

# NEWPORT BEACH Independent

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## CHARITY SPOTLIGHT

SHINING A LIGHT ON LOCAL NONPROFITS AND PHILANTHROPISTS

### Newport Resident Honored at Alzheimer's Luncheon

More than 250 friends, family members and Alzheimer's Association of Orange County attended the annual Visionary Women Caregivers Luncheon earlier this month at Rancho Las Lomas in Silverado Canyon to celebrate Orange County caregivers for their dedication to improving the lives of those touched by Alzheimer's disease or related forms of dementia.

Supporters included several wives and girlfriends of the Los Angeles Angels baseball players.

Even the rain (which stopped by the end of the event) couldn't dampen the spirits of the guests.

During the program, celebrity guest Florence Henderson, best known for playing the mother on the 1970s sitcom "The Brady Bunch," inspired hope for a world without Alzheimer's. She shared her personal caregiver journey – one that involved caring for her husband of 18 years after his terminal illness diagnosis – and offered advice to others facing similar situations.

"Our annual Visionary Women luncheon is an inspiring event that allows us to focus on Orange County caregivers who provide care to the thousands of individuals diagnosed with Alzheimer's,"



Guest speaker Florence Henderson of "The Brady Bunch" (center), flanked by award winners Carla Turney, Elaine Stephen, Marisol Ramirez, Daisy Villa, Patty Roberts, Rama Meka.

said Jim McAleer, CEO and President of Alzheimer's Association, Orange County. "Alzheimer's doesn't just affect the individual with the disease, but also families, friends and caretakers. Today, we celebrate them – and recognize the compassionate care and support they tirelessly provide."

Honorees at the luncheon included Newport Beach resident Rama Meka. As administrator at her husband's practice, Amistad Medical Clinic, Rama Meka helps manage four clinics in Orange County and Long Beach and conducts

community outreach, through which she was introduced to Alzheimer's Association.

With a background in nonprofit work, Meka began volunteering with AAOC where she works at various health fairs and attends conferences to advocate for Latinos diagnosed with Alzheimer's.

Spearheading the Visionary Women group's advocacy efforts is the Visionary Women Leadership Circle comprised of Jacqueline Dupont, Susan Johnson, Jeanie Lawrence, Diane Mondini and Stacy

Schlinger.

Sponsors include: Alaska Airlines, Caring Compassions at Home, First American Trust, Rancho Las Lomas, Silverado Care, Susan's Healthy Gourmet, Xan Confections, Irvine Cottages, Chatterton & Associates, Merrill Lynch and Applied Medical.

For more information on AAOC's no-cost programs and services for those affected by Alzheimer's, call (949) 955-9000 or visit [alz.org/oc](http://alz.org/oc).

The Alzheimer's Association is the world's leading voluntary health organization in Alzheimer's care, support and research. Its mission is to eliminate Alzheimer's through the advancement of research, to provide and enhance care and support for all affected, and to reduce the risk of dementia through the promotion of brain health. Since 1982, Alzheimer's Association, Orange County Chapter has been providing programs and services, free of charge, to Orange County residents with Alzheimer's and related disorders, their families, caregivers, and the community. Alzheimer's is a neurodegenerative illness that weakens the memory and other cognitive and emotional functions.