

the Voice

A Gorgeous Sunset, A Grand Setting and A Great Graduating Class

You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself any direction you choose.

— Dr. Seuss's *Oh, the Places You Will Go!*

Quoting from one of her favorite Dr. Seuss books, The Honorable Laura Birkmeyer gave a rousing speech at this year's *Celebrating Achievement* on May 13 at the Point Loma home of Rebecca and Craig Irving. More than 70 guests, VFC staff and Board members were at the graduation event to congratulate the 21 attending high-school graduates.



Judge Laura Birkmeyer encouraged the graduates to continue their education

As the guests mixed and mingled, they enjoyed carne asada and fish tacos that were freshly grilled out on the Irving's back lawn overlooking the ocean. The Glen Fisher Band returned for a second consecutive year to provide live music for everyone to enjoy as they watched the sunset.



A shy graduate was escorted by friends to accept her gift from Sharon Lawrence and Pat Hughes

In addition to The Honorable Laura Birkmeyer, Voices for Children President/CEO Sharon Lawrence introduced each graduate and invited them to share their future plans. It was truly inspiring

to hear each graduate speak with such hope and optimism for the future.

Program Supervisor Jane Wehrmeister who has attended every *Celebrating Achievement* event, shared her perspective on why the ceremony is so important. *Earning a high school diploma can be very difficult for teens in the dependency system. These teens live with constant uncertainty. They can come home to find packed bags and their social worker ready to move them to a new home and school—often in the middle of a semester with a completely different set of classes. They are expected to get caught up, make new friends and learn the rhythm of the school—sometimes two or three times in one school year.*



Makua members showed their support at Celebrating Achievement

The CASAs assigned to these children keep them motivated and hopeful. CASAs repeatedly tell their case teens they can succeed and earn that diploma! CASAs meet with the children's teachers to discuss how best to help the teens adjust to their new school environment. They arrange for tutoring or other academic support needed. CASAs are educational cheerleaders for these children. Celebrating Achievement is an opportunity to both fete our graduates' accomplishments and recognize their CASAs for the difference they made in one child's life.

A Permanent Collection at Nordstrom

"Watch the card. Are you watching the card?" Magic Mike asked his enraptured audience as he showed the kids trick after trick. On Saturday, May 8—the day before Mother's Day—dozens of young guests with their mothers, fathers and friends in tow were treated to delights like Magic Mike when they arrived at Voices for Children's administrative offices. The lobby was filled with fun and lively entertainment from magicians to a balloon artist to a trio of musicians. In addition to entertainment, Giuseppe Catering provided delicious treats for both the children and the adults. The children were all here to paint tiles that would eventually become a permanent part of Nordstrom Fashion Valley's Kids Wear's floor.



Magic Mike delighted the children with his tricks



Artist and Teacher Charles Bigger

After the children had time to enjoy the entertainment, they were led into a classroom where artist Charles Bigger gave the kids a short lesson on tile painting. The tiles all had a unifying theme of sea life, but after that it was left to each child's imagination. The miniature masterpieces ranged in styles from ferocious sharks and

wiggling octopuses to dainty starfish surrounded by a school of baby fish. When each child finished their tile, they had their picture taken with it before the tiles were packed away to be prepared for installation. When Nordstrom completes its renovation, all of the young artists with their parents will be invited for a "scavenger hunt" in the Kids Wear department.



Lauren Hermas and Kai



Barbara Burgener with her children, Ben and Luis

We extend our heartfelt appreciation to Nordstrom for providing us with this wonderful fundraising opportunity—100% of the ticket sales were donated to Voices for Children—and for completely underwriting the entire party. The project was a creative and unique way for our donors and their children to support our agency. A special thank you to Jeff Lewis and Eleanore Gutwein for organizing this delightful event where every detail to the tiniest apron was perfect!



NORDSTROM

MISSION STATEMENT

Voices for Children, a nonprofit organization, endeavors to ensure abused, neglected and abandoned children who have become dependents of the San Diego County Court will have a safe and permanent home. Through a network of trained and educated volunteer Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs), Voices for Children works with key agencies, legal counsel and community resources to identify and protect the best interests of each child inside and outside of court.

Voices for Children Board of Directors 2010-2011

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Welcome to Ann Parode Dynes
and Beth Plavan who are new to
this year's Board!

