

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**RANCHO SANTA FE FOUNDATION**

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**BAGNALL AWARD PRESENTED TO MUFFY WALKER AND NEIGHBORHELP**

Mike Bagnall was the man behind the idea of honoring people in our community who are the inspiration for the work of local non-profit organizations. For six years the Rancho Santa Fe Foundation has presented an annual award to someone in the community who demonstrates “excellence in philanthropy” .

This \$1000 grant award, from the Michael L. Bagnall Memorial Fund, was established in Mr. Bagnalls memory by his family and friends. It acknowledges people in the community who with non-profit partners have shown creativity, vision and innovation in working to implement new programs to better serve the Rancho Santa Fe community.

In order to qualify for the award the following criteria must be met. The organization must conduct its primary activities within the covenant boundaries of Rancho Santa Fe and the organization must be a qualified 501 (c) (3) institution.

On the evening of November 1<sup>st</sup>, members of the Foundation and NeighborHelp gathered at a beautiful reception hosted by The Inn at Rancho Santa Fe to honor this years recipient, Muffy Walker, for her work with NeighborHelp.

NeighborHelp was founded in 1998 by Muffy Walker, a local resident. NH strives to provide underprivileged families with access to the same advantages enjoyed by more affluent families in the RSF area and surrounding communities. Donations received from fundraisers are dispersed to help send children to summer camp, buy team sport uniforms and musical instruments, participate in school trips and after-school activities and take advantage of tutoring and other programs that enhance their educations.

Muffy is the President and Founder, leading with passion and extraordinary commitment to bringing better lives to the young people who reside in our community but who do not have many of the advantages of their peers. She has embodied all of what their mission represents for almost 10 years and likewise she embodies all of the qualities that Mike Bagnall envisioned for the recipient of the Bagnall Award for Excellence in Philanthropy.

On behalf of the Bagnall family and the Rancho Santa Fe Foundation, Emily Bagnall and Greg Hillgren, Foundation chairman, presented a check in the amount of \$1000 to NeighborHelp in honor of Muffy Walker, for the work that they have done, under her leadership and inspiration.

The mission of NH is "to advocate for equal opportunities for all members of our community; to create public awareness of NeighborHelp and its efforts; to raise funds and distribute to those in need."

Those who have received the award before are:

- 2001 - Joanie Wafer - Kids Korps USA
- 2002 - Bob Cleary - RSF Senior Center
- 2003 - Fran Foley - RSF Historical Society
- 2004 - Jack Edman - Community Concerts of RSF
- 2005 - Karen Moller - The Country Friends