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NATIONAL PHILANTHROPY DAY: "Spirit of Philanthropy" honorees are, front row from left, Paul and Daranne Folino, Pat and Bill Podlich; center row, Steve Renock, Teddie Ray, Angel Treinen, Phyllis Amato; back row, Al Roberts, Logan Lee, Kelsey Lizée and John Brown.

SANG H. PARK, FOR THE REGISTER

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Tuesday, November 21, 2006

## Volunteers show spirit of giving



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If you want to be really impressed by the common good in others, attend National Philanthropy Day's Spirit of Philanthropy Awards Luncheon, and I guarantee you will be bowled over by the people helping others in this county.

And those are just the award winners.

There are many others nominated for awards in the audience who are just as deserving. Wednesday's 970-guest awards luncheon, held at the Anaheim Marriott Hotel, was hosted by The Association of Fundraising Professionals Orange County Chapter and featured keynote speaker **Mark Victor Hansen**, best known for co-authoring the "Chicken Soup for the Soul" series of books.

Introduced by mistress of ceremonies and KOCE-TV personality **Maria Hall-Brown** as "America's leading expert on human potential," Hansen agreed with Helen Keller's view of a giving life: "Either a life is a daring adventure or it's not," she is quoted as saying, to which Hansen followed up, "I

think giving is fundamental – remember, the first part of the word is that it's 'fun' – and I want you all to have that daring adventure."

**Paul** and **Daranne Folino**, who received the Spirit of Philanthropy lifetime achievement award, were introduced by last year's winners, **Ted** and **Janice Smith**. "We live in a very special place because of the generosity of others, and I believe it's now our turn to become the role models for others to follow," Paul said.

Others honored included **Pat** and **Bill Podlich**, outstanding philanthropists; **Al Roberts**, outstanding founder; Orange County Teachers Federation Credit Union, outstanding corporation or business with 30 or more employees, with **Steve Renock** accepting; The Showpros, outstanding corporation or business under 30 employees, with **John Brown** accepting; **Teddie Ray**, outstanding volunteer fundraiser; Walk Among the Stars, outstanding philanthropic group, represented by **Phyllis Amato** and **Angel Treinen**; and South County Safe Rides, outstanding youth/youth group, with **Kelsey Lizee** and **Logan Lee** accepting. **Milly Heaton** and **Heather McKenzie-Densmore** were co-chairwomen.

Great quote: Bill Podlich quoted former Major League Baseball Commissioner Fay Vincent, who said, "There is no such thing as a good long speech, and no short speech is ever bad." Sure enough, Podlich delivered!

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Saturday night I met some more giving individuals. Friends of Orange Coast Interfaith Shelter (FOCIS) held its "FOCIS on Cooking" fundraiser at the Village Crean in Newport Beach to launch its newly published cookbook, named, you guessed it, "FOCIS on Cooking." The 125 guests were treated to food from the cookbook, which included recipes submitted from FOCIS members, friends and Orange County chefs.

For dinner, coordinated by caterer Love at First Bite, guests enjoyed cherry tomato bites, marinated spareribs, spinach-apple salad with walnut vinaigrette, The Ritz Restaurant's famous creamed corn, Marco Polo's tomato basil soup (one of cookbook chairwoman **Nicole Hayek**'s favorites) and The Five Crowns' Not Too Sweet Potatoes.

Five Crowns executive chef **Dennis Brask** also provided delicious roast turkey and cranberry relish. Cooking guru **Barbara Venezia**, famous for the '90s comedy cooking show with local philanthropist **John Crean** called "At Home On the Range: The Cooking Show for the Deranged," entertained the crowd with stories from the show. "Our homemade dog food was our most popular recipe," said the smiling redhead.

Orange Coast Interfaith Shelter's executive director, **Laura Miller**, related that the 25-year-old emergency shelter, one of only three in Orange County, helps more than 2,000 adults and children achieve self-sufficiency through its programs each year.

"We provide food, shelter, counseling, access to health care, substance-abuse testing, parenting and life skills, and we enroll children in school or day care," Miller said.

Event co-chairwoman and FOCIS President **Sally Phillips**, who is passionate about the cause,

said, "They give people second chances."

Cookbook proceeds helped net between \$35,000 and \$40,000 for the shelter. Those interested in the cookbook (\$13 of the \$20 price goes to the shelter) may call Phillips at 949-376-5851.

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Down the road Saturday night, Serving People in Need (SPIN) held its fundraiser "Count Your Lucky Stars" at the Hilton Waterfront Beach Resort in Huntington Beach for 265 guests. The event netted \$150,000 for the nonprofit agency, which helps homeless individuals and families become self-sufficient.

The fun-filled evening included silent and live auctions, a delicious gourmet dinner orchestrated by executive chef **Jeff Littlefield**, and dancing to the Sounds of Music. "Lucky Stars" honors went to **Mary Lou Shattuck**, who introduced SPIN to a whole new segment of the community and developed two new fundraisers during her first year on the board; **the Rev. Kerry Beaulieu**, who as pastor of Our Lady Queen of Angels church in Newport Beach helped increase SPIN's outreach, program funding and awareness of the programs in his congregation; and the **John Petry** family, which through daughter **Sarah** was introduced to SPIN and has gone to the streets to help the homeless.

SPIN executive director **Jean Wegener** said, "In 2005 we moved 60 families into permanent housing, helped 420 individuals get into substance-abuse recovery and delivered 15,800 meals, hygiene kits, warm clothing and blankets to those living on the streets."

SPIN board chairman **Dick Crawford** said, "This is an organization that hits the mark perfectly: 95 cents of every dollar goes directly to the programs, and 86 percent of the people we are helping become self-sufficient."

Shattuck added, "I was overwhelmed to find an organization that was actually making a difference for people who are homeless by giving them a hand up, not a handout." A surprise \$10,000 gift from Susannah and Gordon Bair of Sunset Beach confirmed the giving spirit in Orange County.

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