Newly Formed Community Advisory Council

In March, 21 community and business leaders were welcomed into Voices for Children's first Community Advisory Council (CAC). The group, led by Co-Chairs Joan Waitt and Tom Murphy, will work on strategic development, message branding and partnership growth. Through a series of meetings, the members will help us focus on growth for the coming years. CAC members include:

Joan Waitt, *Co-Chair*
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Katie Sullivan
Dale Yahnke

Makua Unveils New Logo

Makua, Friends of Voices for Children, heralds an era brimming with fresh ideas and renewed energy with a new logo! The restyled logo captures the heart and spirit of what Makua means to the San Diego community.



Fostering Futures

by Sylvia DuBeau



Voices for Children was one of 16 nationally selected agencies by the National CASA Association to implement, *Fostering Futures*, a pilot training program designed to better prepare older youth as they transition out of the foster care system into adulthood. "We sought CASA programs that are well-managed, have strong infrastructures and leadership, a good record of sustainability, and the capacity to engage in a significant new project," noted Michael Piraino, National CASA Association CEO.

Generously underwritten by the Walmart Foundation, the \$75,000 grant will enable Voices for Children to provide specialized training and curriculum to volunteer CASAs as they develop specific transition plans and identify supportive adult connections with their case children.

Each year in San Diego, an estimated 200-300 young people between the ages of 18 to 21 are legally required to age out or exit the foster care system. Transitioning to adulthood without the benefit of a strong family support system creates unique hurdles for these young adults to overcome. As a result, they are often at greater risk of homelessness, unemployment, substance abuse, criminal involvement and mental health issues. *Fostering Futures* will equip volunteer CASAs with tools to assist their case children, between the ages of 14-21, in achieving positive outcomes and making successful transitions to independence.

Voices for Children staff received their *Fostering Futures* training in May, began teaching the new curriculum to 17 volunteers in June and completed training 75 volunteers by August. So far, each CASA has found value in the information and the instructor. One volunteer commented, "The facilitator is obviously passionate about this program. The information was presented clearly and effectively."

Once the pilot is successfully completed, *Fostering Futures* could become a national model for all CASA programs. The potential for more young adults exiting foster care better equipped for life will be greatly increased.

Paving the Way to *Starry, Starry Night* 2010

More than 150 guests arrived at Dawn and Bill Davidson's lovely waterfront home on June 30 to support the Davidsons and their friends, Caroline and Tony Farwell, as Event Chairs of this year's *Starry, Starry Night*. The guests were treated to a scrumptious selection of hors d'oeuvres and drinks as they mixed and mingled. Halfway through the party, the chairs took a few minutes to thank the attendees, especially event hostess and Honorary Chair Joan Waitt for graciously welcoming *Starry, Starry Night* back to her home and Jeffrey Strauss of Pamplemousse Grille for underwriting all of the catering for the cocktail party.

The highlight of the evening for everyone was when former foster child and Real Word speaker Tasha spoke about her personal journey. The audience was silent as they listened to her share the many rejections she experienced as a young girl and the fear she felt of following in her family's footsteps. The hope and love rang clear in Tasha's voice as she spoke about her CASA and the future. Nothing more eloquently captured the impact her story had than when a man softly pleaded with Tasha to "please stop" when an airplane flew overhead in fear he would miss a single word.

The cocktail party was only a small taste of what was to come at *Starry, Starry Night* 2010. Read the next issue of *The Voice* for full coverage of the event with photos!



(Left to Right) Tony and Caroline Farwell with Dawn and Bill Davidson



Rochelle Bold and Sharon Lawrence



(Left to Right) Joan Waitt, Lee Posnock, Event Co-Chair Caroline Farwell and Kelly Dorvillier

Wishes Granted!

Voices for Children relies on the generosity of foundations, corporations, and family foundations to fund its operations and provide CASAs to children. Recent grant awards include our loyal supporters at **Farrell Family Foundation** — \$20,000, **Bank of America Foundation** — \$20,000 and **San Diego County Bar Foundation** — \$15,000. **Las Patronas** funded \$14,972.44 for a new copier, printers and other much needed equipment. **Wells Fargo Foundation** presented \$11,500 thanks to the influence of caring individuals at Wells Fargo Home Mortgage, while **HD Supply** and **St. Germaine Children's Charity** each granted \$10,000. Other grantors in recent months include **The Fieldstone Foundation**, **U.S. Bank**, **B.I.A. Cares for Kids**, **The Pratt Memorial Fund**, **TJX Foundation**, **Kiwanis of La Jolla**, and **The Hay Foundation**. These gifts enable more CASAs to advocate for more needy children—thank you!





