





SATURDAY, MARCH 29, 2025

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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*.













- HAVANA CASINO NIGHT PROGRAM -

SATURDAY, MARCH 29, 2025

METCOWE

Elex MichaelsonMaster of Ceremonies

EXPRESSION OF GRATITUDE

Kelly M. Linden President and CEO

and
Gary E. Cripe, Esq.
Chairman, Board of Directors

DINNER & PROGRAM

Havana Casino Night Honoree Presentation

HONOREE

Yannick Darmon

Physical Therapist, Casa Colina Researcher, and Patient

COMMUNITY CHALLENGE / PADDLE RAISE

LIVE MUSIC, DANCING, CASINO GAMES



- BOARD OF DIRECTORS -

CASA COLINA, INC. AND AFFILIATES

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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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- GREETINGS -

On behalf of Casa Colina Hospital and Centers for Healthcare, we extend our deepest gratitude for your generous support of Havana Casino Night. Your presence and contributions tonight help provide essential medical and rehabilitative care to individuals recovering from life-altering injuries and illnesses—care that restores independence, renews hope, and transforms lives.

This evening, we come together not only in celebration but in solidarity with those whose resilience inspires us all. We are honored to recognize the courageous spirit of Yannik Darmon, a dedicated physical therapist who sustained a traumatic spinal cord injury that left him a quadriplegic, unable to move his arms and legs. Prior to his injury, Yannick was an award-winning judo athlete, equally at home in the surf or hiking on mountain trails. He had recently received his PhD in Biokinesiology at USC and, over the past three years, had been actively involved with the Casa Colina Research Institute as a researcher on various rehabilitation topics, contributing valuable insights to the field.

With unwavering determination and the expert care provided by Casa Colina, Yannick has made remarkable strides in his recovery—embodying the very mission we uphold: to help every patient reclaim their life to their fullest.

Through your generosity, Casa Colina is able to offer free and subsidized rehabilitation services to patients, like Yannik, who would otherwise be unable to obtain the specialized care they need.

Tonight, as we enjoy the vibrant rhythms and rich culture of Havana, let us remember that the true purpose of this event is the profound impact we make together. Thank you for being a part of this journey and for your commitment to changing lives.

With deepest appreciation,



Gary E. Cripe, Esq.

Chairman of the Board



Kelly Mitale

Kelly M. Linden
President and CEO

- MASTER OF CEREMONIES -

ELEX MICHAELSON

Television news reporter



Havana Casino Night host and television news reporter Elex Michaelson co-anchors FOX 11 News in Southern California weeknights at 5, 6, and 10 p.m. and hosts and executive produces the statewide political show, "The Issue Is: With Elex Michaelson".

Michaelson started his career as an anchor and reporter at XETV in San Diego. 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. Elex has since become a friend and supporter of Casa Colina, hosting its Tribute to Courage Gala in 2024.

Elex is a self-described "political junkie" who has conducted one-on-one interviews with politicians including President Donald Trump, former President Joe Biden, former Vice President Kamala Harris, 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. The L.A. Press Club once named Elex "TV Journalist of the Year", its top honor. He is the winner of 8 Emmys and 7 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.

- HONOREE -

YANNICK DARMON

Physical Therapist, Casa Colina Researcher, and Patient

A lifelong athlete with a curious mind, Yannick Darmon has dedicated his life to pushing human performance boundaries and embracing the outdoors. He is a decorated judo athlete and thrives on adventure—trail running through the rugged San Gabriel Mountains and surfing the waves of Southern California. He began his professional journey as a physical therapist in France before obtaining

a PhD in Biokinesiology at the University of Southern California (USC) in August 2023. While earning his PhD, Yannick collaborated with the Casa Colina Research Institute, supporting research projects on stroke survivors and individuals with spinal cord injuries.

In December 2023, Yannick was preparing for the next chapter of his life. He was considering pursuing neuromuscular research when, ironically, a dramatic fall during a judo competition left him paralyzed. Once fully independent and dedicated to helping patients, Yannick was now confined to a bed at a nearby community hospital and reliant on others for his most basic needs. After stabilization, Yannick transferred to a county rehabilitation facility for further therapy. Fellow students became his therapists, his family and wife became his personal trainers, and his former advisors his guides to navigate this life-altering change. His insurance initially authorized only 60 days of rehabilitation to prepare him for independent living at home. He wasn't ready when the coverage ended. He knew he needed more rehabilitation.



