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# Skater Dorothy Hamill is honorary chairwoman for Miracle on El Paseo Gala

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Dorothy Hamill is honorary chairperson for this year's Bighorn BAM — Behind a Miracle — charity group's Miracle on El Paseo. She will light the Christmas tree at Saturday night's Miracle on El Paseo gala. / Omar Ornelas/MyDesert

Written by Sherry Barkas MyDesert

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**PALM DESERT** — In October 2007, Olympic gold medal figure skater Dorothy Hamill heard the words all women fear: You have breast cancer.

Now in remission, Hamill will be on El Paseo Saturday evening, helping a local charity raise money for breast cancer treatment and services for valley patients and their families when she serves as honorary chairwoman of Bighorn BAM's Miracle on El Paseo.

Hamill will flip the lights on the 60-foot tall Christmas tree during the gala, planned for 5 to 8 p.m. in front of The Shops on El Paseo. The street will be closed from Highway 74 to Ocotillo Drive from 4 to 10 p.m. for the event, which is also scheduled to feature a visit from Santa Claus and professional ice skaters performing to the music of Citrus College's 22-piece dance band, Night Shift.

"I'm thrilled. When I saw all the funds that it raised, I got goosebumps ...," Hamill said.

"It's really nice to be able to help women and children who can't get the help the rest of us can."

## Pays for basics

Last year's Miracle on El Paseo raised about \$28,000, said Bighorn BAM — Behind a Miracle — founder and chairperson by Selby Dunham, also a breast cancer survivor. Funds stay local, going to Eisenhower Medical Center's Lucy Curci Cancer Center and The Pendleton Foundation, which assists those affected by breast cancer with financial needs that include gas to get to medical appointments, rent or utilities, groceries and other necessities, "so they can focus on healing," Dunham said.

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### Miracle on El Paseo gala

**When:** 5-8 p.m. Saturday  
**Where:** At The Shops on El Paseo  
**Cost:** \$100

**Tickets:** Available in advance by calling (760) 610-8218 or at the door the night of the event

**Attire:** Warm holiday cocktail

**Parking:** Valet entrance off of Ocotillo Drive, behind the Daily Grill

**Information:** (760) 610-8218 or

[www.bighornbam.com](http://www.bighornbam.com)All who attend Saturday night's event will receive a VIP Shopping Card valid through Dec. 2 with special offers at participating retailers to benefit Bighorn BAM.

Since it was started six years ago, Bighorn BAM has raised about \$2.56 million for breast cancer, Dunham said.

Dunham and Hamill have known each other for several years, having met through a mutual friend, and Hamill said she wanted to be part of the Miracle on El Paseo last year, but had scheduling conflicts.

Dunham started BAM when she was going through radiation treatment at the Lucy Curci center and she befriended another patient

who missed a treatment one day because she missed the bus — her sole transportation from Indio.

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