



TRIBUTE TO
COURAGE
GALA 🌸 2024

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Care that reaches for the stars.



Casa Colina Hospital is honored to earn Five Stars for Overall Hospital Quality from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) for 2023 – the highest rating available – placing us among just 12% of hospitals surveyed nationally. Our award-winning, state-of-the-art medical, surgical, and rehabilitative services put the patient and their recovery first, each and every time. All care at Casa Colina is provided by physician-led teams of licensed therapists, nurses, and other dedicated clinicians, who all work together to help you regain strength and independence after an injury or illness. Discover *Where Better Begins*.



TRIBUTE TO COURAGE GALA

SATURDAY, MARCH 9, 2024

WELCOME

Katrina Hannah

Elex Michaelson
Master of Ceremonies

Kelly M. Linden
President and CEO

IMPACT AWARD

Video Acceptance
by
Selena Gomez

DINNER & PROGRAM

Tribute to Courage Honorees Presentation

HONOREES

Samantha Bosco

Kathleen Grace

MUSICAL PERFORMANCE

Kathleen Grace

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Casa Colina, Inc. and Affiliates

Our Board of Directors provides a special kind of leadership. Their responsible oversight and forward thinking enable Casa Colina to continue to grow in dynamic ways and evolve into one of the country's top medical and rehabilitation facilities. They comprise physicians, community leaders, and previous patients.

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Our Mission

Optimize medical recovery and rehabilitation outcomes for all patients in a safe environment that respects their dignity, diversity, and individuality.

Vision

Leading and defining excellence in specialized medical, surgical, and rehabilitative care.

Values

Apply clinical excellence, education, and research to enhance quality of life in the communities we serve, with a commitment to compassion, collaboration, and integrity.

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FROM THE CHAIRMAN

On behalf of our Board of Directors, welcome to Casa Colina's Tribute to Courage Gala. Tribute to Courage is a special opportunity to honor the bravery and determination of Casa Colina's patients, while also celebrating the dedicated clinicians and other staff who deliver our



unparalleled brand of rehabilitative care.

Since 1938, Casa Colina has helped tens of thousands of patients to recover after the unthinkable—their lives are suddenly turned upside down by a disabling accident or disease. And every year since, your philanthropic gifts have provided a bedrock of financial support for those who need but lack the ability to pay for our specialized services. Whether directed toward a patient needing extended therapy after an auto accident, or a child requiring speech-language pathology services not covered by their regional center, the donations received from Tribute to Courage and other fundraising events help us to ensure that gift of timely, exceptional care. Every patient is entitled to the fullest possible recovery. Your donations allow us to fulfill that important commitment.

Tonight, we will meet two former Casa Colina patients whose recovery stories are brimming with inspiration. These honorees dug deep within themselves to overcome tragedy, not only achieving success in their journeys back from traumatic brain injury, but tapping into new wells of creative inspiration, talent, and self-expression in the process. Their stories exemplify why we do what we do. For all that may be lost after an accident or illness, there is still much to gain. These honorees demonstrate that it's possible to return even stronger than before, in mind, body, and spirit.

I am pleased to be celebrating this year's gala under the new tenure of President and CEO Kelly Linden. She has proven herself to be a capable, steady leader, overseeing Casa Colina's ongoing success while sharing the same commitment and passion as our tremendous physicians and staff.

With such talented individuals, and with the ongoing support of our charitable base, I believe strongly in Casa Colina's ability to lead and define excellence in specialized medical, surgical, and rehabilitative care. We must always continue to pursue that vision. We owe it to our amazing patients.

Please have a wonderful evening and enjoy the program.



Randy Blackman
Chairman of the Board

FROM THE PRESIDENT

For those recovering from a disabling injury or illness, the road home can be a dark and uncertain one. At Casa Colina Hospital and Centers for Healthcare, our job is to light the way.

