



PHILANTHROPY

By Kim Haman | philanthropy@ocbj.com

Golfing for Miracles

► **Rod Neighbors**, principal, **KNR Builders**; **Don Hatch**, owner, **The Hatch Group**; **Tyler Terry**, CLU, financial representative, **Northwestern Mutual**; **Jon Schisler**, principal, **Starboard Realty Partners**, affiliate of **WLA Investments**

Miracles for Kids hosted its third annual Miracles for Kids Golf Invitational presented by **Perricone Farms** on March 29. The tournament took place at **Santa Ana Country Club** and raised more than \$200,000 for the organization.

The day began with breakfast sponsored by **Regent Association Services** and beverages by **Trust Me Vodka**. After shotgun, participants enjoyed a variety of different activities and tastings at each hole, including sponsored by **Farmers Insurance** at hole 3, **Motiv-8 Amino Recovery** and **Vodka Burn Drinks** at holes 8 and 13, **Newport Rib Company** at hole 15 and an area featuring drinks and bites from **Yippee Calle Tacos** and **Casazul Tequila**.

Due to limited spectators at the event, a safety precaution in light of COVID-19, the Golf Invitational also held an online auction and Fund-A-Family campaign which was open to the public from March 24 through March 31.

Event sponsors consisted of **Perricone Farms**, **David August Clothing**, **TRAFK Advertising**, **Lamborghini Newport Beach**, **McLaren Newport Beach**, **Regent Association Services**, **West Coast Aviation Services**, **Wilson Sonsini**, **DPR Construction**, **The Hatch Group**, **The Leeson Group**, **Word & Brown Companies**, **Allied Universal**, **Farmers Insurance**, **Frome Family Foundation**, **Penn Corporate Relocation Services**, **Soul Community Planet**, **Trust Me Vodka**, **19th Hole**, and **spinTouch**.



PHOTO CREDIT: BRENT VARELA, INSTANTIMAGE!

It Takes Grit

► **Lisa Ackerman**, founder, **TACA**; **Jon Gray**, owner and president, **GritCycle**; **Gail Gray**, owner and VP, **GritCycle**

On April 17, **GritCycle** hosted a day-long fundraiser that rallied together the Orange County fitness community in a shared goal of supporting Autism Action Month. The event, which included all three **GritCycle** locations, raised more than \$30,000 to help **TACA (The Autism Community in Action)** continue to build key awareness and acceptance for all families and individuals living with autism in the community.

Event participants, which included the Orange County and Long Beach spin community, small business owners, restaurant owners and partners, and autism advocates, booked more than 550 bike rides for the fundraiser, paying \$10 for each booking. Following the all-location rides, **GritCycle** hosted an alfresco dinner and auction raffle at **Bossat Kitchen and Libations**. **Lisa Ackerman**, founder, **TACA**, and **Jon Gray**, owner and president, **GritCycle**, spoke on their personal experiences with autism. Attendees enjoyed bidding on experiences from local sponsors such as **David August Couture**, **Pelican Hill Resort**, **Harley Laguna Beach**, **Arc Restaurant Group**, **August McGregor Lululemon**, **Zo skin**, and more.



Bits & Pieces

On April 28, the **Orange County Community Foundation** hosted **Help Them Home**, a collaborative Giving Day designed to combat homelessness in Orange County, with nearly 3,800 donors helping raise a record \$2.2 million, surpassing an initial \$1 million goal by 116%, which will be used to provide a range of housing, community outreach, education, and supportive services to homeless residents. The Orange County-based nonprofits involved included are **American Family Housing**, **Casa Teresa Inc.**, **City Net**, **Colette's Children's Home Inc.**, **Families Forward**, **Family Assistance Ministries**, **Family Promise of Orange County**, **Friendship Shelter Inc.**, **Grandma's House of Hope**, **HomeAid Orange County**, **Pathways of Hope**, **Serving People in Need Inc.**, **South County Outreach**, **StandUp for Kids Orange County**, **The Salvation Army Orange County**, **Thomas House Family Shelter**, and **WISEPlace**. ... On April 23, more than 60 Orange County participants came together on the courts to play in the **2021 Women's Pickleball Tournament** organized by **KidWorks**, netting more than \$40,000 in support of **KidWorks' College Success Initiative** that funds activities like its **College Apps Academy**, **Campus Crash** and mentorship program, all designed to support first generation, low-income students on their journey towards college success. ... Orange County-based nonprofit **Project Access**, which provides vital on-site health, education and employment services to families, children, and seniors living in affordable housing communities in 13 states, surpassed the goal of its 2021 March "Pie in the Sky" month-long fundraiser by \$23,500, earning a total of \$60,000.



