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Tim and Alanna Psomas of Newport Beach honored at Cristo Rey Orange County High School ¡VIVA! Gala

More than 350 prominent philanthropists, corporate partners and community leaders, including many from Newport Beach, raised more than \$2 million for Cristo Rey Orange County High School. Funds raised will help to ensure Cristo Rey is an affordable option for underserved students to access a private Catholic college prep high school uniquely integrated with real-world work experience.

"A Cristo Rey education doesn't cost less; we are just funded differently. As a new school without the traditional base of support in parents and alumni, we rely on friends like you to bridge the gap between what students earn at work, families pay in tuition and the true cost of a Catholic college prep education," said Stephen Holte, founding president at Cristo Rey Orange County.

Cristo Rey celebrated their inaugural ¡VIVA! Gala held on May 10 at VEA Newport Beach. The event honored Newport Beach residents Tim and Alanna Psomas, whose founding leadership made the dream of Cristo Rey Orange County possible.

"Alanna and I are overwhelmed and honored. It has been an incredible experience for us," said Tim Psomas, board of directors chair and honoree recipient. "And it's really you, the community, who have put your hearts and souls behind this effort, and you've made this a success."

The evening began as guests entered the sunset outdoor cocktail



Photo by John Watkins

Tim and Alanna Psomas were the inaugural recipients of the Rey of Hope Award



Photo by John Watkins

Stephen Holt, founding president at Cristo Rey Orange County High School with Karelyn Roberts

reception on the Riviera Lawn, where they were greeted by students who described their experiences working at top Orange County companies while enjoying the Mariachi band. As the festivities got under way, guests entered the ballroom, the tables were decorated with bright floral and citrus arrangements and softly lit candles. Abott Eugene Hayes, O.Praem, graciously blessed the event, the evening's benefactors and all who helped make the evening possible.

Tim and Alanna Psomas, inaugural recipients of the Rey of Hope Award, took center stage and received a standing ovation for their unwavering support and visionary leadership. Founding President Stephen Holte shared his belief in the promise and God-given potential of each student invited guests to support the school's ambitious goals of college, career and heaven. Founding Principal Karelyn Roberts described moving examples of students discovering their talents and growing in confidence with the support of Cristo Rey faculty and

staff. She recounted a student telling her, "Cristo Rey is designed for me to succeed."

The evening heated up with an exciting live auction including a fabulous five-day, four-night stay in a fully staffed 20,000-sf.-oceanfront villa in Punta Mita, Mexico that went for \$50,000. Other one-of-a-kind



Photo by John Watkins

Vincent Nguyen D.O. and his wife, Linh from Newport Beach attended the gala

opportunities included a VIP experience to the Grammy Hall of Fame concert, gala and VIP reception; an afternoon cruise aboard a 70-ft. yacht for 14 friends in Cabo, and a decadent, private culinary experience for 12 with a tequila specialist and culinary maestro and Executive Chef Alan Sanz at Northgate Markets' vibrant Mercado, Costa Mesa.

Newport Beach guests in attendance included Tim and Alanna Psomas; Ed Slater, principal, and his wife, Liz, co-founder and CEO of Slater Builders; John McMahon, philanthropist; Trish O'Donnell, philanthropist; Vincent Nguyen D.O. and his wife, Linh; Roger Kirwan, founder and CEO of Woodside Credit and his wife, Tracy, Al Baldwin, CEO of Baldwin and Sons and his wife, Pam, and Steve and Mary Tully.

"While we are new to Orange County, the Cristo Rey model has been garnering national attention for excellence for decades. We are the 39th school nationally, and there are 13,000 students currently enrolled in Cristo Rey schools," said Holte. "Ninety-nine percent of Cristo Rey graduates are accepted to college, 87% enroll and Cristo



Courtesy of Cristo Rey Orange County High School

(L-R) Steve and Mary Tully with Liz and Ed Slater, all of Newport Beach



Photo by John Watkins

Al and Pam Baldwin, of Newport Beach

Rey graduates are 2.5 times more likely to earn a bachelor's degree than their socioeconomic peers. Cristo Rey is the school that works."

The Presenting Sponsor, WCM Investment Management, underwrote all event costs, ensuring every dollar raised directly supported students. Additionally, WCM generously matched dollar for dollar donations during the paddle raise to fuel the growth of this proven national model.

"¡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 that the impact it is having on students and families no longer remains a secret," said Michael Trigg, president of WCM Investment Management.

Cristo Rey Orange County High School is a Catholic, college preparatory high school that provides a transformative education to students and families with limited economic resources. The school's innovative Corporate Work Study Program allows students to gain valuable professional experience while earning a portion of the cost of their education. Cristo Rey Orange County High School is new to Orange County this year and part of the Cristo Rey Network. For more information, visit www.cristoreyoc.org.



Photo by John Watkins

Cristo Rey Orange County student Valeria with her father in the ballroom



Photo by John Watkins

John McMahon (center) of Newport Beach mingles at the reception on VEA's Riviera Lawn



Photo by John Watkins

(L-R) Trish O'Donnell of Newport Beach with Mai Huynh