

## MAXIMIZING POTENTIAL

BY CHRISTINA WELLS

Tom and Sandi Moran have called Naples home for more than 30 years. Passionate about the community and its children, the couple supports an array of community service organizations involving the arts and youth education and welfare.

"We approach each charity initiative differently," Sandi says. "For some organizations, what they most need is our time or ideas. For others, especially in this economy, money or in-kind donations are critically important."

Most of the Morans' efforts are devoted to charities in Collier County. Tom and Sandi are founding patrons of Opera Naples, the area's first regional opera company, offering opera productions, a young artists' program and community outreach for children. The two also support Youth Haven, which protects abused children and provides a home and counseling for them; C.H.E.F., a scholarship program for Lee and Collier students wishing to pursue a career in the culinary arts; and the United Arts Council of Collier County, which provides arts education and outreach services to at-risk students. Tom serves on the boards of Opera Naples, Youth Haven and C.H.E.F., while Sandi holds a board position for the United Arts Council.

The Morans also support two international charities: Hope for Haiti, which seeks to improve the quality of life for Haitian children, as well as Grace Centre for Children and Families, which cares for the vulnerable and abandoned children in Bahir Dar, Ethiopia.

"Our philanthropic interests are driven by a desire to see all children reach their potential, whether it's a child needing remedial help with school or a gifted child needing acceleration and college counseling," Tom says.

Tom and Sandi would like to do even more for the youth in Southwest Florida and abroad. Says Tom, "If gifted with superhero powers, we'd move at an accelerated rate and with the wisdom to know if we are going in the right direction." ♦



ROLAND SCARPPA