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SHARE To Honor Beverly Hills Resident Glorya Kaufman On Saturday

By Laura Coleman

Beverly Hills-based SHARE, Inc. would be hard pressed to find a 2017 honoree who better embodies the power of dance than local philanthropist Glorya Kaufman, who will be feted at tomorrow evening's 64th annual Boomtown gala, "Let's Dance," at The Beverly Hilton.

Founded 64 years ago by seven women friends, SHARE (Share Happily and Reap Endlessly) is today recognized as one of the most successful children's charitable organizations in Los Angeles, having raised more than \$65 million since its inception. The organization is dedicated to raising funds for developmentally disabled, abused and neglected children as well as medical research and is well known for its dynamic gala fundraisers, which over the years has seen

many Beverly Hills ladies take to the stage and dance in costume for this incredible cause.

"I would love everybody in the world to dance. It would give us a healthy country if everyone danced," said Kaufman, whose eponymous USC Glorya Kaufman International Center of Dance opened last October. "Children that learn to dance early are better students, they're happier, they have less stress and they're more focused."

Legendary recording artists The 5th Dimension, featuring original member and lead vocalist Florence LaRue, will headline the evening's entertainment with actor/ventriloquist Jay Johnson serving as emcee.

"We could not think of a more perfect individual to honor at this year's 'Let's Dance' celebration than the



Glorya Kaufman

incomparable Glorya Kaufman," said Ellen Feder, SHARE president. "Not only is Glorya a lover of all things dance, but her passion for and commitment and generosity to the arts have afforded countless young people and audiences of all ages the opportunity to explore the transformational experience of music and dance."

Kaufman said she founded

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GLORYA KAUFMAN

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the USC Glorya Kaufman School of Dance – USC's first new school in almost four decades – to inspire.

"I really grew up knowing that I would always be a philanthropist," she said, underscoring how her mother, who served as president of seven different philanthropic organizations, instilled in her a strong tradition of tzedakah. "I do believe that we should all give back if we can."

Over the years Kaufman has helped better the community in various ways, including helping start a preschool vision screening program through UCLA 18 years ago which screens approximately 1,000 children each year. She also endowed a dance teacher at Inner City Arts in perpetuity. Currently she is helping to transform an old synagogue at Vista Del Mar into a 300-seat

theatre complete with rehearsal rooms which she anticipates will be well utilized by the school's students.

"It has been proven that a youngster develops higher self-esteem, confidence, a more positive outlook on life, increased happiness [and] better mental health [though dance]," she said.

Earlier this week, while delivering the commencement address at the University of the Arts in Philadelphia, she urged graduates to: "Make a difference by courageously expressing your art and standing with others who share your passion.. You must aspire to be leaders in your field and boldly break new ground in ways to help transform the social fabric of the world with your own brand of audacious creative genius."

For more information about SHARE or to attend tomorrow night's gala, call 310-274-5361 or visit www.share4children.org.