Putting Families First

Margie Wakeham, executive director, Families Forward; Tracie McCloskey, interior designer; her husband, Richard, founder, chairman, Tax & Financial Group

First Foundation. Brookfield Residential DRWAR Kia Motors, Avalon Bay Communities, Southern California Gas. Ernst & Young and several other Orange County businesses joined together to sponsor Families Forward's 32nd annual gala, An Evening of Hope. More than 450 guests attended the event. which took place Sept. 17 at Fairmont Hotel in Newport Beach.



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It raised more than \$465,000, which will be used to help homeless or near-homeless families achieve self-sufficiency by providing counseling, housing, food, career coaching, education, and other support services.

Brookfield Residential received the Spirit of Community Award in recognition of its efforts to increase the number of affordable homes in the Orange County area through the donation of planning, negotiating and project management.

Interior designer **Tracie McCloskey** received the Partner in Hope Award for contributing her expertise in design and decor to the Families Forward Program Center and new homes to welcome families entering its housing program.