Every day, our courageous patients show us what is possible when you combine determination, clinical expertise, and the human spirit. They diligently pursue their recoveries, overcoming an endless list of physical and psychological challenges to regain lost function, independence, and confidence, all in the hopes of returning to the lives they love. Their triumphs inspire us to excel at what we do.

Tribute to Courage is a celebration of these heroes, as well as the dedicated caregivers who encourage and push them throughout their recoveries. It's been said "it takes a village," and this has never been truer than in physical medicine and rehabilitation. Our multidisciplinary care teams, led by our exceptional physicians, work side by side to achieve what we all agree is the only goal that matters: the best possible outcome for each patient served. We guide them, challenge them, and spur them on, executing a care plan tailored around their unique needs. It's simply the Casa Colina way.

Occasionally, our patients discover new inspiration themselves, finding fresh perspective and creativity, even during this most trying time. Tonight's Tribute to Courage honorees were both struck down by disabling injury in the prime of their pursuit of excellence. Having just released a critically acclaimed album, jazz vocalist Kathleen Grace suffered a brain injury alone at home that went misdiagnosed and untreated for months, nearly derailing her career and life. Paralympic cyclist Samantha Bosco, similarly, was at the top of her game when a fluke cycling accident rendered her barely able to walk down her driveway, let alone compete for Olympic medals. Both experienced the fear and darkness that comes with traumatic injury. Thankfully, both eventually found Casa Colina to light their way.

I want to give special thanks to actress, singer, and producer Selena Gomez, the recipient of our inaugural Impact Award, which honors those effecting broad, positive change for people with disabilities. Last year, Ms. Gomez's cosmetics line, Rare Beauty, teamed with our Research Institute to study improvements in makeup product design for those with arm and hand deficits. This compelling exploration resulted in improved quality of life for study participants, and it promises to help many more individuals with disabilities.

On behalf of all of us at Casa Colina, we are appreciative and humbled to have served tonight's honorees, as well as the many other patients who sought to rebuild their lives within our specialized continuum of care. Tonight, we honor their perseverance and strength.

Thank you for joining this wonderful celebration.



Kelly M. Linden
President and CEO

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

ELEX MICHAELSON

Television news reporter



Tribute to Courage 2024 host and television news reporter Elex Michaelson started his career as an anchor and reporter at XETV in San Diego. An Agoura Hills native, Elex's first job in broadcasting was as a FOX 11 intern.

From 2010 through 2017, he was a reporter and fill-in anchor at KABC-TV in Los Angeles. In that role, he covered the story of former Casa Colina Hospital and Centers for Healthcare patient Katrina Hannah, a survivor of the Route 91 Harvest Festival mass shooting in Las Vegas. Despite enduring a grueling physical and psychological recovery after a bullet severed her spine, Katrina spoke publicly about her experience and shared the details of her journey with Elex. He said later he was "honored" to tell the story of Katrina, her family, and the fellow attendees who helped to save Katrina's life.

Currently, Elex co-anchors FOX 11 News in Southern California, weeknights at 5, 6, and 10 p.m. He also hosts and executive produces the political talk show *The Issue Is: With Elex Michaelson*, which airs on stations throughout

the entire state of California.

Elex is a self-described "political junkie" who has conducted

one-on-one interviews with politicians including President Joe Biden, Vice President Kamala Harris, former President Donald Trump, former Secretary of State and Senator Hillary Clinton, California Governor Gavin Newsom, and more. He has co-moderated debates for California Governor, U.S. Senator, Los Angeles Mayor, L.A. County Sheriff, L.A. County District Attorney, and multiple congressional races. Elex has also reported live from the Republican and Democratic National Conventions and from multiple presidential inaugurations.

The L.A. Press Club named Elex the 2023 "TV Journalist of the Year," their top honor. He is the winner of 7 Emmys and 4 Golden Mic awards.

Elex graduated first in his class from the Annenberg School of Journalism at the University of Southern California. He earned Summa Cum Laude and Phi Beta Kappa honors while picking up dual degrees in broadcast journalism and political science.