The Ladies of Makua

A Muy Caliente Time at Humphreys by the Bay



The weather was mild in Point Loma on Saturday, June 19th for everyone but the attendees of Makua's Rockin' Rumba—who had a hot, hot time! More than 200 lucky guests were treated to a rare dance performance by the ladies of Makua. They might work hard at fundraising and promoting the mission of Voices for Children, but they still know how to have a good time. The fun-filled event grossed more than \$102,000!

Makua transformed the seating area at Humphreys into a Caribbean nightclub complete with a Copacabana beach bar, a Mercado of fabulous silent auction items, a Tropicana casino for some gambling fun, and Latin dancers who wowed the viewers with their shimmies and intricate footwork. As the attendees enjoyed a Latin-themed menu, they listened to Candace, a Real Word speaker, talk about her journey through the grueling foster care system and how her CASA helped make her dreams come true. The live auction was spiced with luxury items like private jet rides and a decadent dinner with well-known chef Deborah Scott and unique opportunities such as an internship at Cox Communications and a chance to shadow three top doctors at Scripps Mercy Hospital. Attendees included Voices for Children President/

CEO Sharon Lawrence and current and former Board members Dave Jackson, Melissa Blackburn-Joniaux and Scott Dickey. Other participants were Mr. and Mrs. Jim Kidrick of the San Diego Air and Space Museum, Dr. and Mrs. Ned Chambers, Megan Bryan and Bruce Peeling, and Carl and Gayle Nuffer.



Makua Member Kiki Morton and her husband, Asa Dan Morton, with Randy Prendergast and his wife and Makua Member Kim Prendergast



Dance Co-Chairs Dawn Eastman and Cindy Garrett



Iia and Scott Dickey



Dr. Eugene and Mary Rumsey



Tom Driscoll and his wife and Makua member, Karen



Ken Pickle with Makua Treasurer Barbara Meserve

Corporate Gifts—Starfish!

Does your company or organization give out a corporate holiday gift? Help Voices for Children by suggesting our starfish! Our full line of hand-blown starfish paperweights, ornaments, keepsakes and sterling silver starfish jewelry are beautifully packaged and available in a range of price points from \$15 to \$140. See what we have to offer at www.speakupnow.org.

For more information, please contact Lisa Jeong at (858) 598-2213 or lisaj@voices4children.com.

Volunteer Milestone

Being a volunteer at Voices for Children is no small task. It takes heart, a passionate belief in what you do and the perseverance of a bulldog in the face of obstacles. For a volunteer to stay on a case or take on new cases for a decade or more is a huge accomplishment and a testament to their energy and dedication to our county's foster youth. We are proud to welcome seven new members to our veteran volunteer group of 10 years or more. Thank you for sticking with us and our "children" through thick and thin.

Kay Childs
Araceli Engbrecht
Cristina Garcia
Wendy Koen
Joann Logans
Madeline Penner
Virginia White

Staff Milestone

Paul Kerstetter has left an indelible mark during his five years at Voices for Children.



Congratulations on your fifth anniversary at Voices for Children, Paul!

Program Team Leader Cailin Reeder describes

him as "a positive, caring and supportive Program Supervisor who can always provide sound advice to his co-workers and the many volunteers he has worked with over the years." Paul's dedication to our community's foster children is a true inspiration. We congratulate him on his landmark anniversary and look forward to another five wonderful years!

The more you lose yourself in something bigger than yourself, the more energy you will have.
— Norman Vincent Peal

Discounted Theatre Ticket Sales to Benefit Voices for Children

San Diego County Credit Union, in conjunction with Broadway San Diego, has selected Voices for Children as the beneficiary of three shows for the 2010/2011 season: *Burn the Floor* (Oct 12–17, 2010), *Next to Normal* (Jan 18–23, 2011) and *The Wizard of Oz* (Feb 15–20, 2011). If you purchase discounted tickets (up to 40% off the regular price) via San Diego County Credit Union's group rate, a portion of the ticket price will be donated to Voices for Children.