During his time working at the Casa Colina Research Institute, Yannick knew of the Transitional Living Center (TLC) program at Casa Colina. Six days a week, clients receive up to six hours of daily therapy, designed to bridge the gap between inpatient rehabilitation and independent living. Yannick qualified for financial assistance through the Casa Colina Foundation's

Free and Subsidized Care Program enabling him to receive intensive rehabilitation at TLC. Through its individualized program, Yannick made significant progress toward regaining independence. He safely returned home and learned to maximize the skills he acquired from TLC, embracing a satisfying life despite his challenges. Yannick now participates in the Casa Colina Outdoor Adventures and Wheelchair Sports Program, experiencing the joy of canoeing and the camaraderie of wheelchair rugby, demonstrating that adaptive outdoor recreational activities are in abundance, even after a severe injury. He has also returned to the Transitional Living Center for additional therapy while continuing to pursue his research goals.

Yannick continues to focus on his recovery. Now, more than ever, he remains dedicated to advancing the field of neurorehabilitation and is interested in pursuing research in spinal cord injury. Drawing from his unique experience, he aims to develop innovative care programs that empower individuals with spinal cord injuries to lead rich and fulfilling lives.

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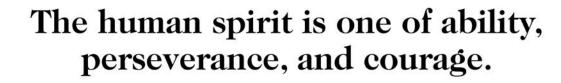
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Tonight we honor the strength and resilience of Casa Colina patient,

Yannick Darmon.



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Casa Colina Team

at this year's Havana Casino Night.

With special recognition of tonight's honoree,

Yannick Darmon.

Your focus, tenacity, and victories are inspiring to us all.



Kelly M. Linden

President & CEO, Casa Colina, Inc.

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In 2007, during one of the most challenging times in our lives, Casa Colina provided essential care that was nothing short of lifesaving for Hal Hargrave Junior. Their expert team offered not just medical treatment but hope and support when we needed it most. This pivotal care marked the beginning of a profound partnership between Casa Colina, The Perfect Step, and the Be Perfect Foundation—a partnership that has flourished for nearly two decades. Together, we've been committed to enhancing the lives of those affected by paralysis, driven by a shared mission of healing and empowerment. As we celebrate this enduring alliance at Casa Colina's gala, we are reminded of the countless lives touched and the community strengthened by our collaboration. Here's to many more years of making a difference together!



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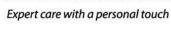
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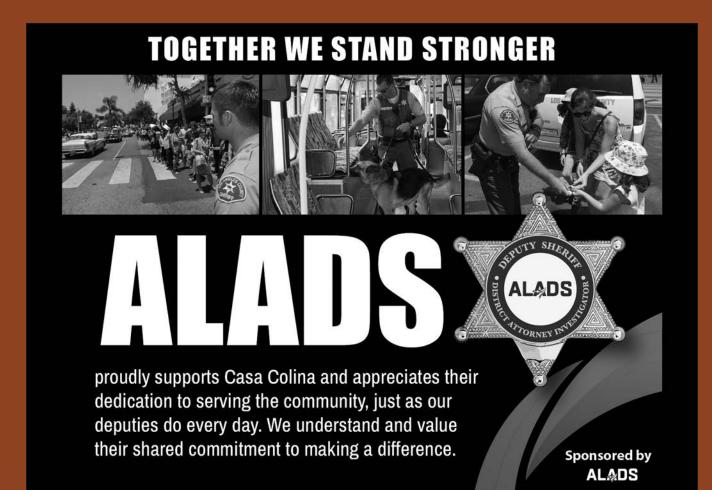
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The Casa Colina Board of Directors, President and CEO, Kelly M. Linden, and the Casa Colina Foundation wish to recognize all who have generously supported this year's Havana Casino Night.

Your support for this event helps Casa Colina ensure the gift of specialized, affordable, exceptional care for all who need it, regardless of their ability to pay. Casa Colina is committed to maximizing your contribution to support individuals who are recovering from disabling injury or illness. We sincerely thank you for your ongoing support.

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