IMPACT AWARD RECIPIENT

SELENA GOMEZ

Founder and Creator of Rare Beauty



In addition to being an award-winning actress, producer, Grammy nominated recording artist, and mental health advocate, Selena Gomez launched Rare Beauty and the Rare Impact Fund simultaneously in 2020. Selena launched the Rare Impact Fund as part of her commitment to addressing mental health and self-acceptance. By celebrating each other's uniqueness and making people feel more connected, they aim to reduce the stigma associated

with mental health and give people access to the resources they need to support their mental health. By sharing her own story and using her personal platform and brand, she's connecting more people to resources that support their mental health and encouraging others to get the help they need. One percent of annual Rare Beauty sales go directly to the Rare Impact Fund to expand access to mental health services for young people around the world.

Casa Colina's Impact Award recognizes positive, lasting contributions to the fields of healthcare and rehabilitation for individuals with disabilities in one or more of the following areas:

- Philanthropy and/or charitable contributions
- Community engagement and support
- Innovation and research
- Humanitarian efforts
- Leadership and advocacy

Casa Colina is proud to partner with like-minded individuals and organizations to advance the physical, social, and mental well-being of those with disabilities. We recognize the significant social and mental health challenges our patients face as part of their recoveries. That's why our continuum of care provides comprehensive neuropsychological services, helping patients reintegrate into their home and work lives.

The winner of this year's inaugural Impact Award is a champion for inclusion and mental health awareness. Actress, singer, and producer Selena

Gomez is the founder of Rare Beauty, a cosmetics company dedicated to promoting inclusivity in beauty products, as well as the Rare Impact Fund, a charitable organization committed to youth mental health and self-acceptance.

Last year, the Casa Colina Research Institute partnered with Rare Beauty to study an important issue for our patient population: the accessibility of beauty products for those with hand and arm deficits. The study found significantly improved use and satisfaction when accessibility is integrated into every facet of product design. This increased level of inclusivity ensures that everyone, despite the challenges they face, can achieve greater levels of independence in activities often taken for granted and embrace the joy of wearing makeup.

The mission of the Rare Beauty line and Rare Impact Fund resonates with our commitment to improving inclusivity and mental health for our patients, and we are proud to recognize Ms. Gomez with this well-deserved honor.

HONOREE

SAMANTHA BOSCO

Gold medal-winning Paralympic cyclist



Samantha Bosco was born with a posteromedial bow of the right tibia and a calcaneal valgus foot. At the age of 11, with a dream of becoming a professional cyclist, Sam underwent a limb-lengthening surgery to correct the condition, but complications left her with permanent musculoskeletal damage to her right leg.

Nevertheless, she pursued professional cycling, taking part in her first paracycling race in 2013. Three years later, Sam made her first Team USA Paralympic Games roster, winning two bronze medals at the 2016 Paralympic Games in Rio de Janeiro.

In summer 2021, Sam was riding high, nominated for an ESPY for “Best Female Athlete with a Disability,” and recently re-named to the Team USA Paralympic Games cycling roster. Soon after, Sam joined a local group training ride and was involved in a crash with several other cyclists. She regained consciousness days later in the ICU.

Sam’s extensive injuries included a basal skull fracture to her left occipital bone, a fracture to her sphenoid bone, and more. She had suffered a traumatic brain injury that resulted in a reduced sense of smell, ringing and diminished sound in her right ear, and irregular tracking in her right eye. In addition, she was experiencing balance issues and sensitivity to light and sound.

“I was frustrated,” recalls Sam. “On my first walk, I could barely make it down the driveway before falling into my husband’s arms and crying.”

Needless to say, her cycling career was in jeopardy. Sam was in dire need of both physical therapy and vestibular rehabilitation. Luckily, her primary physician suggested Casa Colina Hospital and Centers for Healthcare. Upon admission, Sam met Dr. David Patterson, along with her neuropsychology and therapy teams, who developed a unique

rehabilitation plan based on Sam’s ambitious goal: a full return to cycling. They pushed Sam daily to re-establish normal eye tracking, realign her neck and head, and regain athletic performance.