Interested? When tickets are available for the above shows, we will post a link to San Diego County Credit Union's group page on our homepage! So check www.speakupnow.org on a regular basis and look for "Discount Theatre Tickets."

Please note: the discounted rate does not allow the buyer to select their own seats, but does allow you to purchase by section.

Thank you to San Diego County Credit Union for offering this wonderful opportunity to Voices for Children!



**Wednesday and Thursday
October 20-21**

**Bloomingtondale's
The Shopping Benefit
Fashion Valley**

Love WHERE YOU Live

THE SHOPPING BENEFIT TO SUPPORT YOUR COMMUNITY.

Give a Little, Get a Lot! Voices for Children will be part of Bloomingtondale's **Love Where You Live** shopping benefit. Present your Charity Calling Card and invitation to Bloomingtondale's Fashion Valley at the charity Welcome Table on level one and purchase a \$10 ticket. 100% of the ticket proceeds will go to Voices for Children and you'll receive a 15% savings on almost every purchase throughout the day. Plus, Bloomingtondale's will donate \$5 as a 'thank you' to Voices for Children for your attendance.

So stop on by and support Voices for Children, October 20-21!

End of Fiscal Year Stats

- 1,105 children served with a CASA-17 over goal
- 48,000 hours donated by 700 volunteers (valued at \$1.1 million per IndependentSector.org)
- 5,151 children provided with assessment services
- 250 volunteers trained through Advocate University

We thank you for your support and belief in our mission. Without your contributions, we wouldn't have reached or exceeded many of our goals this year.

Vehicles for Voices

Don't let an unused car, plane, motorcycle or plane gather dust! Donate it to Voices for Children

where the money raised will go toward providing more at-risk foster youth with CASAs!

For more information about Vehicles for Voices, contact Lisa Jeong at 858-598-2213 or lisaj@voices4children.com.

Information Session Calendar

To learn more about Voices for Children and becoming a volunteer, join us at one of our many Info Sessions.
October 20 / November 18 (Thurs.)
December 15 / January 12, 2011

All sessions are on a Wednesday from 5:30 to 7:00pm in our training room, unless otherwise noted. Please RSVP to Susan Smith at 858-598-2235 or susans@voices4children.com.

The Ironman Challenge

As if training to compete in a grueling triathlon wasn't hard enough, Michelle Nation decided to add fundraising to her first Ironman! The former foster mother was "incredibly touched when [she] learned about the CASA program" and wanted to use her athletic endeavor to help raise money for Voices for Children. Through the Janus Charity Challenge, Michelle was able to easily track her donations and encourage her friends and family to support her. On June 27, Michelle swam 2.4 miles, biked 112 miles, ran 26.2 miles and completed the Ford Ironman Coeur d'Alene! Congratulations, Michelle, on your first Ironman and helping us raise more than \$1,500!



Michelle Nation with Kristie Nation

CASAs and Real Word in the News

On April 16-19, three Real Word speakers attended the National CASA Conference in Atlanta with VP of Volunteers Sabrina Goosby, Training Coordinator Megan Ray and Program Supervisor Paul Kerstetter. The Real Word speakers, former foster youth, were invited as National CASA Association's guest speakers at one of their most-popular sessions.

On May 13, Real Word speaker Tasha and CASA Barbara Rolando were interviewed by NBC 7/39. The news anchors also spoke about Voices for Children during the news broadcast and encouraged their viewers to consider becoming CASAs.

On July 30, Voices for Children was featured in the *San Diego Union-Tribune*. CASA Genevieve Knych-Rohan was interviewed with her former case child, Candace. To read the entire article, visit our website www.speakupnow.org and click on "In the News" at the bottom of our homepage.



Graduates Speak Up

At this year's *Celebrating Achievement* party we had 21 high school graduates in attendance with their CASAs. We wanted to share some of their future plans.

