



Harley and Maryanne Sefton (presenting sponsors), Dr. Reid Abrams and Micki Olin (event co-chairs), Hal and Hilary Dunning (honorees), Vicki and Chris Eddy (event co-chairs)

Nights in White Satin

STORY AND PHOTOS BY VINCENT ANDRUNAS • SPECIAL TO THE U-T

WALDEN FAMILY SERVICES FUNDRAISER

Fortunately, most of us were raised by caring parents, in secure homes where we could grow, learn, and develop. We experienced the joys of childhood as our upbringings prepared us for stable and successful adult lives. But far too many kids don't have such advantages, and instead find themselves taken from their dysfunctional families and placed in foster homes which may not be much more stable or secure.

Since 1976, Walden Family Services has worked to provide foster care and adoption services throughout Southern California. The nonprofit organization's mission is to support the lives of children and families through lasting relationships, providing long-term benefits to them and to the entire community.

Part of the funding for this work comes from donations and contributions, and WFS has become famous for its annual "Wine D'Vine" fundraisers — events featuring fabulous entertainment from such great classic artists as John Fogerty and Peter Frampton. Vicki and Chris Eddy teamed up with Dr. Reid Abrams and Micki Olin, donning rock-chic outfits and co-chairing this year's gala at the Hyatt Aventura. Their event — a 350-guest sellout — was perhaps the best ever.

After a reception featuring cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, guests sat for an excellent dinner featuring an autumn salad, Cabernet-braised short ribs and dual dec-

adent desserts. Andrea Naversen emceed the program, which included videos of WFS' pioneering work and the story of Haley Bergam's heart-rending journey through the foster care system and her ultimate success. Hilary and Hal Dunning were honored with the Fostering Hearts Legacy Award for their extraordinary decades-long support of WFS. A live auction and paddle-raise pledges accounted for about \$320,000 of the event's projected \$400,000 net, which will fulfill the most critical needs of foster children and youth in Walden's many programs.

The evening's stellar entertainment was the Moody Blues, exceptionally popular since the late 1960s. Presenting sponsors Harley and Maryanne Sefton introduced them (they also sponsored Frampton last year). Earlier, co-chair Abrams had suggested that guests "think back to some of the things that you might have been doing for the first time to the sound of the Moody Blues," eliciting whoops and applause from the audience.

Original bandmembers Justin Hayward, Graeme Edge and John Lodge performed "Nights in White Satin," "Question," "Ride My See-saw," "Your Wildest Dreams," "I Know You're Out There" and many more of the group's best-loved hits. The hour-plus concert may indeed have been a historic event: According to someone very close to the band, this was the group's last performance together.



John and Kathryn Stephens (she's WFS director of philanthropy), Sue Evans (WFS COO), Teresa Stivers (WFS CEO), Ellen and Dr. T.K. Bryson



Dr. Jeffrey and Linda Gorwit, Faye Enriquez, Christine Santos, Rashida Elimu, Rajah Gainey



Dale Ganzow, Arlene Lieberman (WFS board chair), Art and Michelle Candland, Leslie and James Levinson



Edith Pedroza (WFS transitional housing supervisor), Ted and Emily Shults, Ben Haddad, Julie and Dale Yahnke