



# PHILANTHROPY

By Kim Stemper | [philanthropy@ocbi.com](mailto:philanthropy@ocbi.com)



### In the Dark to See the Light

► *Staar Surgical's* Jack Ferguson, Mychal Ferguson, Heather Ready, Cristina Fernandez, Connie Johnson, Winnie Ho, David Baer, and Sarah Wolfe

On March 11, 240 guests joined **Beyond Blindness** for the sixth annual **Vision Beyond Sight Gala**, an evening that helped create an even brighter, bolder future for children and families in Orange County. Held at **Marconi Automotive Museum** in Tustin, the event raised close to \$253,000. Funds raised at the gala will play a key role in advancing Beyond Blindness' new strategic plan, which will be used as a roadmap for the next five years of expanding innovative early intervention, education and enrichment, and family support programming. Event sponsors included the **Thompson Family Foundation** as the Funding the Future Sponsor and **Lake Forest's Staar Surgical** as the Visionary Sponsor. Additional sponsors included **OSRX, Wright Ford Young & Co., PNC Bank, Kaiser Permanente, Union Bank and Tarsus Pharmaceuticals.**

The Vision Beyond Sight Gala provided guests with the unforgettable experience of dining in the dark and included wine tasting, keynote speakers and a live performance by Emmy-nominated actor, singer and author **Tom Sullivan.**

**Kirchgeßner Vision Foundation** received the **Dr. Wilhelm de Nijs Vision Award.** Named after Beyond Blindness' founder, the award recognized the foundation's support of pioneering vision research, as well as its contributions of over \$20 million since inception to organizations and clinics that provide vision screening, adaptive equipment and assistive services to disadvantaged communities.



### Distinctive and Delicious

► *Ken Potrock, president, Disneyland Resort; Dr. Pooja Bhalla, co-CEO, Illumination Foundation; Peter Lai, executive chef, Water Grill; Karen Jordan, board member, Illumination Foundation, co-chair, Chef's Table Gala; Dr. Jacqueline DuPont-Carlson, CEO, Assured In Home Care board chair, Illumination Foundation, co-chair, Chef's Table Gala*

**Illumination Foundation** raised \$1.5 million at the **10th Annual Chef's Table Gala** on March 12 at the **Disneyland Hotel** in Anaheim. Forty acclaimed chefs and 400 philanthropic individuals, businesses, and community leaders gathered to support **Illumination Foundation** as they celebrated 15 years of disrupting the cycle of homelessness. Event proceeds will provide ongoing programming support for the most vulnerable individuals, families, and seniors experiencing homelessness.

The **Chef's Table Gala** is a distinctive event where each table has its own chef and restaurant team, with the guests at the tables enjoying a unique meal unlike any of the other tables. In addition to the one-of-a-kind meal and drinks, each table is decorated by its chef and restaurant team with a theme that reflects the restaurant's aesthetic. Guests also interact with their chef throughout the evening.

**Chef's Table** was presented by **Disneyland Resort.** Participating restaurants included **21 Royal, ADYA, Bluegold, Bosscat Kitchen & Libations, Cali Dumpling, Cañico Fish House, Descanso Restaurant, Embors & Ash, Farmhouse at Roger's Gardens, Lotus of Siam, Melissa's, Napa Rose, Oak Laguna Beach, Rancho Capistrano Winery, Renzo's Taste of Peru, Rocco's Restaurant, Sol Agave, Strong Water Anaheim, The Cellar Restaurant, Urbana Mexican Gastronomy and Water Grill.**

The event included a reception, silent and live auctions, fund-a-need, and an award presentation. The inaugural **Legacy Award** was presented to **Illumination** co-founders **Paul Leon** and **Paul Cho** to honor the legacy they created. **The Haynes Fund** was also recognized with a **Legacy Award.**

In addition to **Disneyland Resort, Chef's Table** sponsors included **The Haynes Fund; Jacque DuPont-Carlson, founder, Dupont Residential Care and Assured In Home Care and Marc Carlson, managing director, 3 Points Partners; Karen Jordan, board member, Illumination Foundation, co-chair, Chef's Table Gala; Kaiser Permanente OC; Frome Family Foundation; Brigitte and Bobby Sherman Children's Foundation; Experian; Prospera Hotels Inc.; Studio Oh; KPMG; Fisher & Phillips LLC; O'Connell Hotels & Hospitality; Linda Young, president and managing partner, Elite OC Productions and Burton Young, principal and co-founder, Sperry Equities & Sperry Commercial; and Wells Fargo.**

### Powerhouses Unite

► *Stephen Gordon (panel moderator), founding chairman and CEO, Genesis Bank; Jack Toan, co-CEO, Illumination Foundation; Deborah Levy, executive director, Alzheimer's Association, Orange County Chapter; Autumn Strier, co-founder and CEO, Miracles for Kids; Chris Simonsen, CEO, Orangewood Foundation*



Nonprofit, community, and business leaders gathered in the courtyard of **Genesis Bank's** headquarters in Newport Beach on March 28 to participate in the **Genesis Bank Institute for Entrepreneurship's (GBIE) Powerhouse Series: Exploring the Intersection of Entrepreneurship and Philanthropy.**

Thirty-five nonprofit organizations and more than 200 business professionals attended the event, where guests learned more about the inner workings of leading nonprofits and social enterprises in Orange County. The event also offered the opportunity to connect with fellow community leaders, municipal leaders, socially minded business owners, nonprofit partners and potential donors.

In addition, attendees heard from a panel of nonprofit executives regarding the genesis of their businesses, how entrepreneurship and philanthropy intersect, and why investing in community is so important. The panel featured **Jack Toan, co-chief executive, Illumination Foundation; Deborah Levy, executive director, Alzheimer's Association, Orange County Chapter; Autumn Strier, co-founder and chief executive, Miracles for Kids; and Chris Simonsen, chief executive, Orangewood Foundation. Stephen Gordon, founding chairman and CEO, Genesis Bank, moderated the discussion.**

Each panelist received **The Business Leadership Circle Award** from the **Genesis Bank Institute for Entrepreneurship, recognizing their efforts in the community.**

In addition, **Genesis Bank and the Genesis for Good Foundation** partnered with the **Mattel Children's Foundation** to provide toys and parenting supplies to support the local community. Guests were encouraged to bring a donation of new or gently used items to the event.



**WOMEN'S PHILANTHROPY FUND breakfast 2023**

**20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**



**2023 CELEBRITY GUEST**

# HELEN HUNT

**JOIN US FOR OC'S TOP BREAKFAST FUNDRAISER**

**MAY 18, 2023**  
7:30-9:30 A.M.

IRVINE MARRIOTT

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