



Ranch Family Hosts “A Date With Nature”



The young and the young-at-heart joined together last month for “A Date with Nature,” the annual fundraiser for the 1,200-acre Rancho Mission Viejo Land Conservancy, one of the region’s largest and most successful land conservancies.

Now celebrating its 10th year anniversary, the Conservancy is a joint public/private partnership between the O’Neill/Avery/Moiso family, the County of Orange and the City of San Clemente.

During this year’s annual “A Date with Nature,” the Ranch family and the Conservancy Board of Directors announced that the Conservancy would be renamed The Donna O’Neill Land Conservancy at Rancho Mission Viejo. Donna O’Neill, wife of the Ranch’s patriarch, Richard O’Neill, served as the inspiration for both the original formation of the Conservancy and its decade of educational outreach. Her devotion to the environment led the family’s long time commitment to raptor and mountain lion research, to the protection of native plants, to the

care and maintenance of California live oak trees, and to the preservation of the family’s ranching and farming practices. After a long battle with cancer, Donna O’Neill passed away on the morning of July 18, 2002 at her home on Rancho Mission Viejo.

“The spot where we are gathered today is known as Campo Amantes and has been an O’Neill family camping and picnic area for many years,” said Conservancy Chairman Gilbert Aguirre, Rancho Mission Viejo’s Executive Vice President – Ranch Operations. “Campo Amantes will always be preserved as an important landmark and as a part of the permanent open space protected on the Ranch. Given its family significance, it is only fitting that we gather here to help recognize Donna O’Neill and the role she played in forming and sustaining the Conservancy.”

This year’s “Date with Nature” attracted nearly 600 attendees who participated in a wide range of hands-on nature-based activities including live animal learning sessions, wildlife exhibits, guided nature walks, rock climbing, astronomy lessons with telescopes, fossil hunting, arts and crafts, an insect zoo, campfire story telling and even marshmallow roasting.

To learn more about the Conservancy and its many different activities and events, visit www.theconservancy.org.

CAMINO HEALTH CENTER

Since 1982, Camino Health Center has provided affordable, quality primary care for South Orange County’s medically underserved.

The center also offers children’s dental services; a mobile medical unit that travels to local neighborhoods in San Clemente, Lake Forest and San Juan Capistrano; and the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program focusing on nutritional education and support for pregnant and postpartum women, infants and children under five years of age.

Camino Health Center is sponsored by Mission Hospital Regional Medical Center, which was founded in the 1960s by members of the O’Neill family along with private business interests. To learn more about Mission Hospital and the Camino Health Center, visit www.mission4health.com, click on “Ways To Help Now” and then click on “Groups I Can Join.”

Rancho Mission Viejo Rodeo Raises \$45,000 For Local Charities

As the top cowboys in the nation competed for prize money, more than \$45,000 was raised from the Second Annual Rancho Mission Viejo Rodeo to help support a number of local charitable organizations.

Conducted on August 24 and 25, 2002 at the Oaks Blenheim Rancho Mission Viejo Riding Park near San Juan Capistrano, the Rancho Mission Viejo Rodeo attracted 80 of the nation’s top rodeo competitors who vied for more than \$132,500 in prize money. Cowboys participated in six events: saddle and bareback bronc riding, calf roping, steer wrestling, bull riding, and team roping. The top 15 regular-season finishers in each event qualify to compete in the National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas, December 6-15.

Yet, the real winners of the Rancho Mission Viejo Rodeo were the hundreds of children who now stand to benefit from the “surplus” profits which will be donated to Cow Camp Caridades, a qualified charity established by the Ranch family more than 25 years ago. Last year’s proceeds were donated to Charity’s Best, The Boys & Girls Club of the Capistrano Valley, R.H. Dana Educational Foundation, and Camino Health Center, as profiled in the adjoining sidebar story. To review photos from the 2002 rodeo and learn about the 2003 rodeo, visit www.rmvrodeo.com.



Pictured from left to right, Debra Drew of Camino Health Care and Trina Moiso Lamkin of Rancho Mission Viejo.



TESORO HIGH RECEIVES \$20,000

Last month, the O'Neill and Moiso family provided \$20,000 to the fledgling Tesoro High School Athletic Department to help provide sorely needed uniforms and basic equipment for boys and girls competitive sports teams.

The donation will be topped by an additional \$25,000 matching contribution to be established by the family next year.

"Athletics is an important part of learning," said Anne Marie Moiso, who officially presented her family's donation. "Through competitive sports, we learn discipline and commitment as well as the basics of team play. We are very pleased to be able to do our part to help promote these values among the students of South Orange County."



Anne Marie Moiso (center) with Tesoro High volleyball team and coaches.



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Setting A Standard For Lifelong Learning



For nearly 40 years, the Rancho Mission Viejo family has demonstrated its commitment to educational excellence by shepherding the construction of schools throughout South Orange County.

Now under construction on land provided by the family are Ladera Ranch Elementary School (K-5) and Ladera Ranch Middle School (6-8), both part of the highly regarded Capistrano Unified School District (CUSD). Located adjacent to the new schools is a community public library which also is under construction.

"My family is very proud to be adding these new schools to CUSD, which includes 29 California Distinguished Schools and 10 National Blue Ribbon Schools," said Anne Marie Moiso, director of marketing for Rancho Mission Viejo. "We understand that part of the responsibility

associated with the blessing of owning and managing this land for the last 120 years is a commitment to providing the opportunity for academic achievement – at all ages. Starting with Mission Viejo and continuing today in Ladera Ranch, we have always believed that creating schools and other essential facilities and services is just a part of being a good neighbor and a contributing member of the community."

A fourth Ladera Ranch school, Oso Grande Elementary School, is expected to open in September 2005. The family, through Ladera Ranch, also has provided approximately \$10 million to CUSD for the funding of a portion of a future high school within the District's boundaries.

Parents can get more information about the schools and programs within the Capistrano Unified School District by visiting www.capousd.org.

Among the more than a dozen local public and private schools which have benefited from the family's generosity are Saddleback Community College, Mission Viejo High School, Capistrano Valley High School, Trabuco Hills High School, Santa Margarita Catholic High School, Rancho Mission Viejo Middle School, Las Flores Elementary and Middle School, the new Tesoro High School, numerous elementary schools, and the recently completed state-of-the-art Chaparral Elementary School in Ladera Ranch.

*I thought that you might find this of interest -
Best Regards,
Tony Moiso*