

MOTHERS' CLUB

"There's No Place Like Home" was the theme of the fifth annual fundraiser for Mothers' Club Family Learning Center on June 22. And what a home it is. The Pasadena agency's new \$6.5 million building at 980 N. Fair Oaks Ave. is not only awesome, it is also state-of-the-art "green" and

we're told - the first "green" pre-school in Southern California.

More than 180 club members and friends turned out for the party that raised \$58,000. The spacious new digs (10,000 square feet) will soon be certified at the Gold Level by the U.S. Green Building Council as part of the LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Green Building Rating System - a national standard for developing high performance sustainable buildings.

The Doo Dah Parade's grand pooh-bah **Tom Coston** emceed the doings honoring **Judy and Randy Wilson** and members of the Pasadena Chapter of National Charity League. Board president **Judy Smith Asbury** and executive director **Sue Kujawa** praised Judy Wilson for her leadership role in the capital campaign that made the new home a reality. Her husband Randy, a Pasadena real estate developer, was instrumental in locating the new site - the former headquarters of the American Friends Service Committee - and securing financing. The NCL Pasadena chapter, founded in 1998, was lauded for its many acts of kindness and generosity to the club. Also in the spotlight was Mothers' Club participant **Alejandra Chavez** who received the Inspiration Award. Chavez, earned her university degree and taught in Mexico before coming to the U.S. She joined the club with her two children in 2004 to learn English. She now teaches Spanish as a volunteer and takes advanced English classes at Pasadena City College.

That's just one of many success stories in the Mothers' Club archives since it was established in 1961 to serve local families living in isolation and poverty. "Mothers' Club is more than a pre school," Kujawa said, "We believe we must reach both parent and child and educate them together. Our two-generation programs are designed to increase the school-readiness of at-risk children, improve parenting skills, adult literacy levels, and inspire parents to actively participate in their child's learning, both at home and at school."

Lots of Mothers' Club benefactors in the crowd,, among them: **Judith and David Brown, Sarah Orth, Sylvia and Ben Paz, Ellen and Harvey Knell, Patricia McLaughlin, Aty and Howard Rotter, Leslie and Jeff Dennis, Susan Futterman, Kathy and Tony Magistrale, Norah Morley, Ramon Pack, Marsha Rood, Victoria and John Tongish, Robin and Ben Stafford, Jill and Joel Sheldon, Eileen and Bill Zimmerman, Jean and Louis Fleming, Carole and Mike Babcock, Bonnie Valles, Sylvia and George Wiley, Marie and Gordon Campbell, Mary Lois Nevins, Renu Bhat-Hansen, Nancy and John Carlton, Maria Low and George Way, Heather and Michael Van Meter, Teri and Steve Davis, Karen and Stephen Sweeney, Grace and Ken Russak, Judy McDonald and Betty and Charles McKenney.**

From left: Grace Russak, honorees Randy and Judy Wilson, Teri Davis and Karen Sweeney posed for the camera at "There's No Place Like

Home," the fifth annual fundraiser to benefit Mothers' Club Family Learning Center in Pasadena.

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