

Lew McGinnis honored by City of Hope

By Judith Smith
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Tucson developer Lew McGinnis was honored Sunday evening by the Tucson Chapter of the City of Hope as its Man of the Year for his contributions to the Duarte, Calif., medical center.

McGinnis was feted during a dinner-dance at the Doubletree Hotel, attended by about 500 guests.

More than \$50,000 was raised by the event, the largest amount in the 28-year history of the Tucson Chapter. Chapter leaders say that Tucsonans who receive the free care for catastrophic diseases offered at the center will receive approximately \$3 in care for every one of those dollars collected.

The McGinnis testimonial started with champagne and hors d'oeuvres at poolside at the Doubletree and continued with a filet-mignon dinner in the Grand Ballroom. Luminarias marked the path from the hotel lobby to the pool, and then traced the way from the pool to the ballroom, where a sea of tables decorated with daffodils and irises awaited the partygoers.

A highlight of the evening was the entertainment by violinist Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg and pianist-conductor Andrew Litton, two young musicians who recently won prestigious competitions.

Salerno-Sonnenberg, 20, who won the 1981 Naumburg International Violin Competition, made her orchestral debut at Carnegie Hall last January. Litton, 22, won the \$5,600 top prize last January in the sixth International Young Conductors awards in London.

Both have studied at the Juilliard School of Music in New York City.

They received a standing ovation after their performance, which included selections from Georges Bizet's "Carmen"; "If I Loved You," from the musical "Carousel"; and Litton's solo

rendition of George Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue."

Music for dancing was provided by the VIPs of Phoenix.

Master of ceremonies Tim Creedon introduced George Amos Jr., a past City of Hope honoree who presented McGinnis with a plaque depicting the "spirit of life," symbolized by a mother and father holding up a child.

McGinnis, 39, a Tucson resident since 1947, was chosen for the Tucson Chapter's highest honor because of his personal and financial support of the City of Hope.

McGinnis started his business career as an 8-year-old, selling eggs door to door. He established his own business at the age of 12, a lettuce-crate refurbishing business, and sold it five years later, when it had grown to 40 employees, to begin buying real estate.

In addition to supporting the City of Hope, McGinnis is president of the First United Methodist Church, a position he has held for the past 10 years, and he is active in many other community organizations.

He was praised by Amos for "giving back" to the community that has helped him obtain his business success.

The City of Hope is a non-sectarian, non-profit hospital that was established in Duarte in two tents in 1913. It is important to Tucsonans, as it is to all Americans, according to Tucson Chapter president Larry Putzel, because scientists and doctors there are trying to unlock the mysteries of catastrophic diseases such as cancer.

City of Hope scientists are studying the structure of genes and the way they work in an attempt to understand the immune system of the human body.

To support the research, and the free medical



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treatment of serious illnesses, such as cancer and diabetes. City of Hope chapters throughout the United States raised more than \$65 million last year.

The Tucson Chapter, which has 800 members, contributed nearly \$70,000 last year.

Creedon and his wife, Joan, were in charge of the dinner. Special guests were Sen. Dennis DeConcini, D-Ariz., and his wife, Susan; Rep. Morris Udall, D-Ariz.; McGinnis' wife, Jennifer; and McGinnis' four sons, Gary, Larry, Danny, and Kelly.

Tucson developer Lew McGinnis, left, greets violinist Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg and pianist-conductor Andrew Litton, center, who entertained at a dinner in McGinnis' honor Sunday night. McGinnis was named Man of the Year by the Tucson chapter of the City of Hope.