



PHILANTHROPY

By Kim Haman



Banking on Hope

► Keith Kobata, region bank president, Wells Fargo; Sister Eileen McNerney, founder, Hope Builders; Marcia Choo, VP, community relations, West Region, Wells Fargo; Shawna Smith, executive director, Hope Builders; Dennis Kuhl, chairman, Angels Baseball LP

On Aug. 31, **Wells Fargo** presented **Hope Builders** with a \$100,000 check at Angel Stadium. The donation enables Hope Builders to continue empowering disadvantaged youth with job skills and support that lead to enduring personal and professional success. In May, Wells Fargo announced it will give \$400 million in cash to nonprofit groups this year in what it says is a 40% increase in corporate philanthropy. And starting next year, the bank said it will spend 2% of its after-tax dollars on philanthropy.

Let's Go to the Zoo

► Tom Newmeyer, founding partner, Newmeyer and Dillion LLP, with his wife, Debbie

On Aug. 25, the **Friends of Santa Ana Zoo** hosted its annual black-tie Zoofari event, themed "Mayan Jungle." The gala, which took place under the stars on the zoo grounds, raised more than \$100,000. It was sponsored in part by **US Bank, Disneyland Resort, Southwest Airlines, JetBlue** and **Signature Rentals**.

At the start of the evening, guests were greeted by various zoo animals, including a ball python, spectacled owl and a French rooster, with their docent handlers. They were then invited to stroll through the grounds and ride the Conservation Carousel and the newly opened Fifty Monkey Ferris Wheel, as well as visit the 50 monkeys for which the zoo is famous.

US Bank staff members were honored for financial and volunteer support. The team, spearheaded by **Leanne Miller**, project manager (retired), and **John Kearney**, vice president and district manager, South Orange County, was instrumental in financing and completing the Fifty Monkey Ferris Wheel.

The funds raised will support and improve the zoo, including the continued development and construction of its newest endeavors, the Giant River Otters habitat and the Primate Trails Experience.

Bits & Pieces

On July 27, **The Child Creativity Lab** and interns at **Pacific Investment Management Co.** partnered with **Think Together** to provide 20 underprivileged elementary students with the opportunity to build robots with donated Legos, prescription drug vials and other upcycled materials. As part of an annual month-long program known as **GoogleSaves**, 14 staff members from

