

PHILANTHROPY

14 EDUCATION: Inaugural **Viva** gala raises \$2M to support **Cristo Rey Orange County High School**



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Viva Innovative Education

► *Stephen Holte, founding president, Cristo Rey Orange County High School; Alanna Psomas, founding benefactor, Cristo Rey Orange County High School, event honoree; Karelyn Roberts, principal, Cristo Rey Orange County High School; and Tim Psomas, former CEO and chairman of the of board, Psomas, founding benefactor, Cristo Rey Orange County High School, event honoree*



More than 350 philanthropists, corporate partners and community leaders came together on May 10 to

celebrate **Cristo Rey Orange County High School's** first year at the inaugural **Viva** gala.

The event, which took place at **Vea Resort and Spa** in Newport Beach, honored **Tim and Alanna Psomas**, founding benefactors, whose leadership made Cristo Rey Orange County High School possible. Tim Psomas is also the former chief executive and chairman of the board, **Psomas**, a consulting engineering firm specializing in the land development, transportation and water/wastewater markets across the western United States.

Viva raised \$2 million, which will support growth as the school doubles enrollment this fall and will help ensure Cristo Rey is an affordable option for students who might otherwise be unable to access a Catholic college prep high school that offers integrated, real-world work experience. Through Cristo Rey's **Corporate Work Study Program**, students earn nearly half of the cost of their education working at leading Orange County companies. Companies participating in the program include **Silverado, GSI Group Holdings, Sunwest Bank, MBK Real Estate Companies, Brown and Streza Attorneys at Law** and **KBS Realty Advisors.**

WCM Investment Management (WCM), presenting sponsor, underwrote all event costs, ensuring every dollar raised directly supported students. Additionally, WCM matched donations dollar for dollar made during the paddle raise.

"Viva was an incredible opportunity to introduce Cristo Rey Orange County to the community at large and ensure the awareness of the school, its unique corporate work-study program, and the impact it is having on students and families," said **Michael Trigg**, president, WCM Investment Management.

Rand Sperry, co-founder, **Sperry Commercial Global Affiliates** and **Sperry Equities Inc.**, and his wife, **Rosemary Sperry**, served as Viva gala co-chairs. Other donors included **Ed Slater**, principal, **Slater Builders** and **Liz Slater**, co-founder and CEO, Slater Builders; **Roger Kirwan**, founder and CEO, **Woodside Credit** and **Tracy Kirwan**; **Oscar González**, co-president and COO, **Northgate González Markets** and **Silvia González**; and **Al Baldwin**, CEO, **Baldwin and Sons**, and **Pam Baldwin**.