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Page 38

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Eleven Nonprofits Share \$215,000 in Grants to Help HIV/AIDS



The San Diego HIV Funding Collaborative, a grant program of the San Diego Human Dignity Foundation, awarded more than \$215,000 to 11 local nonprofits in support of ending

KUDOS/GIVING

Stephanie R. Glidden

new HIV infections and to underwrite critical services for women, men, and youth affected by HIV/AIDS. The 11 nonprofits provide services throughout San Diego County from San Ysidro to Vista. The grants were awarded in approximately equal amounts of \$20,000 to: **Being Alive**, **Christie's Place**, **Family Health Center San Diego**, **Fraternity House**, **Mama's Kitchen**, **NC LGBTQ Community Center**, **San Diego Volunteer Lawyer's Program**, **San Diego Youth Services**, **San Ysidro Health Centers**, **Stepping Stone San Diego** and **Vista Community Clinic**.

Since the start of SDHDF's collaboration with HFC in 2009, it has gifted more than \$1.6 million to San Diego County HIV/AIDS programs and services. Since HFC's inception in 1990, the organization has donated more than \$3 million in grants. Visit sdhdf.org.

At the recent **Pay it Forward Processing** Christmas party held at the **Rancho Bernardo Winery**, the **Arthritis Foundation**, San Diego office, was presented with a check for \$3,226 from nonprofit **Every Swipe Benefits Charity** give-back program. The ESBC is a program that allows businesses to



Photo Credit Big Mike

Eleven nonprofits were honored with a \$215,000 grant at a recent luncheon hosted by the San Diego Human Dignity Foundation.

benefit their business, customers and the community. Through Pay it Forward, a national credit card processing company, net proceeds are donated from each business account to a charitable organization, at no cost to the business. Since ESBC's inception two years ago, the program has generated more than \$100,000 in donations to a carefully vetted group of more than 25 local and national charities.

The Every Swipe Benefits Charity arose from the ashes of Witch Creek Fires in San Diego in 2007. **Renee VanHeel**, founder and president of Pay it Forward Processing, lost her home during this disaster. As a result, she, along with a number of other fire survivors, formed "Fired Up Sisters," and raised \$5 million to help fellow fire survivors. Five years later, VanHeel

founded the Every Swipe Benefits Charity program with the idea that if so much good could result from tragedy, much more could be done in good times. To date, the two-year-old charity has given more than \$100,000 to 25 nonprofits. Visit psprocessing.com/giving-program.

Jewish Family Service of San Diego opened its new campus on Jan. 31 with a special dedication to **Joan and Irwin Jacobs** for their 20 years of championing the agency, and a celebration for all of the capital campaign donors who made the "Joan & Irwin Jacobs Campus" possible. The ceremony marked the completion of a four-year-long, \$11 million project to bring together many of JFS's employees, programs, and services into

two neighboring buildings on Balboa Avenue. Mission Hills-based architects **Saffie Rabines Architects** were tapped to redesign the two buildings that form the campus into light, airy spaces

In May 2015, a fire devastated two downtown restaurants, the **Top of the Market** and the **Fish Market**. To thank the first responders, **Top of the Market** raised \$5,000 for the **San Diego Fire Rescue Foundation**, which kicked off a fundraising campaign to purchase life-saving devices for firefighters, the **Personal Escape System**, or **PES**, which enables firefighters to deploy out of a multistory building. The PES gives firefighters the ability to exit through an upper floor window in less than 30 seconds.

The **Fish Market** reopened in August and **Top of the Market** — taking the most damage — reopened in December.

The **GROW Fund**, a nonprofit program developed by **Organics Unlimited** in 2005, has approved a grant of \$150,000 to **Project Amigo** for 2016 program support. Founded 30 years ago, **Project Amigo** provides scholarships to allow promising students in need to continue their studies. This grant will provide educational scholarships to 27 children within the Colima area as well as provide leadership and personal development training to poor rural youth to prepare them for occupational success.

Send Kudos/Giving items to sglidden@sdbj.com.