission.*



M E N D A W A R D

# ABBOTT

Abbott has long stood at the forefront of medical innovation and access to care. A trusted partner to Mending Kids, Abbott has helped us raise the standard of pediatric cardiac care across the developing world, donating millions of dollars' worth of life-saving devices that have mended thousands of hearts—from Ethiopia to El Salvador, Tanzania to Cambodia, and beyond.

Their steady generosity has allowed us to focus our efforts on getting our volunteer teams to where they're needed most, rather than raising hundreds of thousands of dollars per mission for supplies.

We can't think of a better way to recognize Abbott's impact and the genuine care they've shown for our mission than by honoring them with this year's Mend Award. Their partnership continues to light the path toward sustainable, self-reliant cardiac care for children everywhere.





LOVE AWARD

# TIA CARRERE

Award-winning actor, Grammy-winning singer, and humanitarian, Tia Carrere has long used her platform to amplify causes that change lives. For over a decade, she has lent her voice, time, and heart to Mending Kids, hosting our events, championing our mission, and helping us reach new audiences with her signature warmth and grace.

Her compassion and generosity embody the spirit of love that drives our work, reminding us that healing extends beyond the operating room. The LOVE Award honors her big heart and our enduring aloha for her, a reflection of the joy and light she continues to share with the Mending Kids family and the children we serve.

HOPE AWARD

# KATE ZANKOWICZ & BOB BLUMER

Canadian television personality, author, and culinary creative Bob Blumer is best known as the creator and host of the Food Network shows *The Surreal Gourmet*, *Glutton for Punishment*, and *World's Weirdest Restaurants*. He is also the author and illustrator of seven cookbooks, including his most recent, *Flavorbomb: A Rogue Guide to Making Everything Taste Better*. Born and raised in Montreal, Bob brings the same mix of artistry and heart to everything he does.

Dr. Kate Zankowicz, an educator and researcher, combines her academic background with deep compassion and a lifelong dedication to children's causes.

Together, Kate and Bob have opened their hearts and home to children who travel to Los Angeles for surgery through Mending Kids. Known lovingly as "Mama Kate" and "Daddy Bob," they have created a space of comfort and care for kids facing life-changing procedures far from their families.

For their unwavering kindness, advocacy, and humanity, we honor Kate and Bob with the HOPE Award – a recognition of their steadfast commitment to standing by our kids when they need family the most.



Mending Kids provides free life-saving surgical care to sick children worldwide by deploying volunteer medical teams and supporting communities to become medically self-sustaining.

Since 2005, thanks to our dedicated volunteer surgical teams from world- renowned medical institutions, we have mended nearly **6000** children from **78** countries, including over **155** kids in the United States and **210** surgical mission trips.



# KEYLA'S STORY



When we first learned about Keyla, she was a little girl in El Salvador whose heart was failing. Her skin had turned blue from lack of oxygen, and time was running out.

Advocates reached out asking if we could help, but no hospital in the United States would take her case. Her condition was considered too complex, and pro bono care wasn't materializing. Without the imaging needed to make a treatment plan, and without the funds to cover surgery in the U.S., there was no clear path forward.

Months later, our team, led by **Dr. Jenny Zablah** from **Children's Hospital Colorado** and supported by the **Edwards Lifesciences Foundation**, traveled to El Salvador for a training mission. We reached out to Keyla's family, hoping to finally get the imaging that could determine if surgery was possible.



Her mother traveled from out of town to meet us, but after years of being told her daughter's condition was hopeless and that there was no help in El Salvador, she was terrified. She didn't want to let us proceed because her family hadn't had a chance to say goodbye, in case Keyla didn't survive the procedure.

It was a heartbreakingly frustrating delay. With every week and month that passed, Keyla's condition worsened. Still, we promised we would come back, and eight months later, when the stars aligned, we did. By then, Keyla was deeply cyanotic, but this time her mother said yes. Our team performed the diagnostic cath and another procedure to buy her more time. As the team watched, her lips went from blue to pink.

Keyla's journey is far from over, but her story embodies what Mending Kids stands for: caring for children when others can't, fighting for those considered too complex, and giving them the best chance at life – and a brighter future.



# SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



VISIONARY SPONSOR	\$50,000
ANGEL SPONSOR	\$25,000
HERO SPONSOR	\$15,000
MEND SPONSOR	\$10,000
LOVE SPONSOR	\$5,000
HOPE SPONSOR	\$2,500
BUTTERFLY SPONSOR	\$1,000

# IN-KIND PRODUCT SPONSOR

In-kind contributions, whether through products or services, elevate the event experience for our guests and donors while providing excellent exposure for your company. In return for your in-kind contribution, your company name will be prominently featured on print materials, our website, newsletters, and social media.

## JOIN US

Together, we can save young lives and restore childhoods.

## SHINE

Illuminate all the good that you do through your support.

## INSPIRE

Be a source of inspiration by helping children and making their lives matter.

## INVEST

Invest in their future as a role model for exceptional corporate citizenship.