“In six months of working together, Casa Colina’s doctors and therapists not only helped me to recover physically and mentally, but forever changed my life,” she says.

With hard work, determination, and the help of Casa Colina’s rehabilitation experts, Sam overcame a catastrophic injury that threatened to keep her from the activity she loved most.

Sam returned stronger than ever, becoming the 2022 World Champion in the C4 time trial and road race at the 2022 UCI Para-Cycling World Championships in Quebec, as well as the World Cup Series Overall winner. Then she did it again in 2023, along with two additional ParaPan American Games gold medals. Today, she is currently training to take on more Paralympic Games.

“I can say without a doubt: None of it was possible without Casa Colina.”

HONOREE

KATHLEEN GRACE

Jazz vocalist, songwriter, and music educator



In June 2020, with an acclaimed album and successful career as a faculty member at the University of Southern California’s Flora L. Thornton School of Music, jazz vocalist Kathleen Grace suffered a fall alone in her home. She recalls the slow-motion descent—nearly 7 feet onto her back and head—but not the impact or immediate aftermath of the injury.

It was the height of the Covid-19 pandemic, so Kathleen was initially advised not to visit the emergency department. After a concerning 12 hours, she finally went. Unfortunately, with no CT scan performed, she was incorrectly told that her concussion-like symptoms—headaches, blurred vision, dizziness—would resolve within days. So, she went home.

For the next nine months, Kathleen navigated a twisted path of declining health, including weeks-long migraines, light and sound sensitivity, vertigo, insomnia, and fatigue, as well as cardiovascular issues and worsening complications from POTS and dysautonomia. She could feel her health spiraling—and her music and teaching career with it.

But Kathleen’s friends rallied, advocating for her with healthcare providers and demanding better care options. This is how they found Casa Colina Hospital and Centers for Healthcare. In June 2021—nearly a year after sustaining a traumatic brain injury—Kathleen began eight months of Day Treatment at our Transitional Living Center.

“I will never forget the faces of the doctors on my first visit,” she says. “They saw me, they cared,

they listened. They immediately were thinking creatively about solutions. It was nothing I had experienced before from my previous doctors.”

With the help of Casa Colina’s psychiatrists, therapists, and neuropsychologists, Kathleen worked to address cognitive deficits, fatigue, sensory issues, and crippling anxiety, all in the hopes of regaining some semblance of the life she’d made.

She strived to remain positive, determined to improve her situation.

Now, nearly four years later, Kathleen has returned to music, teaching, and performing, rebuilding her sense of self in the process and finding new inspiration despite the challenges. She will be releasing new music this year for the first time since her injury. And her teaching has become deeply informed by her rehabilitation experience and new knowledge of the central nervous system.

“Traumatic brain injury can be complicated, scary, and isolating,” says Kathleen. “My life was in a dangerous place before I found Casa Colina. This is where I truly began to heal in a setting rare in our healthcare system—one centered on true coordinated care, masterful expertise, respect, and love.

“This healing is the hardest thing I’ve ever done, and I’m so grateful for the chance to be alive and doing it.”

Learn more about Kathleen’s artistic journey at www.kathleengracemusic.com. To purchase her music, visit www.kathleengrace.bandcamp.com.



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This year, we extend our heartfelt appreciation to the dedicated team at Casa Colina Hospital and express gratitude for the unwavering support the hospital receives from the Casa Colina Foundation.

In honoring the courage and strength of Casa Colina's remarkable patients, we reaffirm our commitment to advancing healthcare and making a positive impact on lives.

Thank you for allowing us to be a part of this inspiring journey.



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Tribute to Courage Honorees

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Thank you to the entire team at

Casa Colina

for your dedication to providing
excellent care,

your compassion and empathy to my family
and me during a difficult time,

your expertise and skill in diagnosing
and treating my illness,

and saving my life and guiding me
through recovery.

