

Walden's Spring Soirée Brings Hope and Help to Foster Kids



KUDOS/GIVING

Stephanie R. Glidden

Walden Family Services, the nonprofit foster care, adoption and youth services agency, hosted its Spring Soirée recently at the Pamplemousse Grille to celebrate May 2016 Foster

Care Month. The event raised more than \$25,000 to fund programs that prevent child neglect and abuse, match kids with foster and adoptive families and prepare young people to become productive members of the community.

The presenting sponsors were **Karen Hoehn and Jo Hannah Hoehn of Hoehn Jaguar Land Rover of Carlsbad.**

Rajah Gainey, a former foster youth and Walden board member, shared his story about entering foster care at two weeks old, then re-entering foster care at age 7. Gainey credits Walden for seeing his potential and providing him a lifelong mentor who helped him recover from the trauma of broken relationships.

In related Walden Family Services news, the nonprofit announced the appointment of three San Diegans to the agency's Governance Board of Directors: **Stephanie Brownell**, CFO of **Hunter Industries**; **Sheila Ferguson**, an active volunteer leader in San Diego's nonprofit community and a member of Walden's audit committee since 2012; and **Denise Jackson**, president and CEO of **Balboa Travel Management.**

More than 300 San Diegans participated in the fourth annual Hope

Walk recently at Coronado Tidelands Park, raising more than \$40,000 for the San Diego Chapter of **Huntington's Disease Society of America.**

"Proceeds from the walk will serve ongoing research and education toward finding a cure," said **Misty Daniels**, event chairwoman and board member. Sponsors of the walk included **Ionis Pharmaceuticals Inc., Vertex Pharmaceuticals Inc., Lundbeck, Teva Pharmaceutical, Sunbelt Rentals and Republic Moving & Storage.**

Sundt Construction Inc.'s San Diego employees have selected three local nonprofits to receive **Sundt Foundation** grants totaling \$12,000 this quarter. To date, the organization has awarded more than \$7 million in donations to organizations throughout California, Arizona, Texas and beyond. The grant recipients were **Feeding America San Diego, San Diego Hope for Humanity and Miracle Babies.**

Gelson's Markets presented **Trish Boaz**, executive director of the **San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy**, with a donation of \$5,000 to support its conservation, education and recreation programs. The conservancy was chosen for the importance of the work it performs in the North County community. The donation was funded by the 10-cent-per-brown-bag fees.

Villa Musica, San Diego's only nonprofit community music center, has appointed **Nina Baker** to the position of director of community partnerships. In this role, Baker oversees Villa



Photo courtesy of Walden Family Services **Walden Family Services Spring Soirée Presenting Sponsors Jo Hannah Hoehn (left) and Karen Hoehn of Hoehn Jaguar Land Rover of Carlsbad.**

Musica's offsite programs and staff with a focus on underserved populations and STEAM (science, technology, engineering ARTS and mathematics) education. Founded in 2005, Villa Musica now has 640 students enrolled in various programs in underserved neighborhoods across the city. The majority of programs are offered in Southeast San Diego and

are free of charge to participants. Visit villamusica.org.

Solutions for Change, a San Diego nonprofit dedicated to solving family homelessness, has named **Dr. David Crean** as chairman of its board of directors. Crean is a managing director of **Objective Capital Partners LLC.** Also named to the board were **Mark Fingerlin**, chair of a CEO-peer advisory board for **Vistage International**; **Leanne Abraham**, founder and president of **Premierehire**; and **Jack Landers**, of **Teague Insurance Agency.**

Solutions for Change conducts a 1,000-day intensive educational and employment retraining model that takes dependent families in the deepest of poverty in America and solves their homelessness permanently.

Scripps Health announced that its Scripps Cancer Care's 25th Spinoff Gala raised \$1.2 million and drew 450 guests at the **Hyatt Regency La Jolla at Aventine.** The gala has raised more than \$16 million for cancer care and research since its inception. **Robin Rady**, breast cancer survivor, served as the event's chairwoman for the second consecutive year. Proceeds from the event will help build multidisciplinary clinics at the Scripps Radiation Therapy Center in Torrey Pines and at the Mercy Cancer Center in Hillcrest, San Diego, allowing patients to have the option of receiving their care in one location, as well as crucial patient supportive services.

Send Kudos/Giving items to sglidden@sdbj.com.

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