



PHILANTHROPY

By Kim Haman

Starlight, Star Bright

► **Mildred García**, Cal State Fullerton president; **Bill Cheney**, president, CEO, Schools-First Federal Credit Union

More than 4,000 friends and supporters of **California State University-Fullerton** gathered on campus for the school's annual Concert Under the Stars on Sept. 19.

The event grossed more than \$750,000, which will be used for student scholarships and programs, such as the Guardian Scholars Program, which awards full scholarships to former foster youth or students at risk of homelessness.

The evening featured music presented by CSUF alumni, students and special guests.

"Tonight's concert supports the education, the stories and the success of nearly 39,000 current Cal State Fullerton students," said **Tim Alexander**, a 2015 graduate of the Guardian Scholars Program. "Thank you for believing in our students."



Bits & Pieces

Kellie Pendergest, former director of advancement at **St. John's Episcopal School**, joined the **Irvine Public Schools Foundation** as director of communications and marketing, and two-time U.S. Olympic athlete **Donald Suxho** stepped in as director of business development. ... **GameChanger**, a nonprofit organization that provides video games to hospitalized children with life-threatening illnesses, is partnering with **Child's Play** to launch the **Gamers Give Back Tour**, which will enable the organization to visit and deliver gifts to 75 children's hospitals next year.

Kim Haman can be reached at philanthropy@ocbj.com.

Seeing Stars on Red Carpet

► **Joe Adams**, CEO, president, **Discovery Cube Orange County** and **Discovery Science Foundation**; **George Argyros**, chairman, CEO, **Arnel & Affiliates**, and his wife, **Julia**, of **Argyros Family Foundation**; **Rick Baily**, board chairman, **Discovery Science Foundation**, vice president, **Boeing Test and Evaluation**

Orange County philanthropists and business and community leaders gathered on Sept. 26 for the **Discovery Cube Orange County** vintage-Hollywood-themed gala, **Premiere—A Red Carpet Affair**. The sold-out event raised more than \$575,000 for science education.

It also honored **Julia Argyros** of the **Argyros Family Foundation** and her husband, **George**, chairman and chief executive of **Arnel & Affiliates**, with the **Arnold O. Beckman Award**—named in honor of the world-renowned scientist, inventor, philanthropist and civic leader who was one of Discovery Cube's founding donors—for their support of Discovery Cube's initiatives in the community.

"Discovery Cube is a world-class organization that changes lives every day, and we are proud to be associated with them," Julia Argyros said.

The event also launched the new **Spirit of Discovery Award**, which was presented to **Linda White-Peters**, vice president of community relations at **Discovery Science Center**, for her service to Discovery Cube.

The gala was held at the expanded the Discovery Cube campus. The dinner program was held at the new **Julianne Argyros Showcase Theater and Exhibition Hall**.



Raising Money, Razing Homelessness

► **Bassam Fawaz**, SVP, chief information & technology officer, **PAAMCO**, with wife, **Cherine**; **Tianna Huffman**, office manager, **Marx-Okubo**, with companion, **Gaspere Gladstone**; **Parrish Boren**, president, **Marx-Okubo**; **Gary Cohn**, executive vice president, **Marx-Okubo**, with wife, **Joelle Harguindeguy**

More than 400 guests joined **Families Forward** to celebrate 31 years of service to local families in crisis at the organization's **The Art of Giving** gala. The event took place Sept. 19 at the **Fairmont Hotel** in **Newport Beach**. It raised \$400,000, which will be used to support programs that help families at the edge of homelessness gain independence and stability.

Families Forward also honored partner companies **Marx-Okubo** and **AvalonBay Communities**. It presented the **Partner in Hope Award** to **Marx-Okubo** for helping guide **Families Forward** through the purchase, design and construction of additional affordable housing properties. The **Spirit of Community Award** went to **AvalonBay Communities** for improving access to affordable housing in its apartment communities.

"Because of these remarkable partnerships with industry leaders, we had an incredible year of growth, serving 30% more families in cities across Orange County," said **Margie Wakeham**, executive director of **Families Forward**.



Great Time for Great Cause

► **Chad Sidles**, benefits consultant SVP, **HUB International**, tournament chairman; **Kristen Allison**, president, CEO, **Burnham Benefits Insurance Services**

Armstrong/Robitaille/Riegle was the title sponsor of the **Insurance Industry Charitable Foundation's** annual **Insuring the Children Golf Tournament**.

The event took place at the **Arroyo Trabuco Golf Club** on Sept. 22 and raised \$93,000. The money will be distributed to Orange County nonprofit groups that fight child abuse and neglect, including the **Child Abuse Prevention Center OC**, the **Children's Bureau**, **Olive Crest Treatment Centers**, **Seneca**, and **Big Brothers Big Sisters OC**.

Anthem Blue Cross, **Burnham Benefits Insurance Services**, **HUB International**, **Lincoln Financial Group**, **UnitedHealthcare**, and **Word & Brown** were among the companies that supported the event through sponsorships and in-kind donations.

"Insuring the Children has done an excellent job at staying close to the charities we serve and has been instrumental in raising awareness and significant funds for specific programs," said **Kristen Allison**, president and chief executive of **Burnham Benefits**.



Even in affluent Orange County, one in five children could go hungry tonight. So we make sure that more than 90 cents of every dollar we spend goes directly to filling those little tummies with nutritious meals. To find out how you can help, visit FeedOC.org.



PAAMCO Special thanks to PAAMCO for their generous underwriting.