We are eternally grateful for you all.

The Dopps Family

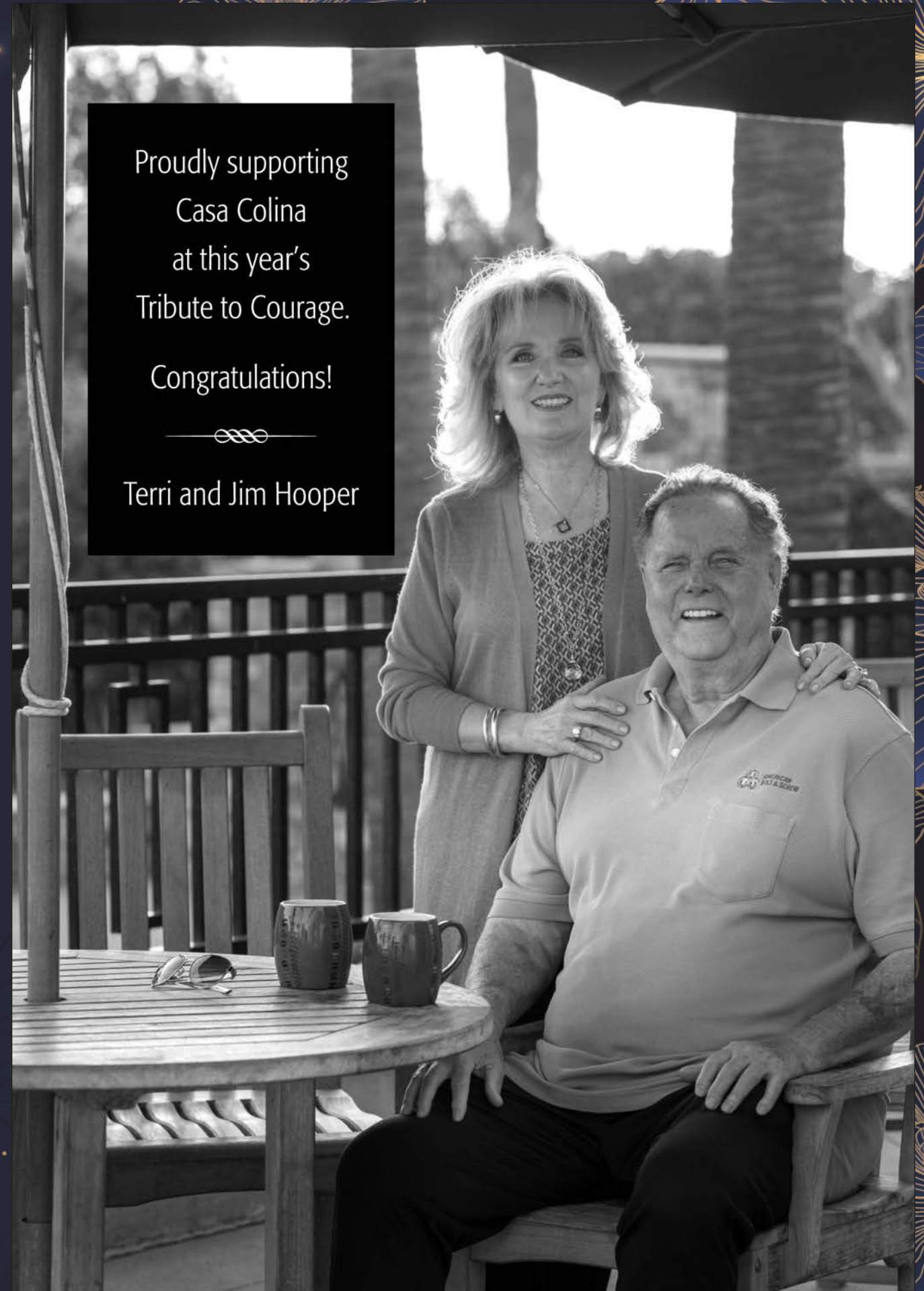


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Celebrating tonight's Tribute to Courage honorees,

**Samantha Bosco and
Kathleen Grace.**

Our deepest gratitude to the doctors, therapists,
and staff of Casa Colina.