VISIONARY	ANGEL	HERO	MEND	LOVE	HOPE	BUTTERFLY
\$50,000	\$25,000	\$15,000	\$10,000	\$5,000	\$2,500	\$1,000

**Year-Round Recognition:** Recognition as Visionary Mission Partner on all 2026 Mending Kids newsletters, mission sponsorship pages, and post-mission reports. Logo and link featured on the Mending Kids website through December 2026.



**Champagne Service:** Champagne service throughout dinner for the sponsor and their guests.



**Program Participation:** Opportunity for a company representative to deliver brief remarks during the program and to share a short (1-2 minute) sponsor video highlighting their commitment to transforming children's lives.



**Enhanced Exposure:** Prominent recognition/'Presented by" in all event-related materials, including invitations, flyers, newsletter, social media, website, Step n' Repeat and event program.





VISIONARY	ANGEL	HERO	MEND	LOVE	HOPE	BUTTERFLY
\$50.000	\$25.000	\$15.000	\$10.000	\$5.000	\$2.500	\$1.000

**Video Spotlight:** Opportunity for your service/product video to be presented on our website.



**Double Spread Tribute:** A dedicated two-page tribute/ad in the event program, which can include a personalized message, images, and branding. Presented by/cover & Double-page ads in the event program.



**Recognized Sponsor:** Recognition in event materials, including invitations, flyers, newsletter, social media, website, and event program.



**Social Media Spotlight:** Logo with a hyperlink on the Gala event web page.





VISIONARY	ANGEL	HERO	MEND	LOVE	HOPE	BUTTERFLY
\$50,000	\$25,000	\$15,000	\$10,000	\$5,000	\$2,500	\$1,000

**MC Recognition:** Recognition as a sponsor via event announcements.



**Step & Repeat:** Recognition throughout the event and on the Step & Repeat.



**Premium Product Placement:** Exclusive product placement in the event's gift boxes.



**Event Recognition:** Recognition on the event web page, and in the event program.



**Program Tribute:** A tribute/ad in the event program for a personalized message and branding.



**Table Sponsorship:** Includes sponsorship of x tables



**VIP Admission:** x additional event admissions



BEFORE 2.26.2026

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Tables(10)	\$3.000
Tickets	\$325

AFTER 2.27.2026

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Tables(10)	\$3.500
Tickets	\$375

## PROGRAM TRIBUTE

Submit by 3.1.2026

Full page tribute:  
\$1000

Half page tribute:  
\$500

Quarter page tribute:  
\$250



# INVESTING IN FUTURES

## Why sponsor our event?

By sponsoring the Mending Kids gala, you're not only supporting critical surgical care but also becoming a vital part of our mission to provide hope, love, and mending to young lives worldwide. Your investment will transform futures, ignite hope, and make a lasting difference. As a sponsor, you'll not only gain valuable exposure and recognition, but you'll also have the opportunity to be part of a compassionate community that believes in the power of healing and compassion.

Your sponsorship will enable us to continue our life-changing work, ensuring that every child receives the medical care and support they deserve. Together, we can create a world where children's dreams can be realized and their potential can be fulfilled. We invite you to be a part of this journey and help us weave a tapestry of hope, love, and mending for children in need.



## VISIBILITY AND BRAND EXPOSURE

Sponsoring the gala offers valuable exposure and recognition, enhancing your brand's reputation and demonstrating your commitment to social responsibility and positive change.

## IMPACTFUL PHILANTHROPY

Your sponsorship directly contributes to providing critical surgical care for children in need. It's a chance to make a real difference in their lives, offering hope and healing.



## EMOTIONAL CONNECTION

The event embodies themes of hope, love, and mending, creating a strong emotional connection. Sponsoring it allows you to showcase your values and engage deeply with your audience.

## LONG-TERM IMPACT

Your investment has a lasting impact, improving the health, education, and opportunities of children, which can transform their lives for a lifetime.

**Fulfillment and Satisfaction:** Supporting the gala provides a deep sense of fulfillment, knowing that you've contributed to a cause that directly impacts the lives of children in need. It's an opportunity to make a tangible and positive difference in the world.

Your support matters; it matters more than you can imagine. Invest in their future, and together, let's make a profound and lasting impact on the lives of children in need.

# JOIN US!



## Mending Kids Team:

Arielle Leviste, Program & Outreach Specialist

Isabelle Fox, Executive Director

Jeffrey Schare, Senior Programs Coordinator

Mary Zimmerman, Programs Coordinator

Raul Isidoro, Programs & TRI Specialist

Sara Nachum, Development Manager

## Mending Kids Board members

### 2026 Officers

Ayal Willner, MD - President

Alexis Crump - Vice President

Leslie Wright Frost - Secretary

Richard Tabura - Treasurer

### Directors

Carmela de Brouwer

Darren Berman, MD

Deidre Bailey

Dorothy Lucey

Eric Doerr

Evan Zahn, MD

### Emeritus

Julia Hans

Robert Bernstein, MD

Robyn Moore



# IMAGINE



# GALA

# 2026



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