

For Immediate Release
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**2015 KidWorks' Foundation for Success Luncheon
Raises Record \$620,000**

UCLA Bruin and NBA Legend Bill Walton Was Keynote Speaker

Santa Ana, Calif. – The 2015 KidWorks' Foundation for Success (FFS) Luncheon, held Thursday, Nov. 19 at the Doubletree Hotel, Santa Ana, raised a record-breaking \$620,000 that will fund afterschool education and leadership development programs conducted by the nonprofit for at-risk children in central Santa Ana. This is the largest sum raised since the inception of the luncheon in 2007 and represents 23 percent of KidWorks operating budget and almost 65 percent of KidWorks' after school program budget funding academic enrichment, tutoring, leadership development, and college readiness programs.

Legendary UCLA Bruin and NBA star Bill Walton provided an entertaining and inspirational keynote speech and also raised \$60,000 from six guests who accepted his challenge to dine at his expansive and eclectic San Diego County home.

“With the generous support of our annual donors, and the companies and individuals who support KidWorks' Foundation for Success luncheon, we are changing the odds for nearly 800 children, teens and parents living in some of the toughest neighborhoods in Orange County,” said KidWorks Executive Director David Benavides.

During the event, former KidWorks CEO Ava Steaffens was acknowledged for her vision and dedication for the past 15 years. Television news anchor and sportscaster Ed Arnold was the emcee. After talking about his professional basketball career, the health challenges he has overcome and his philosophy for success, Walton engaged in a freewheeling discussion with Arnold and Terry Donahue, sports color commentator and former UCLA football coach, who is a longtime KidWorks supporter.

American Career College/West Coast University, Heidi and Ruben Mendoza and Toyota Financial Services were acknowledged as Presenting Sponsors for this year's event. KidWorks Board Member

and FFS Chairman Steve Craig challenged guests to participate in a unique auction at their tables, called “Steve’s Challenge” that raised over \$60,000.

“We are so grateful for the generosity of our sponsors, donors and luncheon attendees,” said Craig. “Like many of you, I’ve chosen to support KidWorks because I believe that the work they are doing in the community has a profound impact and is making a huge difference in the lives of the children, youth and families served. Ultimately, these success stories will be the next generation of doctors, nurses, lawyers, business leaders and entrepreneurs in Orange County.”

Since 2007, KidWorks’ annual Foundation for Success event has raised more than \$4.3 million to fund afterschool programs at the KidWorks Dan Donahue Center. The Orange County Business Journal has consistently named KidWorks’ Foundation for Success in the “Top Five Charity Luncheons in Orange County.”

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About KidWorks

Since 1993, KidWorks has helped at-risk children; youth and families in Santa Ana, California thrive in body, mind and spirit. As a 501(C)(3) nonprofit, KidWorks offers educational support, leadership and character-building programs, and health and fitness activities that begin with preschoolers and follow youth into their college years. KidWorks’ main building, the Dan Donahue Center, serves the highest number of children and offers a state-licensed preschool. In total, KidWorks operates four centers that have become safe havens in gang-heavy, high-crime and overcrowded residential areas in central Santa Ana. KidWorks serves nearly 800 children, youth and parents weekly and reaches over 4,000 community members annually. To learn more about KidWorks and to read its success stories, please visit www.kidworksonline.org.