EYE ON O.C. By Anne Valdespino

The Habit Burger's chargrilled burger.

COURTESY OF HABIT BURGER

# HABIT BURGER WITH GOOD WORKS

## SAN CLEMENTE EATERY DEBUTS WITH BENEFIT EVENTS FOR CHARITIES.

Get a sneak peek at the latest location of The Habit Burger Grill in San Clemente's Ocean View Plaza Shopping Center.

The popular burger joint will open for lunch today from noon to 2 p.m., with proceeds benefiting the Muscular Dystrophy Association of Orange County. It will also open for dinner from 5 to 7 p.m. to aid local Boys & Girls Clubs.

On Thursday, from noon to 2 p.m., proceeds benefit the Friends of San Clemente Beaches, Parks & Recreation Foundation.

This newest restaurant seats more than 100 people and serves the same chargrilled burgers made famous by its original location, founded in 1969 in Santa Barbara.

Other Habit restaurants are in Aliso Viejo, Anaheim Hills, Fullerton, Lake Forest, Santa Ana, Huntington Beach and Costa Mesa.

Another opening in Irvine is scheduled for December. The San Clemente restaurant, 638 Camino de Los Mares, will open officially Friday at 10:30 a.m.

- A.V.

# THANK YOU, COLETTE'S

## A BENEFIT SHOWS SUPPORT FOR THE O.C. ORGANIZATION AIDING HOMELESS WOMEN, KIDS.

As the guests were bidding on gift baskets offering everything from guitars and sports equipment to trips to St. James' Club in Antigua, there was less competition and more joyful camaraderie among the supporters of Colette's Children's Home, a Huntington Beach organization that gets homeless women and children back on their feet. The fundraiser this month included a silent auction, raffle tickets sold by usherettes and dinner at the Hyatt Regency in Irvine. Organizers hoped to raise $100,000-$150,000.

The eclectic crowd included Huntington Beach Councilmember **Joe Carchio;** Assemblyman-elect **Travis Allen;** Huntington Beach Fire Capt. **Darrin Witt;** and the Rev. **Stan Bosch,** a Los Angeles-based Catholic priest who works with the city's gang-involved youths.

**Laura Madrid** and **Tanya Taylor,** both graduates of Colette's Children's Home, came to support the organization that helped them become self-sufficient. Madrid, Taylor and the rest of the 2,500 homeless women and children are given a home, structure and counseling services by Colette's.

"You just want someone to believe in you when you're that down," said Madrid, who has since married and is busy raising a family.

At the center of this aggressively charitable sensibility was **William O'Connell,** co-founder and executive director of Colette's Children's Home. A large, gregarious man with a lyrical Irish accent, O'Connell made his way through the gathering of nearly 500, shaking hands and embracing all those in attendance.

O'Connell is passionate about his crusade against homelessness. "When you take somebody off the welfare roll, when you give them a job, they're no longer taking, they're giving back," O'Connell says. "It makes for a stronger community."

– BENN HADLAND, for the Register

XUONG DO, COURTESY OF HAPPY PHOTOS

**Colette's Children's Home co-founder William O'Connell gives Jade Kira Nguyen an award for volunteering.**

XUONG DO, COURTESY OF HAPPY PHOTOS

**From left, Huntington Beach Fire Capt. Darrin Witt, O'Connell and the Rev. Stan Bosch pause for a photo.**

XUONG DO, COURTESY OF HAPPY PHOTOS

**From left, Alexandra Sullivan, Rynae Benson, Bailey Rank and Jocelyn Huerta.**

XUONG DO, COURTESY OF HAPPY PHOTOS

**Models from P.P. Entertainment sell raffle tickets.**

# IN THE DETAILS

## HERE'S WHAT CAUGHT OUR EYE AT THE GALA.

BENN HADLAND, FOR THE REGISTER

**Tags on the tree denote gift recipients.**

XUONG DO, COURTESY OF HAPPY PHOTOS

**Awards were presented to honorees during dinner.**

XUONG DO, COURTESY OF HAPPY PHOTOS

**O'Connell talks about Colette's mission.**

XUONG DO, COURTESY OF HAPPY PHOTOS

**Sweet, baby!**