

PHILANTHROPY



Stephanie
Glidden

Miracle Babies Delivers Emotional, Financial Support to Families

■ By STEPHANIE GLIDDEN

Breakfast at Tiffany's raised \$60,000 for **Miracle Babies** at the five-year anniversary of the **Miracle Circle Auxiliary** recently at **La Valencia Hotel** in La Jolla. Miracle Babies is a nonprofit organization that provides financial and emotional support to families with critically ill babies in local neonatal intensive care units, or NICUs. More than 180 philanthropic and business leaders attended the annual event, which was co-chaired by **Elaine Becerra** and **MJ Wittman**. Dr. **Edith Eva Eger** presented a keynote speech and **Ranch & Coast Magazine** editor-at-large, **Andrea Naversen**, served as the emcee.

"Breakfast at Tiffany's was a day to honor and celebrate these dynamic women leaders who promote and volunteer for the extraordinary Miracle Babies programs" **Marjan Daneshmand**, co-founder of Miracle Babies, said. In 2018, Miracle Circle members helped Miracle Babies provide \$233,000 in financial assistance to 633 NICU families, hosted 93 Miracle Hours for parents to escape the isolation of the NICU and delivered more than 2,300 Miracle Babies Care Bags.

Photo courtesy of Miracle Babies

MJ Wittman, left, **Miracle Circle** co-chair; **Wendy Walker**; **Dr. Sean Daneshmand**, **Miracle Babies** co-founder; **Dr. Edith Eger**, **Marjan Daneshmand**, **Miracle Babies** co-founder and **Elaine Becerra**, **Miracle Circle** co-chair at the **Breakfast at Tiffany's** event.



Golf Classic Helps Give Kids A Chance for Fresh Start

■ By STEPHANIE GLIDDEN

Local nonprofit **Fresh Start Surgical Gifts** hosted its 27th Annual **Celebrity Golf Classic** recently at **Fairbanks Ranch Country Club**. The event raised \$215,000, surpassing its fundraising goal of \$200,000, and was hosted by **Alfonso Ribeiro**, best known for his role in "Fresh Prince of Bel Air" and "America's Funniest Home Videos."

"What makes this charity event unique is that 100 percent of all donations will go directly to our medical program," **Fresh Start CEO Shari Brasher** said. "With the community's support, we are able to continue providing Surgery Weekends throughout the year where children receive free-of-cost surgeries and related healthcare services."

The event proceeds will benefit **Fresh Start's** mission to transform the lives of disadvantaged infants, children and teens with physical deformities caused by birth defects, accidents, abuse or disease through the gift of reconstructive surgery and related health-care services. **Fresh Start** also treats common conditions that cause low self-esteem among children.



Photo courtesy of Fresh Start Surgical Gifts

Celebrity golfers at Fresh Start 27th Annual Celebrity Golf Classic

Association of Corporate Counsel Recognizes Lifetime Achievement

■ By STEPHANIE GLIDDEN

The **San Diego Association of Corporate Counsel** hosted its 18th annual gala, the **Black & White Ball**, at the **Marriott Marquis** hotel. Five-hundred in-house counsel and business leaders attended the spectacular "Old Hollywood" themed event.

Local band, **Pop Vinyl**, provided the entertainment. The 2019 Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to **Steven Spector**, executive vice president and general counsel for **Arena Pharmaceuticals**. **Steve Przemicki**, partner at **Cooley LLP**, presented the award, citing Spector's service on the association's board of directors, including former president, and as an adjunct professor at the **University of San Diego School of Law**.

The annual benefit gala is the single

largest fundraising event the **ACC-SD** holds. This year, the event raised more than \$70,000 to support **South Bay Community Services "Mi Escuelita,"** a therapeutic preschool that heals and helps children impacted by abuse and violence.

"The generosity of this community and support of the individuals at this event are proof of what a special place we all have in San Diego," says **Paul Najjar**, **ACC-SD** president, said.

The **ACC** is the world's largest organization serving the professional and business interests of in-house attorneys. The **San Diego Chapter** of the **ACC** has more than 600 members, all of whom practice law in-house, in San Diego. The **Black & White Ball**, as well as the **San Diego Chapter** itself, is underwritten by more than 30 large and small San Diego law firms, and legal industry service providers.



Photo courtesy of the San Diego Association of Corporate Counsel

The **San Diego Association of Corporate Counsel** board: **Stephanie Kroon**, left, board member, **Denise Hickey**, VP of sponsorships, **Paul Najjar**, president, **Jennifer MacDougall**, president elect, **Steven Mashal**, past president, **Rebeca Perez-Serano**, secretary and **Sven Zabka**, treasurer.