

**Joyce Glazer** >> KUDOS/GIVING

## Sempra Looking to Generate \$1.5M for Needy Families



Sempra Energy and Sempra Energy Foundation launched a \$1.5 million initiative with Armed Services YMCA and San Diego Food Bank on May 28. Sempra Energy Foundation volunteers will distribute food and other essential items to 200 preapproved military families in the Murphy Canyon area. The Food Bank will receive a \$50,000 grant and the Armed Services YMCA a \$20,000 grant to continue the foundation's efforts to help families in need. From June 15 through July 3, all Sempra Energy employees will have an opportunity to donate funds to a select list of nonprofit organizations in Southern California. The Sempra Energy Foundation will match employee contributions dollar-for-dollar, up to \$500 each, according to a news release ... Home Start received a \$65,000 grant from the San Diego Women's Foundation for the Home Start Economic and Employment Development program. The program will provide a link for low-income workers toward a career in ac-

counting, business and/or tax preparation through training, internship and career development. "This grant will change the lives of many deserving people, giving them the education, training and skills development leading to careers that will enable them to support themselves and their families," said Home Start CEO **Laura Mustari**. The Women's Foundation awarded \$200,000 in grants. Others receiving funds were **Alliance for African Assistance**, **East County EDC Foundation** and **International Rescue Committee** ... **Center for Community Solutions** held its 10th annual Tea on the Town on May 21 at the **San Diego Marriott Mission Valley**. **Joan Waitt** was recognized as Program Volunteer of the Year for her long-standing commitment to breaking the cycle of violence. **USA Federal Credit Union** received the Corporate Partner of the Year award for its commitment to the community and for selecting CCS to be its Charity of Choice for the year ... The **Bank of America Charitable Foundation** is accepting applications for the Neighborhood Builders and the Local Heroes categories of its Neighborhood Excellence Initiative until June 30. Neighborhood Builders

will benefit two organizations working to promote vibrant neighborhoods and each will receive a \$200,000 grant. Additionally, five Local Heroes will be recognized for their community service and leadership that contribute to neighborhood vitality. Each hero will receive a \$5,000 contribution to an eligible nonprofit of his or her choice ... **The James Irvine Foundation** planned to honor the 2009 recipients of its Leadership Awards on June 9 at a ceremony in Sacramento. Six recipients are getting \$125,000 each. **Jennifer Vanica** of **Jacobs Center for Neighborhood Innovation** is the only San Diegan being honored. The awards celebrate leaders who are advancing innovative and effective solutions to significant state issues ... **The California Restaurant Association, San Diego chapter** honored **Barona Resort & Casino** with a Gold Medallion Award for Best Casino Dining. This is the fourth consecutive year Barona has been recognized ... **The San Diego Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers** has selected the Rancho Bernardo Reservoir as this year's recipient of its annual Award of Merit. The award was presented May 16 at the annual ASCE Banquet

at the **Hilton La Jolla Torrey Pines** ... **The Grossmont Healthcare District** honored five East County residents with a 2009 Healthcare Hero Award. Among those receiving awards was **Augie Ghio**, chief of the **San Miguel Fire Protection District**. Ghio serves on the board of the **Burn Institute** and has led numerous local fire and public safety initiatives. The awards were presented May 6 at **Sycuan Resort** near Dehesa Valley ... **The American Heart Association** raised \$120,000 at its inaugural San Diego Heart Ball held May 16 at **The Grand Del Mar**. The funds will be used for research to help prevent, treat and defeat heart disease and stroke, and for educational programs ... **Karl Strauss Brewing's** sixth annual Beach to Brewery Beer + Music Fest was held at its main brewery in Pacific Beach on May 9. The event raised \$13,000 for **Surfrider Foundation, San Diego chapter**. Karl Strauss has donated \$68,000 to Surfrider, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the protection and enjoyment of our oceans and beaches.

*Please send Kudos and Giving items to contributing writer Joyce Glazer at [jglazer@sdbj.com](mailto:jglazer@sdbj.com).*