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## **Pizarro: Sobrato foundation is a hit - nationally**

By Sal Pizarro

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The Sobrato family is well known for real estate development in Silicon Valley, but it's the family's philanthropic legacy that was honored Tuesday night by the International Association of Fundraising Professionals.

The Sobrato Family Foundation, which celebrated its 10th anniversary in December, was named the group's Outstanding Foundation for 2007 at its annual conference in Dallas.

"I'm humbled, because this is an international thing," **John A. Sobrato** said by phone from Dallas, where the board and Sobrato family members were gathering for the awards. He said the foundation's success can be traced to its president, **Lisa Sobrato-Sonsini**, and its executive director, **Diane Ford**. The two have created programs that set the foundation apart, including providing operating capital for non-profits and requiring matching grants so non-profits are spurred to reach out for new donors.

Of course, having a lot of property helps, too. "We've made quite a few donations of our real estate to community causes," Sobrato said, adding that the pending sale of the Sobrato tower on Almaden to BEA Systems would add \$135 million to the foundation.

No wonder the Sobrato foundation is the youngest recipient in the award's 17-year history, joining winners like the Lilly Endowment as well as the Kresge, Kellogg and MacArthur foundations.

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