



# PHILANTHROPY

By Kim Haman

## Building Better Lives

► *Margie Wakeham, executive director, Families Forward; Madelynn Montoya, director, housing acquisition and management, Families Forward; Jillian Miller, grants and communication manger, Families Forward; Allen Staff, president, Bank of America Orange County; Adelena Lopez, Bank of America Community Volunteers; Shari Battle, senior vice president, Orange County market manager, Bank of America*

In December, **Bank of America** named **Families Forward** its 2015 Neighborhood Builder. Families Forward was recognized for its work helping Orange County families in need achieve and maintain self-sufficiency by finding realistic solutions to affordable housing.

The award combines leadership development resources for the nonprofit organization's executive director and an emerging leader within its organization, along with \$200,000 of flexible funding intended to help increase its capacity and impact in Orange County.

“We recognize that nonprofits and their leaders are on the front lines as they tackle tough community issues that are vital to Orange County's economic growth,” said **Allen Staff**, Orange County market president at Bank of America. “Families Forward already provides vital services that help Orange County families regain economic independence and through Neighborhood Builders we hope to help grow and expand its services so that they can do even more in our community.”

