

MEMBERS HELPING OTHERS

Good Time Dano, Big Sister Maria and Foster Parents

Good Time Dano Raises Money for Father Joe

Dan Krinsky's 13th annual Christmas fundraiser, held at Good Time Charlie's Bar in Pacific Beach, was once again a great success, raising \$2,585 for Father Joe's Village. Dan, past president of CASD, serves as guest bartender. A number of CASD members, including Eric Rivera, Peggy Reali and Ajay Kwatra, were among those attending. Local attorneys Mike Neil and Ellen Gross also attended, and CASD past president Richard Huver and Board member, Karin Wick, made generous donations.

Big Sister Maria

CASD Board member Maria Palmieri has found a calling as a Big Sister with Big Brothers Big Sisters of San Diego. Her little sister is a 9-year-old girl who does not have many opportunities, as her mother is a single mom struggling to make ends meet. Maria and her Little Sister are forming a strong bond during their twice a month outings which have included trips to Sea World, the ballet and (yipes!) even Nordstrom. The point, of course, is to get the Little Sister out of her one bedroom apartment while her mom is at work, to spend quality time together and to expand her horizons. Maria's goal is to be a sounding board for her Little Sister, to introduce her to culture and education, and to teach her independence.

Big Brothers Big Sisters matches children ages 6 through 18 with mentors in professionally supported one-to-one relationships. Maria has found it to be a great experience and encourages all of us to consider helping. The program is always looking for volunteers from all walks of life. In as little as four hours a week, you, like Maria, can make a difference in a child's life. Thanks Maria!

The Hand that Rocks the Cradle

CASD's own Treasurer, John Gomez, in addition to running his firm, getting seven-figure verdicts for his clients, volunteering tirelessly for CASD causes and sitting on the Board of the County Bar, is also out in the community, multi-tasking various volunteer efforts. John's passion is "La Cuna," where, no surprise, he is the Chairman of the Board.

La Cuna, Spanish for "The Cradle," was founded in 2003 as a non-profit foster family agency to address the needs of Latino children in foster care. Under the La Cuna model of care, and the creative use of private donations, the organization has achieved a 96% success rate in permanency for each La Cuna child. This statistic reflects the number of children who are able to remain in one La Cuna home until they are either reunified with rehabilitated family members or adopted by their La Cuna foster parents.

There is presently what La Cuna describes as a "silent crisis" in San Diego foster care, as there aren't enough loving families for foster infants and toddlers. La Cuna addresses the needs of these

vulnerable children by finding families who will open their hearts and homes and care for them properly. John succeeded retired Police Chief David Bejarano as Chairman of the Board. We know the organization will continue to flourish with the passion and energy he brings to it.