

# ICF to Create Center for Cross-Border Philanthropy La Maestra Circle of Care Foundation & La Maestra Community Health Centers Provide 6,000 Toys & Gifts to San Diego Families

*Heirs to Wal-Mart Gift Property; New Center Will Promote Building Sustainable Communities in the Border Region*

With globalization and advances in telecommunications blurring borders, International Community Foundation will establish the ICF Center for Cross-Border Philanthropy to help promote greater cross-cultural understanding in today's globally interconnected communities.

International Community Foundation's Center for Cross-Border Philanthropy will be located in National City on the former property of John Walton — the late son of Sam Walton and heir to Wal-Mart — and his wife Christy. The property features organic gardens and an old Victorian home, originally built in 1896 for Oliver Noyes, the former postmaster of National City. After undergoing renovations in 1989 to preserve its structure and gardens, the house was gifted by the Walton family to ICF in 2006 for use in furthering international charitable deeds. The Waltons recently made a \$4 million endowment gift to ICF to protect and preserve the property in perpetuity.

"A gift of this significance to promote cross-border philanthropy should inspire other philanthropic organizations to not only expand charitable giving internationally, but also to do more to address the needs in border communities like National City," said Dr. Mary L. Walshok, chair of the board of governors, ICF. "This is the beginning of an exciting future for ICF, the border region and San Diego's South Bay."

International Community Foundation will also move its headquarters from North San Diego County to the National City house at 2525 N Ave. The organization received approval for its requested zone change

from National City's City Council this fall and the zone change was made final Dec. 20.

Acting as a central knowledge base for charitable giving internationally, ICF helps U.S.-based donors contribute to overseas nonprofit organizations and causes, particularly in Mexico and Central America with an emphasis on improving the environment, education and community-based health-care needs. The ICF Center for Cross-Border Philanthropy will bring like-minded individuals and organizations together to promote international charitable-giving foundations that lead to sustainable communities around the globe.

"By gifting our former home to ICF, my family seeks to promote binational programs, initiatives and dialogue between the U.S. and Mexico that we hope will lead to expanded cross-border philanthropy, while at the same time preserving a piece of National City's rich cultural history," said Christy Walton, who also noted her former home's organic gardens can serve as a valuable cross-border resource to promote experiential learning to encourage expanding environmental awareness, healthy eating habits and education on where food comes from. "Today, there are few places left in our shared-border region where open space has been preserved and organic gardens maintained to encourage not only a better understanding of our binational ecosystem, but also an appreciation for healthy eating and living for young and old alike."

A key focus area for the ICF Center for Cross-Border Philanthropy will be promoting health and nutrition, as San Diego's

South Bay area has a high rate of diabetes. Working with Chula Vista-based Los Niños International, the property's organic gardens will be used to engage San Diego- and Tijuana-area children, families and senior citizens to promote healthy eating and living. The garden is also the source of ingredients for the healing foods cooking class at the University of California, San Diego Moores Cancer Center. The program features nutrition classes, cooking demonstrations and recipe samplings focused on cancer recovery, cancer prevention and overall health. Another objective of the ICF Center for Cross Border Philanthropy will be historic preservation, promoting the rich cultural heritage of National City through the foundation's commitment to protect and preserve the historic Noyes House, a local-listed historic home.

As it relocates to National City, ICF will begin planning and fundraising efforts for the development of the ICF Center for Cross-Border Philanthropy. Groundbreaking for the International Community Foundation's phase-one improvements to the center will begin in late January 2008 with a move-in date expected in spring 2008.

The International Community Foundation is a public nonprofit organization that seeks to increase charitable giving and volunteerism across U.S. borders to benefit overseas communities and nonprofit charitable organizations, with an emphasis in Mexico and Central America. With assets of more than \$12 million, ICF made more than \$3.5 million in grants last year to nonprofit organization in Mexico, China and Guatemala, amongst other countries.



Jennifer Lopez, Carmen Contreras & Leo Antonio Marselian attend the event.

