**THE EVENT:** This year, Canine Companions celebrates 35 years of uniting highly trained service dogs with people who have special needs. The underlying theme of CCI’s annual Bon Appetit fundraising event was “great pairings.”

**THE BUZZ:** More than 750 people gathered Sept. 12 to celebrate the era of the CCI’s inception in the mid-1970s. Some revelers took it upon themselves to get decked out in tie-dyed t-shirts and disco regalia while they enjoyed the delectable food and wine pairings in one of the many tents and booths that dotted the Jean and Charles Schulz campus.

**THE PAYOFF:** Organizers said the event raised $287,000 for CCI’s programs.

**FOR 2111:** The famously emotional and inspiring CCI graduation ceremonies are set for Feb. 11, May 13 and Aug. 12.

**THE BUZZ:** A certain bliss visited Jacques and Barbara Schlumberger’s gorgeous Dry Creek Valley winery on the luxuriant evening of Sept. 11, as 200 guests sipped exquisite wines, gently swayed to jubilant jazz and classical music and sampled luscious Park Avenue Catering hors d’oeuvres.

**THE CAUSE:** Patrons of the 2010 Sunset Soiree, a benefit for Listening for a Change, came to enjoy themselves and boost efforts to promote the acceptance of human diversity through education, oral history and the arts. The Soiree raised more than $30,000.

**THE HONOREES:** Each year, Listening for a Change bestows the Connie Coddington Humanist Award on a Sonoma County individual who works to dissolve the barriers that divide people and contribute to prejudice and injustice. The group broke with tradition at the Soiree and presented the honor to the Graton Day Labor Center for building better communication among its community’s farmers, workers and business people.

**UP NEXT:** Listening for a Change will be back at Michel-Schlumberger Wine Estate for its annual fundraiser Aug. 27, 2011.