

Fresh Start Annual Fundraiser at Town & County

On a beautiful Thursday evening more than 30 supporters of the Fresh Start Pallet Project gathered at The Town & County Club on Woodland St to celebrate the successes of this past year and contribute to a promising 2017.

The theme of the gala was a “First Anniversary Fiesta” and the musical entertainment was provided by David Eberly, a member of the Grace Lutheran Church community and an accomplished pianist. The food and drink had a South of the Border feel, and it was a great opportunity for the organization’s board members and other supporters to get together and celebrate.

After everyone was welcomed by the MC for the evening, Phil Rockwell, a retired Saint Franciscare executive, Pastor Rick Kremer spoke of the many



successes of this first full year of production. Currently operating in the basement of Trinity Episcopal Church, Fresh Start now has three employees, all of whom came to the



program homeless and who now with the benefit of a steady job, training and assistance dealing with other obstacles, are well on their way to self sufficiency. Also as word spreads, orders for the products keep coming in. Many are pleased to own a unique, hand made piece of furniture crafted from discarded shipping pallets, knowing that all of the funds go to support the workers. June and July of this year brought in more sales than all of 2015.

A generous grant from several board members allowed for the purchase of quality commercial grade equipment, which has improved the productivity of the operation.