

HGH's Annual Gala Will Help Keep the Good Works Going



KUDOS/GIVING

Stephanie R. Glidden

Nearly 350 guests gathered to celebrate **Home of Guiding Hands'** 43rd Annual Gala recently at the **US Grant** hotel to raise roughly \$175,000 for more than 2,000 infants, adolescents,

and adults with developmental and intellectual disabilities throughout San Diego and Imperial counties.

The event honored **Dave and Charlene Walker** for their many years of support, contributions, time and dedication to the people HGH serves, the role the couple plays on the Capital Campaign committee, as board of governors, and their sincere commitment to making a difference in the lives of people with developmental disabilities.

Gala committee members included **Yvonne Bloom, Marcy Blumberg, Sherry Delsen, Juli Elliott, Sharon Gray, Lisa Miller, Ralleen Ratzlaff, Jen Singer, Irene Stone and Rachel Wood.** Also serving on the committee is HGH board member **Mary Miller.**

Major sponsors included **Avista Technology Solutions, The Bloom Family Fund of the Jewish Community Foundation, Delsen & Co. LLP, HUB International, Quick Dry Flood Services, Sycuan Casino, Superior Care Pharmacy, Blumberg Law Offices and Union Bank.**

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Mayor **Kevin Faulconer** announced the **City of San Diego's** plan to devote \$80 million to provide more housing



Photo courtesy of Home of Guiding Hands

Alex Garner (left) and members of the Walker family Brandon, Dave, Charlene, Brooke and Josh, were honored at the Home of Guiding Hands' 43rd Annual Gala for their many years of support.

to ease the region's homelessness crisis. **Father Joe's Villages'** President and CEO, Deacon **Jim Vargas** said the city's plan includes awarding up to \$30 million to create 300 new units of permanent supportive housing and "at its core, San Diego's homelessness crisis is a housing crisis."

This funding aligns closely with **Father Joe's Villages'** plan to provide approximately 2,000 additional affordable homes, including motels transformed into apartments, that will help **Father Joe's Villages** and other providers help more people stay off the streets for good. More than 1,000 people are sleeping on the streets of downtown on any given night.

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Enthusiastic volunteers stationed themselves at nearly 200 major intersections throughout the county during the morning commute recently to collect donations for San Diego's

Ronald McDonald House Charities, contributing to a fundraising total of \$212,000 for **Red Shoe Day.** All funds benefit San Diego's **Ronald McDonald House,** which helps keep families close to each other and the care they need while children are undergoing treatment at a local hospital.

Chuck Day, president and CEO of **Ronald McDonald House Charities of San Diego,** said, "Our House relies on the support of the community to help us provide lodging, meals and emotional support to families going through difficult times."

The annual fundraising event is supported by presenting sponsors **Wells Fargo, CBS 8, CW and San Diego County McDonald's;** other supporters include **Geico, Kiwanis Club of San Diego, The UPS Store, Super Shuttle, Brinks, EcoLab, KFMB FM, KFMB 760 AM and KIND Snacks.**

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San Diego Center for Children announced it will expand mental health services provided through its **Family Wellness Center** in La Mesa due to a partnership with **Price Philanthropies Foundation.** A three-year grant award for \$220,000 will support the **Family Wellness Center's** services to effectively meet the mental health needs of a child and their family — regardless of the severity of their mental health needs or insurance coverage.

Center staff found traditional treatment models that only focus on the child to be much less effective than models that engage the whole family system. By assessing and treating the entire family as a whole, the Center hopes to see more positive and sustained outcomes.

Dr. Moisés Barón, president and CEO of the **San Diego Center for Children,** said, "...As we celebrate 130 years of serving the community, we continue to look for innovative ways to provide evidence-based therapeutic and educational services to the youth and families we serve. **Price Philanthropies'** significant investment will allow us to test the effectiveness of a newly developed and comprehensive family-centered approach based on best practices to address the needs of children with mental, emotional, and behavioral disorders that is also responsive to the needs of the family."

Last fiscal year, the **Family Wellness Center** empowered the lives of 2,750 youth and family members.

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