

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**SAN DIEGO, May 22, 2022**

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**Links:**

- [High resolution photos of this year's gala](#)
- [High resolution photos of previous galas](#)
- [High resolution photos of Father Joe's Villages](#)

**'Waves of Possibilities' for Children as Father Joe's Village Raised Nearly \$1.3M at 38th Annual Children's Charity Gala**

- *Signature event raises funds to keep families together, and prevent children from chronically falling into homelessness*
- *Funds will be used to provide an array of services including health care, behavioral health treatment, and life skills lessons*
- *Father Joe's Villages honored community leaders for their support*

**WHAT**

On Saturday, May 20, [Father Joe's Villages'](#) 38th annual sold-out event [Waves of Possibilities](#) raised nearly \$1.3M for life-changing programs and services to support nearly 600 families and more than 1,100 children experiencing homelessness in San Diego. Father Joe's Villages provides housing, food, health and dental care, and counseling services for children and adults.

During the event, **Allan and Peggy Keck**, **The Menard Family Foundation**, and **The Ladies Guild** were recognized for their commitment to supporting San Diegans experiencing and overcoming homelessness to receive vital services.

**WHY**

Research shows children who are homeless are four times as likely to have delayed development, four times as likely to be homeless as adults, and twice as likely to repeat a grade in school. Father Joe's Villages emphasizes providing critical care to children to break the cycle of homelessness,

Funds raised at this event will benefit essential programs for children including Father Joe's Villages' fully licensed and accredited [Therapeutic Childcare Center](#), which provides preschool and after-school programs and emergency and life-sustaining services like food, shelter and healthcare.

## QUOTES

“Through the generosity of our community members, Father Joe’s Village will continue to assist San Diego children and families to become self-reliant, to live a healthy and productive life.” said **Deacon Jim Vargas, president and CEO of Father Joe’s Villages**. “Along with our community partners, providing access to vital services will lead to a brighter future.”

## GALA HONORARY CHAIRS

This year’s Children’s Charity Gala Honorary Chairs and Presenting Sponsors were Bob & Ellen Svatos, steadfast advocates for more than 25 years to people in need.

## GALA HONOREES

- The **Ladies Guild**, an all-volunteer group that supports Father Joe’s Villages programs, received the Father Joe Carroll Award. The award recognizes organizations and individuals with a longstanding commitment to Father Joe’s Villages’ mission. Celebrating its 40th anniversary, the Ladies Guild annually provides nearly 14,000 hours of service to the organization through hosting birthday parties for the children in the Therapeutic Childcare Center, baking cookies and shopping for gifts at Christmas, providing Halloween costumes, and much more.
- **Allan & Peggy Keck** received the Father Joe’s Villages Award for their dedication and contributions to the organization’s children and family services, Children’s Charity gala and support for other initiatives. The Keck’s are particularly dedicated to our food services programs and in recent years, they have provided funds for multiple Combi Ovens which allow our chefs to provide hundreds of thousands of meals each year.
- The **Menard Family Foundation** was honored with the Bishop Maher Award, which recognizes those who put the needs of the poor before themselves. The Menard Family Foundation, which supports organizations helping those in need, continues the legacy of Barbara Menard’s parents, Bernard P. and Mary K. Menard. The Foundation has been giving generously to Father Joe’s Villages for 41 years and Barbara is an active supporter as well as Executive Director. They are recognized with a paver in the newest St. Teresa of Calcutta Villa for supporting our affordable housing campaigns.

## ADDITIONAL DETAILS AND CONTACT

- **Organization:** [Father Joe’s Villages](#)
- **To coordinate interviews:** Mike Peterson, [mike@gomixte.com](mailto:mike@gomixte.com), 619-732-0789 ext. 645
- **Link to use in your story:**
  - [Father Joe's Villages website](#)
  - [38th Annual Children’s Charity Gala](#)



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As San Diego's largest homeless services provider, Father Joe's Villages ensures that each person can rediscover hope and leave homelessness behind. To address the complex needs of people who are homeless, the organization provides housing for more than 2,500 people each night, along with health care, substance use disorder treatment, job training, therapeutic childcare and more. This mission is made possible only through the efforts of compassionate staff, [volunteer work](#), [car donation](#), and generous public and private [charitable contributions](#). For more information, please visit: <https://.my.neighbor.org/>.