

# Lake Avenue Community Foundation Honors Volunteers

At its annual Volunteer Awards Winner Celebration 2009, the Lake Avenue Community Foundation honored Wendell and Liz Watts as Volunteers of the Year, Don Jose Ozuna as recipient of the Andy Bales Compassion Award, Mike Bohenek as winner of the Impact Award and Steve Morgan as Partner Of the Year.

The foundation thanked the volunteers for their countless hours of tutoring and mentoring to more than 150 children who participate in its STARS and Neighborhood Mentoring programs.

Of the Watts, Executive Director John Wilson said, "They truly are a blessing to have as volunteers with our STARS and mentoring programs. Now in their second decade of volunteering and mentoring with Lake Avenue Community Foundation, they are practically like staff, and the kids have dubbed them surrogate parents at the STARS programs."

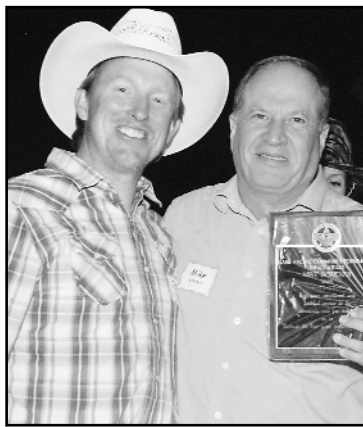
He continued: "Early in her volunteer time, Liz helped start and run our computer lab at a time when no student would even dream of owning one. After she had served for many years, Wendell caught the volunteer bug and has not been able to shake it since. He has served as a tutor and mentor for many years, and together they serve selflessly, always going above and beyond, sharing many aspects of their lives with their local community's youth and making a lasting impact in the lives of all they come in contact with."

Ozuna is the first-ever recipient of the Andy Bales Compassion Award.

"A dedicated man with a big heart, a giant smile and a bigger mission, he is as compassionate as they get," said Leo Hurtado, Homeless and Community Outreach Program director and award presen-



**Liz and Wendell Watts (right) were honored as the Lake Avenue Community Foundation's Volunteers of the Year.**



**Mike Bohenek (right) received the Impact Award from Executive Director John Wilson.**

Most recently, he transformed the interior of the STARS site with hundreds of photographs that tell stories of the work of LACF and the people who are a part of the community. "Our house feels like home, thanks to this amazing contribution," Wilson said.

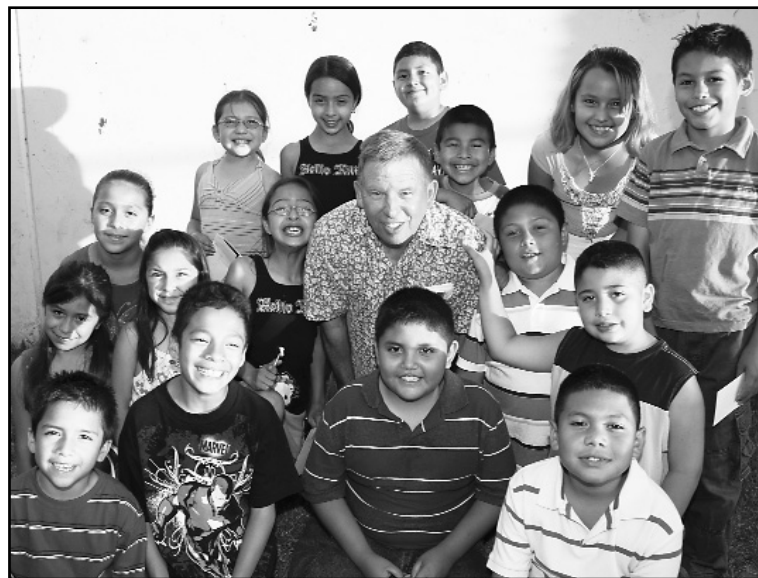
Morgan was the recipient of the first-ever Partner Of The Year Award.

"Steve's tireless commitment to our students has provided them with a multitude of outdoor experiences some only dreamed of before," Wilson said. "A founding partner of the Outdoor Classroom, Steve has been an exemplary partner for many years now with the foundation and our STARS students. From riding horses to harvesting pumpkins and growing and selling rare berries at the local farmers market, the learning our students has experienced spans an array of academic disciplines, and all while they have fun outdoors. Steve and the Outdoor Classroom have been a blessing to the students and families we serve."

The Lake Avenue Community Foundation is a faith-based non-profit organization that is unleashing the God-given potential of at-



**Don Jose Ozuna (right) is presented with the Andy Bales Compassion Award by Leo Hurtado.**



**Photos courtesy Lake Avenue Community Foundation Steve Morgan (center), who received the Partner of the Year Award, is flanked by Pasadena Unified students.**

risk youth by providing the tools necessary to thrive academically, emotionally, economically and spiritually. LACF is in a relation-

ship with approximately 150 low-income students in Pasadena, cultivating greater community and hope in the lives of the students and their families.


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