A Lasting Connection

Southern California native Patti Craine vividly recalls the impact community service made on her as an undergraduate at San Jose State University. A member of the Delta Gamma fraternity—the wonderful collection of women responsible for founding the Blind Children’s Center in 1938—the organization’s mission of “Service for Sight” and philosophy of “Do Good” have been running themes in her life ever since.

As a collegian, Patti frequently volunteered with blind and visually impaired children from the San Jose area as part of her chapter’s service to the local community. “They stole my heart,” she remembered. “I found that in their own way, these children have a strength and courageous spirit that many adults can only hope for.” Her experiences were so inspiring that they led Patti to teach kindergarten for many years.

Patti found another part of her heart full when she met the love of her life, Notre Dame alum, Bud Craine. The pair married in 1970, settling in Palm Springs where they raised two healthy children of their own. An orthodontist by trade, Bud shared Patti’s passion for volunteerism and charity. While Patti became a dedicated supporter to us here at the Blind Children’s Center, Bud often donated free orthodontic services to those in need. The Craines were also longtime supporters, board members, and puppy trainers for Guide Dogs of the Desert.

Always guided by the Delta Gamma motto of “Do Good,” Patti transitioned professionally obtaining a Master’s degree in Marriage and Family Therapy at the age of forty. She continued to be inspired by the children and families Continued inside
Welcome: New Board Member

Vincent “Marc” Rojas, who is currently an officer with the Los Angeles Police Department brings a diverse and impressive background to the Blind Children’s Center’s Board of Directors. A native Californian, Marc studied Business Management at Moorpark College before receiving his degree in Criminal Justice and Leadership from Union Institute and University in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Upon graduating, Marc spent 14 years in the private sector, owning and operating successful businesses in the construction arena. Marc eventually sold his profitable Brewster Marble Company in 2007 when he decided he wanted to make a deeper impact on the city of Los Angeles.

Marc promptly joined the LAPD, where he has been a decorated officer in the 77th Area/South Los Angeles. While assigned to the Criminal Gang and Homicide detail, Marc worked closely with other key law enforcement agencies including the joint FBI Task Force. His impressive resume includes a Medal of Valor award, recognition from the Eagle and Badge Foundation, and Officer of the Year commendation for 2010.

Marc’s impact on the community extends far beyond the streets he patrols. For years he has served as a coach on the LAPD’s Centurions Football Team, which raises money specifically to support the Blind Children’s Center. More recently, Marc has taken on a leadership role as an LAPD liaison to the Center, bringing fellow officers to special events and helping take our Fall Golf Classic to new heights through strategic partnerships with the police department.

It was our privilege to recognize the LAPD as our Champions of Light for 2016, an honor which Marc accepted on behalf of his brothers and sisters in blue. Marc is a man of integrity, who brings passion and leadership to every project he tackles. We are incredibly fortunate to have his support and are very proud to announce his appointment to our Board of Directors.

Continued: A Lasting Connection

Patti Craine & Friends

she encountered at BCC, establishing a Delta Gamma Desert Empire Alumnae Chapter in the early 1990s to help support the important work of the Center. “I hope I can be as brave through life’s challenges as these little warriors and their courageous parents,” she said with admiration. Late in 2015, Patti faced the greatest challenge of her life when Bud passed away after 45 years of marriage. Yet, thanks to the Craines’ generosity, Bud’s memory will live on through a forthcoming on-campus therapeutic area which will be named “Uncle Buddy’s Sensory Garden.” The garden will contain a variety of equipment and sensory tools to engage young children facing visual impairments.

Seeking to make the greatest impact possible, Patti has also included the Blind Children’s Center in her estate plan. “Our own children are financially secure,” Patti said. “And I’ve been very blessed in life. It is my honor to pass those blessings forward with joy, humility, and gratitude.”

Patti’s bequest is sure to make an incredible impact for generations of blind and visually impaired children to come. But, to Patti, it’s all about “Doing Good.” A passionate donor for decades and committed board member for the past three years, Patti remarked, “You think you’re giving but you get so much back. The satisfaction from watching these children grow and thrive, is just about the best thing in the world.”

There are many ways to give to the Blind Children’s Center. If you would like to find out more about including the Center in your estate plan, please call Scott Kassel at 323.664.2153, ext. 2330, or email scott@blindchildrenscenter.org.

Light the Way to a Brighter Tomorrow...

This year marks the Blind Children’s Center’s 79th Anniversary. Since 1938 we have been providing children who are blind or severely visually impaired with the educational tools and practical skills to lead a successful life.

Join us as we build the foundation for another eight decades of private early education. We humbly ask you to consider including the Blind Children’s Center in your estate plan so that these vital services can continue far into the future. Your gift will do more than you even thought possible to transform the lives of children who are visually impaired and their families for generations to come.

For more information, please contact Scott Kassel at 323.664.2153, ext. 2330, or via email at scott@blindchildrenscenter.org.

To include the Center in your estate plan, please use our legal name, “The Blind Childrens Center, Inc.” Fed ID# 95-1656369

www.blindchildrenscenter.org

323.664.2153
Mawardi Golf Challenge Turns 17!

On February 23, 2017, a collection of the Blind Children’s Center’s most dedicated supporters took to the greens of the San Gabriel Country Club for the 17th annual Mawardi Golf Challenge. Presented by title sponsor, the Youssef & Kamel Mawardi Foundation, the Challenge holds a special place in the Center’s heart, as 100% of the proceeds raised directly benefit our students and families.

The MGC was launched by a small group of golfers in 2000 who decided to play 100-plus holes of charitable golf in one day. The Challenge that BCC once referred to as “The Longest Day of Golf,” has produced a dedicated group of golfers who now play 18 holes each year for the same, critical cause. Their fundraising efforts yielded an impressive $115,000 in net proceeds for this year’s event and, in its lifetime, the MGC has gone on to raise more than $1.4 million!

A dozen golfers teed-off at noon, finishing the 18-holes just after 4 p.m. Luckily there was a break from the recent rain, and everyone enjoyed a beautiful day out on the course with BCC’s mission guiding them. A special thank you goes out to tournament co-chairs Dr. Richard French & Tetsu Tanimoto, whose leadership and passion have taken this event to new heights in recent years.

The day culminated with a lovely banquet dinner honoring our sponsors and golfers for their longstanding support. Keynote speaker, Rosalinda Mendiola, the Center’s Adaptive Service Specialist for nearly 30 years, addressed the audience, outlining BCC’s programs and expressing her gratitude on behalf of the students and families we serve.