



PHILANTHROPY

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Wax & Wine Raises Funds For River Valley Conservancy

■ By STEPHANIE GLIDDEN

The San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy's "Wax & Wine 2019" raised \$5,000 to support the conservancy's mission as a nonprofit, citizen-based organization helping to implement plans for the San Dieguito River Park and its Coast to Crest Trail stretching 70 miles from Volcan Mountain near Julian to the ocean between Del Mar and Solana Beach. The event was held recently at the Knorr Candle Shop in Del Mar.



Photo courtesy of the San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy

SDRVC board member Bob Sheppard, his wife, Janis D'Assalenaux, SDRVC Board President, Brad Bartlett, his wife Jane Meyers and guest Aida Wilson.

Volunteers of America Has Very Long History of Helping

■ By STEPHANIE GLIDDEN

Volunteers of America Southwest, a nonprofit, faith-based organization with a mission to change the lives of vulnerable individuals by providing services and tools to improve their quality of life, celebrated 123 years of service during the month of April.

Each year, Volunteers of America Southwest serves more than 8,000 individuals, children, and families in the areas of education, behavioral health, and housing. Its programs offer assistance in San Diego County, Imperial County and Southern California's Inland Empire. It helps homeless veterans with disabilities achieve self-reliance. It helps men and women to return to their families clean and sober. It cares for seniors and those struggling with mental health challenges. The group supports the futures of our community's children

through education and overall family well-being.

Gerald McFadden, president and CEO of Volunteers of America Southwest, said; "... we exist so those who are emotionally broken and without hope will know Volunteers of America will always have the light on for them. Whether struggling with an addiction disorder, a homeless veteran with mental health challenges, a child with unique educational needs, we want to be there to help them on their journey to a more vibrant life."

The group's new Resource & Recovery Center is still expanding services offered to include more group-centered and family-centered approach to the later stages of addiction recovery and community re-entry. Volunteers of America Southwest is also upgrading its Hawley Veterans Services Center to help facilitate veteran transition back to normal life.



Photo courtesy of Volunteers of America Southwest

Two children who are beneficiaries of the programs of the Volunteers of America Southwest.

Kids Take Active Role In Build a Miracle

■ By STEPHANIE GLIDDEN

Daniella and Gabriel, along with fellow volunteers for San Diego-based Build a Miracle, were in Tijuana recently to lay the foundation for a new home for a family in need. Build a Miracle is a nonprofit organization that raises funds to build homes for needy families in Tijuana. Fourteen-year-old Daniella, a Cathedral Catholic High School freshman, is building her third home. Her 12-year-old brother, Notre Dame Academy student, Gabriel is working on his second home. Each child raised an additional \$16,000, adding to their previous fundraising, to provide a family in need with a fully furnished home with running water, electricity, bathrooms, bedrooms, kitchens and real roofs. Chris and Julianne North started Build a Miracle in 1999. It has built more than 330 homes.

The children hope to raise awareness and inspire other kids to pursue philanthropic efforts to help others.

Photo courtesy of GG Benitez & Associates

Daniella, left, and her brother Gabriel surrounded by volunteers from Build a Miracle.

