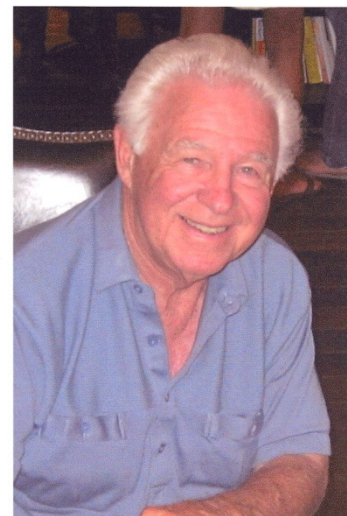


Ferrarese Named Philanthropist of the Year



Victorville, Ca. For a man whose first major league win was striking out Mickey Mantle, it would seem milestones do not get much better. Unless of course, you are singled out of four million people as the Philanthropist of the year! Don and Betty Ferrarese beamed with pride, a humble pride albeit, when the National Council of Fundraisers



acknowledged Don for his tireless and selfless charitable and community work as being the Inland Empire “Philanthropist of the Year”. At a formal lunch held at the historic Mission Inn in Riverside, the national organization recognized Ferrarese from among several hundred entries representing more than 3,000 non profit charities throughout the Inland Empire counties of Riverside and San Bernardino. The organization sought individuals who were making the greatest impact in their communities with their community and charitable activities. “Don clearly stood out as a leader who is influencing the direction of the community with his selfless efforts and energies” said Jose Marquez, President of the Inland Empire Chapter. Ferrarese, who pitched professionally for fifteen years, moved to Apple Valley, Ca when retiring in 1962. While running a Deli, market and restaurant, Don became involved in several civic organizations, most notably, Kiwanis. “It was my involvement in Kiwanis that really opened my eyes to the many needs of the community” Ferrarese offered. “It seemed natural and really just the right thing to do”. Ferrarese’s community service really kicked in when he met his partner, Jack Fales, a flamboyant, jovial man with a lively personality and an incredible knack for reaching out to anyone with a willing ear. Don and Jack started raising money for local civic groups with their trademark Wine and Memorabilia auctions, raising nearly \$2 million with over 100 auctions to date. In 2005, inspired by Don’s dedication to the community, a group of friends surprised Don by pooling together one hundred thousand dollars to start the Don Ferrarese Charitable Foundation (www.Don-Frse.com). The foundation’s mission was quickly established to recognize college bound seniors with scholarships based solely upon their community and charitable service. Athletic ability, grades and income were not a consideration. “We simply felt that there are some great kids who dedicate themselves to various community efforts, who make a significant difference in so many lives that really are not recognized. If our athletes can get a free ride, why couldn’t we help those students who are givers” Ferrarese commented. Since inception, Ferrarese has awarded forty-six \$4,000.00 scholarships, one \$4,000 scholarship to each local high school annually. Last year’s applicants logged in over 50,000 hours of volunteer time during their high school years.

Leveraging the foundations efforts and established name in the community, Ferrarese used this goodwill to expand the foundations mission to sponsor an annual Veteran’s Holiday Tribute, honoring our American heroes with a free lunch and patriotic program. Each year the foundation has honored and served over 1,000 people the first week of each December. Additionally, Ferrarese started the Santa’s Sleigh Toy Drive, buying toys for 200 children in need. “We identify those kids in the greatest need, ask them for a wish list to Santa, and go out and buy \$100 of gifts for each child. The gifts are personally wrapped and given to the kids by Santa himself. It is a great way to offer hope and compassion to those most vulnerable at Christmas”. Beamed Ferrarese. And lastly, Ferrarese embraced the efforts of Moses House Ministries with arranging for the donation of five acres of land for their new home as well as starting the Celebration of Life Scholarship fund, offering five (5) \$500 scholarships annually to graduates of their parenting and life skills classes. “It’s been a good life”, Ferrarese said. “A really good life”.