Let's Do This, Together

► **John Lee**, EVP, **Pimco**, Board Chair, **Think Together**

Think Together's annual fundraiser, **Raise a Hand**, was reimaged this year as a virtual experience. The event, held on April 23, drew more 300 guests and raised more than \$500,000. The funds are earmarked for student learning recovery programs amid the pandemic.

Medtronic, **Crevier Family Foundation**, **Pimco Foundation** and others supported the event as champion sponsors.

"Hosting Raise a Hand virtually allowed us to expand our circle of impact in ways we haven't been able to do in the past," said **John Lee**, executive vice president, **Pimco**, and board chair, **Think Together**. "We are able to share and celebrate the meaningful work **Think Together** is doing to support students no matter where we are."

At this year's event, **Think Together** honored **Broadcom** with its **Champion of Change** award, which recognizes an outstanding partner dedicated to changing the odds for kids. When classrooms closed last spring, **Broadcom**, through its foundation, worked with **Think Together** to provide an estimated 600 laptops to staff and students at **Think Together's** partner schools to support the transition to distance learning.

Think Together presented its **Think Legacy** award to board veteran **Leona Aronoff-Sadacca**, president, CEO and owner, **Gate City Beverage**, who is retiring from the board after 10 years of service.



Funds for Life

► **Tilly Levine**, founder, **Tilly's Life Center**; **Ed Thomas**, CEO, **Tilly's**; **Amy Diaz**, VP, development, **Tilly's Life Center**; **Monica Utley**, executive director, **Tilly's**

Tilly's 14th Annual Charity Golf Tournament netted nearly \$200,000, all of which will be used to support **Tilly's Life Center's** mission to inspire today's youth to reach their full potential as productive, resilient, and responsible individuals. The sold-out event, themed **Tilly Wonka** and the **Golf Factory**, was held April 19 at the

Mission Viejo Country Club.

Sun Bum, **Huf**, **Lakai**, **Primitive**, **Brixton**, **Goldman Sachs**, **Wells Fargo**, **Union Bank**, **Morgan Stanley** and **Marsh & McLennan** were among the tournament sponsors. In addition, several local vendors provided complimentary food and drinks, including **Wahoo's Fish Taco**, **Monster Energy**, **Hint Water**, **Yogurtland**, **Trust Me Vodka**, **Califino Tequila**, **Archie's Ice Cream**, **Bratzermann**, **Dang Brother Pizza** and **Tap Truck OC**.



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NONPROFIT

Gretchen Valentine Joins Olive Crest Board of Trustees

RSM US LLP – the nation's leading provider of audit, tax and consulting services focused on the middle market congratulates **Gretchen Valentine**, Tax Services Partner, on her appointment to the board of trustees for **Olive Crest**.

Olive Crest is the local Orange County charity that **RSM** supports annually through its **Birdies for Love** fundraising program. In this new board role, Gretchen is looking forward to enhancing her knowledge of the **Olive Crest** mission, elevating their brand, and participating in key events and mentoring programs.

Gretchen has over 25 years of experience addressing the business needs of a wide variety of clients, including public and privately owned businesses and their owners. Gretchen has held numerous leadership roles within **RSM** including industry groups, corporate tax, national practice development committees, Irvine Office Managing Partner, and is currently the West Region Tax Consulting Leader. She also serves as a Global Engagement Leader working with **RSM** foreign affiliates to serve global companies. Her energy brings teams together to identify objectives, create implementation plans, and execute to achieve strong results.

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Gretchen Valentine