

# The Mercury News

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## Pizarro: 49ers serve up pasta and community service

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The San Francisco 49ers have already put up one victory this season, at least when it comes to community service.

The entire team — plus President Jed York and owner John York — strapped on aprons and dished out pasta and chicken Tuesday night at Pasta Bowl III, the 49ers Foundation's and Silicon Valley Leadership Group's annual fundraiser at the Santa Clara Convention Center.

In addition to the 1,000-plus fans, who were thrilled to be so close to their favorite players, the big winners were the three nonprofit agencies the event benefited. City Year Silicon Valley received \$50,000, and Fresh Lifelines for Youth and the Santa Clara Police Athletic League each received \$25,000.

"I don't think that I've had a team that had players that served as much as our players," said coach Mike Singletary — referring to the more than 350 hours of community work the team did in 2008, not the copious amounts of pasta.

Both Yorks and the Gold Rush cheerleaders mingled with guests during a wine-tasting reception that featured 15 Napa and Sonoma County vintners.

When it was time to chow down, the two tables

occupied by SanDisk discovered that being the main sponsor has its privileges: Their servers were the Yorks, plus quarterback Shaun Hill and linebacker Patrick Willis.

**REAL HELP:** As the health-care reform debate rages around the country, the Palo Alto Medical Foundation made a difference Wednesday by awarding a \$600,000 grant to the Santa Clara Family Health Foundation's Healthy Kids program.

The money will help provide health insurance for 600 children whose families otherwise couldn't afford it. At a dignitary-laden ceremony in Mountain View, Medical Foundation President Richard Slavin presented the check to Kathleen King, executive director of the Family Health Foundation.

### DINING FOR DONATIONS:

Four downtown San Jose restaurants are donating 15 percent of their lunch revenues one Friday a month to countywide efforts to end homelessness, including Project Homeless Connect.

Every year, the project helps the homeless find critical services and get on the path to self-sufficiency.

The restaurants are Cafe Pomegranate (first Friday), Fourth Street Pizza Co. (second Friday, that's this week), Morocco's (third Friday) and Taqueria San Jose (fourth Friday).

Now, there's a good reason to splurge for a Friday lunch.

Contact Sal Pizarro at spizarro@mercurynews.com or 408-627-0940.

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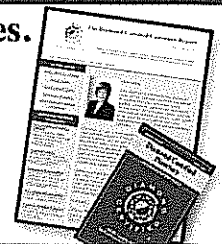
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