



## Martha's Village & Kitchen

FAST FACTS

Martha's Village and Kitchen in Indio, Calif., offers a continuum of care for people to regain their lives. The Village provides long- and short-term housing for singles and families, family literacy classes, job skills, career counseling, medical care, mental health counseling, recovery services, and children's services. Martha's is the largest provider of homeless services in the Coachella Valley.

# Heart and Spirit Award

## Martha's honors supporters at Western Roundup

By Patricia M. Walsh

Riverside County Supervisor Roy Wilson and philanthropists Carol and Robert Peters were honored with The Heart and Spirit of Martha's Award on March 13, 2008, at the 9th annual Western Roundup.

"Supervisor Wilson has been very supportive for many years and was instrumental in helping Martha's become the largest provider of services to the homeless and impoverished in



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Carol and Robert Peters

the Coachella Valley," says Gloria Gomez, founder of Martha's Village & Kitchen. "Thanks to the tremendous generosity of Carol and Robert Peters, who sponsored Martha's lobby facilities with a \$150,000 gift, our capital campaign took a giant step forward."

### Carol and Robert Peters

Third-generation Californians, Carol and Robert Peters' philanthropic activities span nearly five decades. Carol is from Marin County and Bob from San Jose. They met in Hawaii as teenagers and married in the 1960s. They have three children – Bill, Steve and Carrie – and seven grandchildren.

Bob's studies were in electrical engineering at Santa Clara University. He received a master's degree in business administration from Harvard after a stint in the Army Signal Corp. Carol was at San Jose State when Bob called and said, "Let's get married." She completed

her degree a number of years later at the University of San Francisco.

In the mid-1960s, the couple returned to their roots in the Santa Clara Valley before it was dubbed Silicon Valley. While Carol dedicated her time to her family and raising their children, Bob had a series of marketing, sales and management positions with a number of established high-tech companies including Hewlett Packard, Stanford Research Institute (now SRI International) and American Microsystems. He went on to senior management positions in start-ups including Zoran Corporation and Sierra Semiconductor (now PMC-Sierra). In the late 1980s, as the Internet began to emerge, Bob was the original marketing vice president (employee #27) at Cisco Systems. During the 1990s, Bob was an investor and director of a number of start-ups, including the Heritage Bank in San Jose.

After raising their children, Carol branched out into social work with the Independent Aging Program at Catholic Charities. Bob also became significantly involved in philanthropy, serving on the board of Catholic Charities in Santa Clara County, as a regent and president of the Board of Regents at Bellarmine College Preparatory in San Jose, and on the Board of Regents at Santa Clara University.

He currently serves on the Board of Trustees at Santa Clara and is chairman of the fundraising committee. He also serves meals regularly at a shelter in San Jose.

### Supervisor Roy Wilson

Supervisor Wilson was first elected to represent the 4th District on the Riverside County Board of Supervisors in 1994, and was re-elected to a fourth term in March 2006. Previously he was planning commissioner for the City of Palm Desert and a member of the Palm



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Supervisor Roy Wilson

Desert City Council, serving four terms as mayor.

Wilson spent more than 33 years in higher education as an administrator and professor with a focus on journalism at California State University, Stanislaus and College of the Desert. In 1995, Wilson was inducted into the Community College Journalism Association's Hall of Fame in Washington, D.C. He co-authored the textbook *Mass Media/Mass Culture*. Wilson holds bachelor's and master's degrees from California State Universities and a doctorate in higher education from the University of Southern California. ■

# Staff provides dignity and a last chance for help

By Patricia M. Walsh

When Susan D. walked into Emergency Services at Martha's Village & Kitchen she was diagnosed by Dr. Michael Kim with cirrhosis – end-stage liver disease – and given two to six months to live. The severity of her illness made it impossible for her to live in Martha's Emergency Shelter, so the staff sent her to a local emergency room, only to have her returned untreated.

"Susan didn't fit into any program that we knew of," says Martha's Executive Director John Wolohan. "If she had been 62, there was a program. If she was a battered wife, there was a program. If she had a Medi-Cal number, there was a program. If she was a danger to herself, there was a program. But for a 52-year-old dying alcoholic woman – no program."

Wolohan called Riverside County Adult Protective Services and found out from Social Services

“Sofia is a tremendous asset ... It is an honor to serve with this wonderful group of caring individuals.

*Norma Angel, Riverside County Adult Protective Services*

Worker Norma Angel that Susan could apply for an emergency Medi-Cal number. "The problem was that processing the number would take weeks, and that didn't guarantee it would ever come for Susan," Wolohan says.

That's when Sophia Garcia, Martha's Emergency Services case manager, stepped in. Garcia immediately submitted paperwork and four days later – after almost hourly calls to bureaucrats – had an emergency Medi-Cal number for Susan.

Over at Adult Protective Services, Angel was astonished

at Garcia's accomplishment. "She is the best I have ever worked with and I've been around for a whole long time," Angel says. She followed up with a letter of thanks and acknowledgement that read: Securing Susan D.'s emergency Medi-Cal number "could not have been accomplished without the dedication and perseverance of Sofia Garcia. As always, Sofia understood the steps required and took immediate action. Sofia is a tremendous asset to the clientele at Martha's Village & Kitchen and we commend Sofia for a job well done. It is an honor



VILLAGE NEWS Ricardo Solis

Sofia Garcia

to serve with this wonderful group of caring individuals."

Wolohan says, "Sofia is not alone among our staff in caring about the welfare of the people that we serve, but this is an instance of how she rose to the occasion. This unfortunate alcoholic woman is still going to die ... God knows what her story might be. But I think of her case as a success story for Martha's because she needed help and whatever her story was, Martha's staff helped her." ■

# A perfect day for polo

By Claudia Castorena

We held our 3rd Annual Polo Classic on Feb. 9, 2008, at the Eldorado Polo Club. Everyone in attendance had a lot of fun watching the polo match. At the terrace tables a delicious formal lunch was provided by The Rattle Snake restaurant, and in the tailgating area, supporters enjoyed food and drinks from their own picnic baskets. Attendees also had an opportunity to bid for beautiful items at the silent auction.

Martha's appreciates the generosity of our sponsors, who made the event a success.

**Event presenters:** The Amidei Romano Group and The Prentice Group.

**Event Sponsors:** *Palm Springs Life Magazine*, Blue Ice Vodka, Fritz Winery and Merrill Lynch.

Thank you to Vanessa Brown who sang the National Anthem.

A special thank you to all who attended and supported the event. ■

*Claudia Castorena is a founder of Martha's Village & Kitchen.*