I plan to get an AA in child development, business degree at a four-year and then open my own group home. - Adam, 18

I will go to community college, have my baby and become a nurse. - Rennie, 19

I am going to go to Mesa to play basketball and volleyball, then four-year to play basketball and volleyball. - Paula, 18

I graduated [high school] already, but I want to become a nurse or go to cosmetology school, you know whatever pays the bills. - Marissa, 20

I will enroll at San Marcos, then UC Fullerton. Oh, my CASA whispered in my ear, brain surgeon. - Trina, 18



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A CHILD HEARD.



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CASA Association



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2010 Tournament Champions- Dale Yahnke, Steve Mayfield, Hank Bauer and Rich Logan (not pictured)



AI and Mary Treadwell, Dennis Bradstreet and Nancy Watt



Marlene Brennan, Tournament Co-Chair Dave Jackson and Jeff O'Connor

A Swinging Good Time

The room roared with laughter as emcee Hank Bauer poked fun at himself for being hair challenged. Jokes and laughter were the tone for the day at Voices for Children's 18th Annual Golf Tournament on Monday, April 19. Spirits were high as the 120-plus players hit Fairbanks Ranch Country Club's immaculate greens for an 18-hole tournament. In addition to the shamble-formatted competition, guests enjoyed the opportunity to tee off against two of the county's best young long-ball hitters, Chris Durso and Vincent Stong, and a hole-in-one challenge with a prize of \$25,000!

Following the tournament, the players were joined by friends and spouses for a hosted cocktail reception and silent auction featuring sports memorabilia and fine wines. As the guests enjoyed their cedar-plank grilled salmon and fork-tender barbecue pork ribs, they watched a moving video that featured a few of our CASAs discussing the harsh reality of foster care and the children for whom they advocate through Voices for Children. Moved by the video, the attendees donated almost \$30,000 in support. The live auction featured an acrobatic flight with a competitive pilot, a golf foursome at the legendary Olympic Club with airfare from Southwest Airlines, tickets to The Tonight Show with Jay Leno with a 42" flat panel television, and many other great items.

The annual event netted almost \$85,000 in support of our CASA program! Thank you to everyone who helped make this tournament a fantastic success, especially our volunteers Carol Cohn, Laurel Conly, Kathryn Diamond and Karen Driscoll.



Judge Thomas Ashworth, Michael Ashworth with founder-CASA Kathryn Ashworth



Pat Gravitt, Brian Galligan, Tournament Co-Chair Brad Tecca with his wife, Emma, and Brett Ward

2010 Golf Tournament Committee

Behind every great tournament is a hardworking committee. Cheers to ours for being the best!

Dave Jackson, *Co-Chair*
 Brad Tecca, *Co-Chair*
 Melissa Blackburn-Joniaux
 Steve Dorinson
 Monte Sahba
 Robin Stark
 Dale Yahnke

Live Auction Donors

Thank you for providing a fabulous array of items that were a hit with our golfers!

Laura and Ethan Boyer
 Angela and Koji Fukumura
 Dave Jackson
 Susanne Marx and Steve Dorinson
 Rory Moore
 NBC 7/39 San Diego
 Qualcomm Incorporated
 Southwest Airlines
 Ashley and Ryan Stone
 Brad Tecca
 Waitt Family Foundation

Thank you also to the many Silent Auction and other donors who helped make this event a success.

Congratulations to this year's winners!

It's not whether you win or lose—but whether I win or lose. – Sandy Lyle

First Place Gross (Tournament Champions)

Hank Bauer • Rich Logan
 Steve Mayfield • Dale Yahnke

Second Place Gross

Jeff Ackley • Steve Brownell
 Ted Fogliani • Greg Maloney

First Place Net

Kathryn Ashworth • Michael Ashworth
 The Honorable Thomas Ashworth • Tom Ryan

Second Place Net

Barry Kendall • James Peterson
 Rich Torykian • Vincent Willyard

The VFC Players Group

We wanted to recognize the members of **The VFC Players Group** for pledging their support of our golf tournament!

Darin Boles
 Laura Boyer
 Anthony Farwell
 Pat Hughes
 Dave Jackson
 Susan McClellan
 Susan McKenna
 Alan Talbott
 Haeyoung Kong Tang
 Brad Tecca

Tournament Sponsors and Underwriters

Thank you to the following individuals, companies and organizations for supporting our 18th Annual Golf Tournament. We are very grateful to have so many regular tournament supporters who return each year to play with us!



