



Gala co-chairs **David and Darrellyn Melilli**, **Howard and Roberta Ahmanson**, **Jim Palmer**, gala co-chairs **Beth and Tim Molnar**

Fourteen years of a project, wondering each year if it's going to happen, and to finally see the most spectacular facility for those in need in the country open is really a dream come true," said Orange County Rescue Mission Director **Jim Palmer**, referring to the Village of Hope, a 200-person residential facility for homeless families at the former Tustin Marine Corps Air Base. Celebrating the achievement at a 358-guest gala dinner in Samueli Theater were rescue mission supporters **Roberta and Howard Ahmanson**, who were instrumental in making Palmer's 14-year quest becoming a reality. "Because Jim believes, as we do, that beauty motivates individuals to change their lives for the better," Roberta said at the opening, "we commissioned sculptor **Albert Paley** and artist **Peter Brandes** to create art for the village." The couple also commissioned composer **Alva Henderson** to compose "From Greater Light" for the gala opening, later performed by the Pacific Symphony and Pacific Chorale in the Renée and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall. Stephen Dweck stone key chains, courtesy of Neiman Marcus, were the gala favor, and an impressive \$368,000 in net proceeds was raised for the cause.