Through your tireless work, dedication,
and compassion, you turn the impossible
into the possible and transform the lives of
countless patients and their families every day.



Joanne Lichtman and Doug Evans

Congratulations to our

Casa Colina Team
at this year's Tribute to Courage Gala.



With special recognition of
tonight's honorees,

**Samantha Bosco
and Kathleen Grace.**

Your perseverance and achievements inspire
Casa Colina patients and staff every day.

And, with appreciation to

Selena Gomez,

recipient of the Casa Colina Impact Award,
for your commitment to individuals with disabilities.



Kelly M. Linden
President & CEO, Casa Colina, Inc.
& **Bruce Linden**

Greatness is measured by
courage and service.

Congratulations to our
patients who courageously
strive to recover, and to our
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**The human spirit is one of ability,
perseverance, and courage.**

Tonight we honor the strength and resilience
of Casa Colina patients,

**Samantha Bosco and
Kathleen Grace.**

And, we salute
Selena Gomez,
for setting new standards for accessibility.



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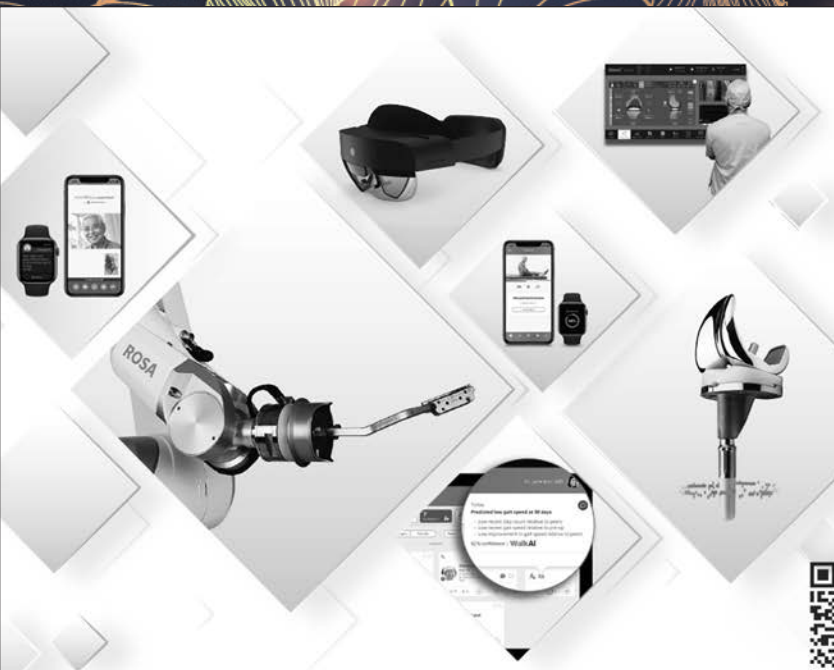
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cour·age ['kərij] noun

1. the ability to do something that frightens one:
2. strength in the face of pain or grief:

Synonyms: bravery, grit, spirit, determination, tenacity, fortitude, heroism

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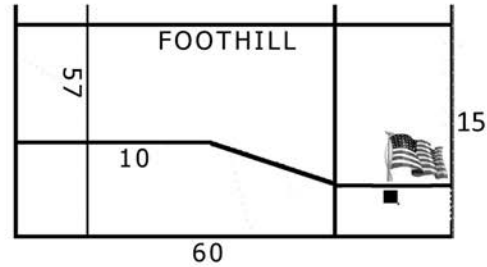
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We also extend special thanks to those who made this Tribute to Courage Gala possible:

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