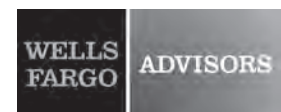
THE SCARANO FAMILY



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Voices for Children's Major Donors 2009-2010

Voices for Children is privileged to count more than 350 individuals, companies and organizations as key supporters. Their kindness enables Voices for Children to provide volunteer CASAs (Court Appointed Special Advocates) to at-risk foster youth in San Diego County. This list includes donors of \$1,000 or more accumulated from April 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010. (Thank you, also to the many in-kind and other donors not listed.)

\$100,000+

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Makua, Friends of Voices for Children
Price Family Charitable Fund
(A combined gift from Jennifer and Mark Freedman, Hervey Family Fund, Price Family Charitable Fund, Price-Lynn Collaborative Fund, and Weingart Foundation)
Qualcomm, Incorporated
Charles E. White

\$75,000+

Judicial Council of California
Joan Waitt Family Fund 🌻
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Nikki St. Germain Memorial Golf Tournament

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Marie and David Lynn
Letitia MacFarlane through Price Family Charitable Fund
Judith and Guy Maddox
Victoria Maffei
Anita and Michael Mahaffey
Barbara and Edward Malone
Elizabeth Manchester
Jo and Eugene Marchese
Larry Marcus
Marcia and Michael Martin
Lisa Mason
Cari and Bassam Massaad
Melaine and John McAndrews
Molleen and Kenneth McCain
Susan and Craig McClellan

Alison and John McCloskey
Janet and John McCulley
Linda and Don McKinney
Ival McMains
Barbara Meserve and Ken Pickle
Margaret and Paul Meyer through Price Family Charitable Fund
Karian Mitchell and Tom Forsyth
Sara Montrose and Nick Ralbosky
Ed Moore
Sandy and Jesse Morgan
Kiki and Asa Dan Morton
Andrea and Gregory Moser
Elaine and Tom Murphy
New Metro Design, LLC
Northrop Grumman Employee Charity Org. (ECHO)
Jeff O'Connor
Tamara and Tim O'Horgan
Jeff Ostrove
Pacific Cares
Beth and Bill Penny
Jennifer Perkinson
Kim and James Peterson
Maryanne and Irwin Pfister
Marlese and Mel Pinney
Jessie Pollock
Tom Pollock
Jori Potiker and Michael Brown
Kim and Randy Prendergast
Procopio Cory Hargreaves & Savitch LLP
ProFlowers
Quidel Corporation
Pamela and Steven Quinn
Jane and Joseph Rascoff
Anne and Mike Rauch
Gina and Gregory Rippel
Janice and John Rooney
Rotary Club of Coronado Foundation
Lori and Matt Roth
Mary and Gene Rumsey
The Samuel I. & John Henry Fox Foundation
San Diego County Credit Union
San Diego Downtown Breakfast Rotary Club
San Diego Firefighters Local 145
San Diego Legal Secretaries Association
San Diego National Bank
San Diego Orthopaedic Spine, Inc.
San Diego Unified School District Community Service Association
San Diego Workforce Partnership
Leslie Saris
Eileen Schallhorn
Margaret and Neale Schmale
David Schmolke
Deborah Scott
Sempra Energy
SENTR Partners, Inc.
Isobel and David Shapiro
Showley, Archambault & Alexander
Constance and Edward Shunk
Skinit
Linda and John Small
Sorooptimist International of Coronado
St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church
Donald St. Germain
St. Helen Philoptochos Society
Michelle Sterling
Betty Stucky
Karen Sutton
Marilyn and Ronald Svalstad
Systems Waterproofing Supply
Ellen and Alan Talbott
Lily and Richard Tan
Laura and Brian Tauber
Tina and David Thomas
Linda and Ray Thomas
Jonathan Thomas
Tierrasanta Junior Women's Club
The TJX Foundation Inc.
Beth and Stephen Toner
Karen Trimble
Rhonda and Mark Turvey
Jennifer and Reed Vickerman
Pamela and Raymond Volker
Wachovia Securities
Mary Wageman
Barbara Walter and Zoltan Hajnal
Julie and Kenneth Warren
Sue and Gary Weisman
Nancy and John Wilks
Julie and Grant Wright
Zell Foundation