



PHILANTHROPY

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Dynamic Women Making a Difference

► *Judy Nicholls, senior communications, marketing and strategic planning consultant, GHS Aviation Group, co-chair, 18th Annual Scholarship Luncheon; Susan Samuelli, co-founder, Samuelli Foundation, co-chair, 18th Annual Scholarship Luncheon; Deidre Pujols, founder, Open Gate International, founder, Strike Out Slavery, CEO, Pujols Kitchen and founder, Pujols Family Foundation; Junely Merwin, foster youth ambassador, Alliance of Moms*

44 Women for Orangewood hosted its 18th Annual Scholarship Luncheon on June 1 at the Balboa Bay Resort. The luncheon welcomed more than 350 guests and featured elements such as opportunity drawings and prizes, including a Twila True jewelry piece, a champagne cocktail hour, a live fund-a-need for Orangewood's youth, and two special guest speakers. The event netted \$340,000, all of which will benefit Orangewood Foundation's foster youth and programs.

The event was led by committee co-chairs, **Susan Samueli, Ph.D.**, co-founder, **Samueli Foundation** and co-founder, **44 Women for Orangewood**, and **Judy Nicholls**, senior communications, marketing and strategic planning consultant, **GHS Aviation Group**. The event was made possible by several sponsors and donors, including the **Samueli Foundation**, **Newport Beach Dermatology & Plastic Surgery**, **Union Bank**, **Kaiser Permanente**, **Farmers & Merchants Bank**, **Modern Luxury**, **CalPac Sheet Metal** and **Anaheim Ducks & Honda Center**.

“The support we were shown by our donors, sponsors, and community members at this year’s event was truly remarkable and will have a positive impact on Orangewood Foundation, allowing them to better serve the youth who are in foster care,” Samueli said. “We are proud to host this luncheon each year as it continuously helps Orangewood Foundation’s young individuals reach their greatest potentials.”

Deidre Pujols, founder, **Open Gate International**, founder, **Strike Out Slavery**, CEO, **Pujols Kitchen LLC** and founder, **Pujols Family Foundation**, was the luncheon’s keynote speaker. **Junely Merwin**, foster youth ambassador, **Alliance of Moms**, was the luncheon’s youth speaker and shared her personal journey through the foster care system from the age of 15 until 21, when she earned a full-ride scholarship from the **Guardian Scholars Program** at **California State University, Fullerton** and obtained her bachelor’s degree in Human Services.