

# Vintners' Foundation Raises \$300,000 for Direct Relief

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Tuesday, 18 March 2008



From left, Andrew Firestone, 'The Foxen Boys' Dick Dore and Bill Wathen, and Direct Relief International president and CEO Thomas Tighe share a laugh before Saturday's American Riviera Wine Auction at the Four Seasons Biltmore Resort. (Amy Graves photo / Wireimage)

The wine flowed freely but so did the generosity of those attending the American Riviera Wine Auction Weekend presented by the [Santa Barbara Vintners' Foundation](#). The organization raised more than \$300,000 for [Direct Relief International](#), with \$160,000 alone coming from Saturday night's auction and dinner at the Four Seasons Biltmore Resort. ([Click here for the Noozhawk slideshow](#))

[Foxen Winery's](#) Bill Wathen and Dick Doré, widely known as "The Foxen Boys," were honored with the Humanitarian Award from the foundation, the philanthropic arm of the [Santa Barbara County Vintner's Association](#). The Wine Diplomat Award was presented to comedic actor John Cleese, who appeared on videotape to apologize for his absence and explain that he was filming a movie in Germany so he could be paid in euros. Andrew Firestone host the proceedings.

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Since 2000, the biannual American Riviera Wine Auction has raised more than \$1.25 million, all of which has been donated to Direct Relief International.