



The Current



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PHILANTHROPY

Human Options raises \$678,000 at Newport Beach Fun Gala

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Human Options, an Orange-County based non-profit dedicated to breaking the cycle of domestic violence, hosted their 2017 Serious Fun Gala on May 20 at the Balboa Bay Resort in Newport Beach. The event brought together more than 375 influential community leaders honoring their work to break the cycle of domestic violence, provide critical programs and services to victims, give back to their

The event brought together more than 375 influential community leaders honoring their work to break the cycle of domestic violence, provide critical programs and services to victims, give back to their community while raising \$678,000 in funding for the organization. Human Options also honored the longtime strategic partner and past board Chairwoman Julie Hill with the 2017 DOVE Award, which recognizes individuals or corporations who have made significant contribu-

tions to domestic violence prevention programs that enable women and children to overcome trauma and begin to lead safe and healthy lives.

The event was co-chaired by Terry Theologides and Wendy Peterson and honorary Chairwoman Kristen Monson.

The night kicked off with hosted cocktails and silent and wine auctions, followed by entertainment celebrating the decade that Human Options was founded with '80s cover band Flashback Heart Attack, dancing and a live auction.

Hill founded Hiram-Hill Development, a home building and land development company based in Newport Beach in 1998, which she sold in 2003, and The Hill Co., which has a portfolio of interests. From 1991 to 1998, she was president and CEO of the U.S. of Costain Homes, a division of the Costain Group based in London, England. She was previously a senior executive with Mobil Land Development Corp. in Atlanta,



COURTESY PHOTO

Co-Chairs Terry Theologides and Wendy Peterson during the Human Options' 2017 Serious Fun Gala on May 20 at the Balboa Bay Resort in Newport Beach.

a division of Mobil Oil.

As a devoted advocate for women's rights, Hill has supported Human Options since 1993. While CEO of the U.S. division of Costain Homes, she was one of four builders to participate in an unprecedented public-private partnership that resulted in the construction of Human Options' emergency shelter, the first in California specifically designed to house domestic violence victims.

As Human Options' board president, she led the organization through a period of substantial growth, strengthening the board, challenging bound-



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From left, longtime donors Ygal Sonenshine, Judge Sheila Prell Sonenshine and Kerri Sonenshine are all smiles at the Hum at the Balboa Bay Resort in Newport Beach.

aries and establishing effective business practices. She has remained passionately vigilant to the mission and vision of empowering clients to find safety, healing and a way forward.

"We are so proud to honor Julie as a visionary leader committed to making our world a safer place for all women. She has not only made significant contributions to Human Options, but is always inspiring others to make a difference," said Maricela Rios-Faust, CEO of Human Options. "Thanks to our generous support-

ers, every day Human Options is one step closer to achieving a world where domestic violence does not exist."

To date, Human Options has counseled and sheltered over 32,000 individuals suffering from domestic violence, responded to more than 70,000 hotline callers and crises, and educated more than 328,000 individuals in their prevention programs.

The mission of Human Options is to provide a haven and life-changing programs to help abused women, their children

and families rebuild their lives while working with the community to break the cycle of domestic violence. Now in its 35th year, Human Options provides a full continuum of services to stop the violence — from a 24-hour hotline, emergency and transitional living programs, education and prevention presentations and trainings in the community, and low/no-cost services including counseling, legal advocacy, children's therapies and empowerment classes, offered in six locations in the county.