

# Mercy Ball Brings in \$700,000 to Support Scripps' Facilities



## KUDOS/GIVING

Stephanie R. Glidden

**Scripps Mercy Hospital** celebrated the institution's three decades of lifesaving trauma care at the annual Mercy Ball recently at the **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](http://scripps.org).

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**Yehudi Gaffen**, CEO of San Diego-based **Gafcon 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 **Building, Design and Construction Council** and the publications: "**Latvian Construction**" and "**Latvian Architecture**" present this national award with a decision made by an awards panel which includes members of state institutions, non-governmental organizations and design and development professionals.



Photo courtesy of Scripps Mercy Hospital

**Scripps Mercy Hospital board chair, Jim Frager, center, and family, from left, Lauren Frager, Devon Frager, Val Frager and Jillian Frager at the annual Mercy Ball fundraiser.**

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

Bauska is a town in southern Latvia where Gaffen's family's roots stretch back to the 1750s. In 1941, 830 Bauska Jews, including Yehudi's grandparents and great-grandparents, were marched to the woods and shot by Nazi forces and local collaborators.

"My ancestors lived in Latvia for many centuries and my lineage traces directly back to the people murdered

in Bauska during Nazi occupation," Gaffen said. "Working on this memorial with the people of Bauska has been an honor unlike any other project in my career and a deeply personal memory that I will carry with me for the rest of my life."

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

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**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 Re-Stores 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](http://sandiegohabitat.org).

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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 Kudos/Giving items to [sglidden@sdbj.com](mailto:sglidden@sdbj.com).

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## NONPROFIT PROFILE | Walden Family Services

### Organization

#### Mission of organization:

Supporting the lives of children and families through lasting relationships.

**Year founded:** 1976

**Address:** 8525 Gibbs Dr., Suite 100, San Diego, CA 92123

**Number of Employees:** 101

**Number of Volunteers:** About 75 annually

**Introduction:** Walden Family Services is a nationally-recognized foster care, adoption, and youth services agency that shares Henry David Thoreau's vision for personal growth, our individual rights and responsibilities as members of a community, and a life that celebrates the richness of natural diversity. Since 1976, Walden has pioneered the philosophy that kids in foster care need the same support all kids do to thrive—a family and community who can help them develop the knowledge and skills to reach their full potential.

**Smartest move:** Walden was



Walden  
Family  
Services

Foster. Adopt. Support.

founded to provide group homes. However, when research showed that group homes did not provide supportive outcomes for children, Walden shifted to provide treatment foster care. Foster care is less profitable, and it is harder to find foster families, yet it is absolutely in the best interest of the children and in ending a cycle of abuse and neglect. We never looked back.

**Misconception:** The biggest misconception is that potential foster and adoptive parents must be a married couple, own a home, be under 50 and/or

have a stay-at-home parent. Foster parents can be of all ages, backgrounds and sexual orientations marital status, renters or homeowners. The most important factor for becoming a foster parent is that they provide safe, loving environments for foster children.

**Major 2018 Events:** Fostering Hearts Legacy Luncheon in the spring and Wine D'Vine on Nov. 2

**Wish list:** Loving, new foster parents across Southern California to join the Walden family.

### 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 Promises2Kids), 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 Café 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](mailto:dganzow@sdbj.com) or 858-277-4832.