Mercy Ball Brings in $700,000 to Support Scripps’ Facilities

Scripps Mercy Hospital celebrated the institution’s three decades of lifesaving trauma care at the annual Mercy Ball recently at The Pendry hotel in downtown San Diego. Nearly 500 supporters attended the sold-out event that raised $700,000 to benefit the Scripps Mercy San Diego Trauma Center — patients on both campuses, including the purchase of cutting-edge technology for head and spine trauma surgery in Hillcrest and the remodel fund for Chula Vista’s Triage Center.

Scripps Mercy Hospital has been providing high-quality patient care for the communities of central and south San Diego County. It was founded in 1890 by Mother Mary Michael Cummings and the Sisters of Mercy. Visit scripps.org.

Yehudi Gaffen, CEO of San Diego-based Gaffen Inc., announced that after more than 15 years in the making, the Memorial Synagogue Garden in Bauska, Latvia, was opened and dedicated last fall. This month, the memorial garden has now been recognized with a “Latvian Construction of the Year Award” in the public outdoor space category. The Garden has now been recognized with a “Latvian Construction of the Year Award” in the public outdoor space category.

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Gaffen led the fundraising and development process, along with his sister Beverly Gaffen Altman and Jehuda Feitelson, a former Bauska resident and concentration camp survivor and a retired doctor of chemistry at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

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“The memorial garden was conceived as a monument in celebration of the Jewish community once lived and thrived in the town.

San Diego Habitat for Humanity announced that it is seeking volunteers for its 10th Annual Women Build event. Volunteers will devote at least one day to creating decent, affordable housing in the San Diego community during the month of May. Habitat homeowners invest 250-500 hours of “sweat equity” working alongside Habitat staff and volunteers to help build their own homes. When construction is complete, homeowners make affordable mortgage payments that are recycled back into the Habitat program to build more homes for more families.

Women builders volunteering will build a home in Logan Heights, or volunteer in one of Habitat’s three ReStores or discount home improvement centers. In addition to spending at least one day on a job site, participants are asked to raise a minimum of $200 to support the creation of affordable homeownership opportunities. This year’s theme, “Empowered Women Build,” shows that women can create significant change in their neighborhoods by volunteering and bringing attention to the fact that homeownership is a pathway to better financial futures, better education, better health, and a more cared-for, connected community. Since 2009, Women Build volunteers have built or repaired 14 houses in San Diego County, and raised more than $450,000. Visit sandiegohabitat.org.

The Fleet Science Center announced its new film “Pandas” from IMAX and Warner Bros. Pictures, has opened in the Heikoff Giant Dome Theater. The documentary adventure, narrated by Kristen Bell, tells a heartwarming story about introducing captive-born giant pandas into the wild. Send Kadool’s Giving items to sglidden@sdbj.com.

Nonprofit Profile

Walden Family Services

Foster, Adopt, Support.

Executive Spotlight
Teresa Stivers
CEO
Birthplace: Japan
Education: University of California, San Diego
Personal path to this organization: Prior to joining Walden in 2010, I led the Child Abuse Prevention Foundation (now Promise2kids), and served as Deputy Chief of Staff to San Diego Mayor Susan Golding.

Downtime: Volunteering at Serra High School, spending time with my family
Favorite quote: “Kindness to children, love for children, goodness to children—these are the only investments that never fail.” —Henry David Thoreau

Most like to meet: Oprah Winfrey. She overcame a childhood of abuse and neglect, and made her purpose to transform other women's lives.

Favorite place for business meetings: Bear Buns Bakery and Cafe in Serra Mesa

Current residence: Tierrasanta
Family: Husband Victor and my two sons, Matt and Nick

For information about how to be included in the Nonprofit Profile, contact Dale Ganzow at dganzow@sdbj.com or 858-277-4832.