La Maestra Circle of Care Foundation in partnership with La Maestra Community Health Centers distributed more than 6,000 toys and gifts to San Diego families this week. Gifts were distributed by Foundation and La Maestra staff at La Maestra Community Health Centers located in City Heights, El Cajon and National City.

Toys and gifts were donated to La Maestra from various national, regional and local companies and organizations. "We are so fortunate to be able to do this for our patients, clients and the local communities we serve," states Zara Marselian, CEO La Maestra. "We could not do this without the generosity of others and our dedicated staff that planned for this all year." "We put smiles on people's faces today and that makes our efforts worth every minute."

## Huerta Heads Latino Event For Clinton



Mary Salas, in back, with Hillary Clinton at State Democratic Convention.

By E.A. Barrera

Labor and Women's rights organizer Dolores Huerta headlined a campaign event for New York Senator Hillary Clinton this past Sunday, December 23 in Chula Vista. Huerta, who worked closely with Cesar Chavez, lead a campaign phoning party at the home of local Latino activist Bea Fernandez.

Attendees worked to get out the vote for Clinton in advance of the January 3, 2008 Iowa Caucuses and January 8, 2008 New Hampshire Primary. Clinton is currently the national front-runner for the Democratic Party's presidential nomination, but the races in Iowa and New Hampshire between Clinton, Illinois Senator Barack Obama and former North Carolina Senator John Edwards are considered too close to call.

In 1962 Huerta teamed with Chavez to form the National Farm Workers Association, the predecessor to the United Farm Workers Union. Through the 1960s and 1970s, Huerta and Chavez organized farm workers and their families throughout the San Joaquin Valley and farmlands across California. Joining Huerta was Assem-

blywoman Mary Salas and Richard Chavez, brother of the late labor right's leader and married to Huerta. Salas publicly endorsed Clinton last Spring and appeared with her at a press conference during the California State Democratic Convention on April 28.

Clinton received the endorsements of California Assembly Speaker Fabian Nunez during the State Convention. The Clinton campaign has made an early and concerted effort to court Latino voters. The California Primary will be held on February 5th, along with several other states, including Colorado, where Clinton recently announced the formation of its Colorado Hispanic Leadership Council.

"Hispanics in Colorado know that Hillary Clinton has the strength and experience to create the real change America needs," said Colorado State Senator Paula Sandoval on December 19. "She has been fighting for children and families and creating opportunities for every American."

"I am very excited about receiving the support from these community leaders," said Hillary Clinton in a press release issued

the same day. "The Hispanic community will play a key role in the February 5th caucus, and I look forward to working with them to help put our country back on track."

Attorney and Latino political activist Steven Ybarra noted the high level of Latino support for Clinton.

"You've got Solis and Raul Yzaguirre (former president of the National Council of La Raza) as major players in her campaign. She sees the numbers and understands where the votes will come from," said Ybarra. "Latinos will decide the next president of the United States. By 2020 we will control this state."

## New District Board Officers Named

*Sweetwater Board of Trustees selects new president and vice president*

At its December board meeting, the Sweetwater Board of Trustees selected Pearl Quiñones as President to succeed Arlie Ricasa. Trustee Jaime Mercado was chosen to serve as Vice President. Continuing the roles they have filled this year, Sandi Smith will serve as the board's Clerk and district Superintendent Dr. Jesus Gandara as Secretary.

Re-elected to her second term as a board member in 2004, Quiñones is employed by the San Ysidro School District as a dropout prevention specialist. She served as the board's vice president in 2007. Ms. Quiñones is dedicated to improving education and strongly advocates high student achievement.

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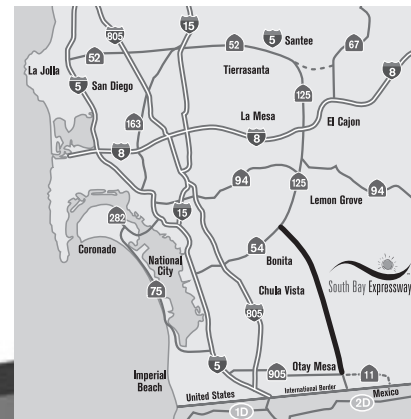
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