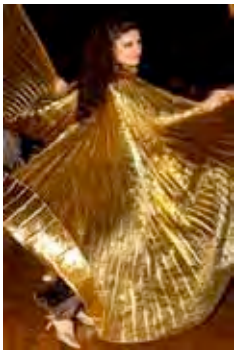




Boys Town California gala honorees... (left to right) George Willis, Vice President, South California District UPS, Visionary Award; Cathy Chapman, Honorary Chair; Father Steven Boes, Boys Town National Executive Director; Marianne and Ken Higdon, Legacy Award; Dan Graham, Spirit of Youth Award; and Keith Rhodes, Boys Town California

Boys Town California Toasts Friends and Supporters



Guests at Boys Town California's 2009 Flight of Hope gala can be forgiven if they mistook the Newport Beach locale for mesmerizing Marrakech. This year's festive, Moroccan-themed event was a lively celebration complete with lush Arabian furnishings, delectable foods, music, dancing and even a snake charmer.

The annual salute to organizations and individuals who share their time, talents and resources to help California's at-risk children and families brought more than 300 volunteers, supporters, dignitaries and honored guests to the Fairmont Newport Beach Hotel.

The event generated resources vital to saving children and healing families and recognized long-time friends of Boys Town California.

UPS Corporation received this year's Visionary Award for its generous financial and volunteer support over the past two years. Marianne and Ken Higdon, honored for their 20-year association with Boys Town California, were recipients of the Legacy Award. The Spirit of Youth Award went to community leader Dan Graham, and Cathy Chapman was named Honorary Chair for her tireless volunteer work with youth in Boys Town California's Treatment Family Homes.

"This year's 'Flight of Hope' gala exceeded all expectations," said Keith Rhodes, Boys Town California Executive Director. "It was another great opportunity to tell our outstanding story on how we are changing the way America cares for its children and families."

The Flight of Hope gala was made possible thanks to the dedication and generosity of these fine Boys Town California supporters:

ABS South Coast Plaza
Connors & Associates
Desiree Pierce
Flight of Hope Gala Committee
Focal Instints

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UPS
Zarley Family Foundation

Donation of Paint, Labor Covers Family Home Spruce Up

Boys Town California saved \$10,000 in its budget this year because of one family's thoughtful and practical gift.

The Martin family – parents Mike and Amber and their four children – generously purchased gallons of paint and paid to have the Trabuco Canyon Treatment Family Homes professionally painted. Both the interior and exterior of the homes were refurbished, drawing rave reviews from residents.

"I like my house. It has nice colors. It makes me feel good to live in a clean house," said 11-year-old Alfred.

The Martins have "adopted" Boys Town California as their charity of choice, and are elated to have the opportunity to brighten the lives of children and families in their community.

"Through painting the homes and providing operational resources, we feel connected to not only the boys and girls, but the Family-Teachers as well, said Amber Martin. "We feel it is so important to have stable adult figures in each child's life, and we love that Boys Town California provides that. We fully support their work, and we look forward to many years of working together with them."

The efforts of friends and supporters like the Martin family teach our girls and boys valuable life lessons. They learn how a spontaneous act of kindness can be as inspiring as it is surprising. They also learn what it means to be concerned about others and how important it is to give back to their community. These are lessons the Martins want to instill in their children, too.

"We strongly believe in the importance of starting our kids out early with charity work, so we are thrilled that this opportunity exists so close to us," Mike Martin said. "Whether it's to drop off school supplies or Christmas gifts, or to select building paint colors, our kids love coming with us and chatting with the boys, girls and staff."

A Boys Town California family outside their newly painted Trabuco Canyon Family Home

