**CHARITY EVENT SPEECH**

**FOR**

**MICHELE ROSENTHAL**

Hello everyone. It is a great honor and with much humility that I accept this year’s Helene Wrenn Memorial Award from this wonderful organization. I want to thank my wife Michele for standing by me and for giving me the strength and encouragement to do what I do in order to be able to give back and make a difference in someone’s life. (**If you have kids and grandkids you can say**) I also want to acknowledge and thank my children, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and my grandchildren, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ whose love and honesty show me every day that no matter what circumstances and situations may present themselves, it is our children that are the heart and soul and purpose of life. They are our future and I will do whatever I can to support a worthwhile cause that advances the well being of kids.

For me, it’s a natural extension of who I am and how I endorse and respect my neighborhood and my community that I contribute my energy to this very special organization. I have been Involved with SIBSPlace since the beginning.... and I am proud to be on the Board of Directors. As a business owner, I have observed and participated in the growth and outreach of this wonderful group of committed, caring people. Helene Wrenn left an indelible and lasting impression on this organization and it is a great honor for me to be acknowledged as following in her footsteps.

As we all know, tonight is more than just fun and games... the funds we raise at this event will go towards relieving stress and anxiety in countless children who have found themselves in family crises for which they did not anticipate. It’s our mission to make sure every child that requires the services and programs offered by SIBSPlace’s programs find a second home, a sense of security, and ample doses of much needed attention in times of crisis.

For any of us that have gone through childhood... I’m guessing that’s **MOST** of us... (**Wait for the laugh**), even the most uneventful childhoods can have their rough spots. As Rodney Dangerfield reminded us, “I knew my childhood was rough when my parents gave me **bath** toys... an **electric toaster** and a **plug in radio**...” (**Wait for the laugh**).... Yes, that sounds pretty tough... believe me... **NONE** of our kids at SIBSPlace would **EVER** experience a shock like that!!!

Tonight we focus on generosity, kindness, and abundant giving. The mere fact that all of you have gotten “all dolled up” to enjoy the festivities and the collection of items for our silent auction speak volumes to the level of commitment you have for our mission and our kids. As far as I’m concerned, I intend to give til I have nothing left... I’ll share a little tidbit from Henny Youngman who said, I’ve got all the money I’ll ever need... if I die by four o’clock.” (**Wait for the laugh**).... or, as Mr. Youngman also let us know.... who will ever forget when a guy got hit by a car and as the ambulance arrived, the EMT worker, when providing some first aid asked, “Are you comfortable?”... “Eh... I make a living....” (**Wait for the laugh**). The truth is, we all have **enough,** andwhen it comes to giving**,** there’susually that extra step we can take, especially when the peace of mind of children are involved. Charles Dickens said, “No one is useless in this world who lightens the burdens of another.” Thank you again for this very generous honor and may we, as a collectively generous and committed group find the way to ease the burdens of as many children as we possibly can. Thank you all!!