

June 6, 2008

YWCA San Diego centennial gala raises \$110,000

OrgWatch

By Pritish Behuria

In 2008, the **YWCA of San Diego County**, which has supported local women, children and families with social services, is celebrating its centennial birthday.

With that in mind, a centennial gala was held for the organization at the home of philanthropist and community volunteer Joan Waitt on May 3. The event was attended by more than 300 community leaders, volunteers and concerned patrons and raised \$110,000 toward women and children affected by domestic violence.

The gala included a silent auction, cocktails, dinner, dancing and a VIP reception. At the event, the organization's Chief Executive Officer Casey Gwinn talked about plans to renovate the historic downtown YWCA building built in 1926 and the expansion

of the YWCA's Becky's House programs. Gwinn also said the organization would host the San Diego Family Justice Center under the YWCA of San Diego County umbrella in order to create a strong collaboration amongst other non-profit service providers in San Diego counties.

Gwinn unveiled the new vision of the YWCA of San Diego County. It was a sneak peek to of the plans to renovate the historic downtown YWCA building built in 1926 and the expansion of the YWCA's nationally recognized Becky's House programs.

Additionally, he also elaborated on hosting the San Diego Family Justice Center under the YWCA of San Diego County umbrella, to create a new, stronger collaborative among other non-profit service providers working with women, children and families in need right here in San

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Diego County. This vision will provide a permanent location for the Center as well.

Women's Foundation awards San Diego Women's Foundation awarded \$223,000 to five new community partners at its annual Grants Celebration, held at the Joe and Vi Jacobs Center at Market Creek Plaza June 3.

The SDWF is made up of 260 members who contribute \$2,000 each year for a minimum of up to five years. This has resulted in over \$1.54 million worth of grants to 45 nonprofit community partners, and the creation of an endowment of \$1.78 million.

This year marked the eighth year of awarding grants for the SDWF and the awards were presented to organizations that will use funds to support young people in vulnerable communities. Awards comprised \$60,000 for Barrio Logan College Institute's "Brighter Futures Youth Collaborative"; \$52,000 for "Project L.I.V.E."; \$25,000 for Kids Korps USA's "Engaging City Heights Youth in Volunteer Service Activities"; \$26,000 for Tariq Khamisa Foundation's "Peace Empowerment Project — Middle School Leaders and Peacebuilders", and \$50,000 for Vista Community Clinic's "Project Reach."

"In the short history of this organization, we have accomplished so much," said Carol Chang, SDWF president. "We have educated and inspired many women to be savvy philanthropists, we have given broadly and diversely to the San Diego community and we have created a real legacy of

dollars, effort and energy to sustain us into the next decade and beyond. It is truly humbling and awe-inspiring to be a part of this dynamic operation."

Arc hosts wine-tasting festival

The **Arc of San Diego's Sulpizio Family Arc Center of San Diego** will host its annual Wine Tasting & Silent Auction at 3035 G Street, San Diego, on June 27.

The proceeds from the event will benefit the center's vital services and quality programs for people with disabilities.

Wines will include selections of chardonnay, cabernet and merlots for tasting, while local band, Zzajj, will provide entertainment of rhythm and blues, and jazz, at the event.

Event sponsors include **Fleming's Prime Steakhouse & Wine Bar, Bread on Market, Wine Vault and Bistro, City Arc Angels and Windmill Farms.**

Children's Museum Park

The opening of the **Children's Museum Park**, located on Island Avenue across from the new Children's Museum, will be held at 2:30 p.m., Thursday.

The park is located adjacent to Martin Luther King Jr. Promenade and includes a playground, reading circle, shade trellises, a lawn area and artwork by artists such as Quincy Troupe and Roberto Salas.

It is a collaboration among the **Centre City Development Corp.**, the **New Children's Museum** and the city of San Diego.

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Fire victims get more time for scholarships

The San Diego Foundation has extended the application deadline for scholarships for students victimized by October's wildfires.

High school seniors, college students or vocational students who lost their homes or source of income during the firestorms now have until June 30 to apply for college aid. The average amount awarded is \$3,500.

The foundation has distributed \$82,500 through three fire-related scholarship programs, including one funded by singer Gwen Stefani. Stefani donated \$165,000 in proceeds from her Oct. 30 concert in San Diego, and she returned

to the city May 17 to present scholarships to 16 recipients.

Students can download an application for After-the-Fires scholarships at www.sdfoundation.org, or call (619) 235-2300 for more information. -A.C.

SAN DIEGO Metropolitan

June 2008

Sara Wilensky Napoli has left The San Diego Foundation and starts this month as president of the local office of **Astone**, a full-service ad and PR agency. Astone is the agency that created the "Endow Your Passion" campaign for the foundation's **Endow San Diego** initiative. Taking Napoli's slot as v.p. of marketing and communications at the foundation is **Anna-Marie Rooney**, who has worked there a year.