

2024
North County Philanthropy Council
VOLUNTEER AWARDS
Celebration

2024
Volunteer Awards

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2024

presented by





Just add hope

Giving back to our community is more than just helping our neighborhoods grow and prosper. It is adding hope to community, and showing what's possible when we all work together.

Thank you, North County Philanthropy Council, for your service to our community.

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**WELLS
FARGO**



37th Annual VOLUNTEER AWARDS CELEBRATION

presented by
Wells Fargo

AGENDA

Welcome - Jeanne Schmelzer, CFRE, President, NCPC

Volunteer of the Year Recognition - Carlo Cecchetto, Anchor, CBS News 8

Special Awards Presentation

Corporate Philanthropy Award - U.S. Bank

Spirit of Carol Sigelman Award - Drew Moser

Robert Krejci Standards of Excellence Award - Adriana Brunner

Conclusion - Jeanne Schmelzer, CFRE, President, NCPC

THANK YOU

To All of You for Your Kind and Generous Support Throughout Our Communities!

THANK YOU TO OUR VAC SPONSORS!

Presenting



Diamond

SAN DIEGO BUSINESS JOURNAL



Platinum



Gold



THE RAYMOND COMPANIES

Silver



FOUNDATION



Friend of NCPC

AFP San Diego
Catalyst of San Diego & Imperial Counties
Nonprofit Institute
PipeDreams Foundation

THANK YOU TO OUR SAN DIEGO GIVES SPONSORS!

Presenting



Champions of Change



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COMMUNICATIONS

Ambassadors



Social Impact



Social Catalyst

Banc of California
Coastal Community Foundation
Jewish Community Foundation
Mission Federal Credit Union
Netzel Grigsby Associates
Puzzle Pieces Marketing

Unity Uplifter

MyPoint Credit Union

WELCOME / BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Welcome to the annual Volunteer Awards Celebration. It is our great pleasure to honor over 80 volunteers representing non-profit organizations and businesses at our 37th annual event to support our mission of expanding philanthropy in our region.

The founders of NCPC laid the foundation for this remarkable event, sparking a tradition of honoring volunteers for their invaluable contributions to our communities. With heartfelt gratitude, we continue this legacy, recognizing the extraordinary impact these selfless individuals have on those they serve. Enjoy the celebration!

2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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San Diego

2024 Corporate Philanthropy Award

U.S. Bank

Nominated by Chicano Federation of San Diego County

U.S. Bancorp, with more than 70,000 employees and \$680 billion in assets as of June 30, 2024, is the parent company of U.S. Bank National Association. The company serves millions of customers locally, nationally, and globally through a diversified mix of businesses including consumer banking, business banking, commercial banking, institutional banking, payments, and wealth management. U.S. Bank works to close the wealth gaps in America and has created Access Commitment®, a group of initiatives dedicated to supporting underserved communities on their own path to building generational wealth. U.S. Bank and the U.S. Bank Foundation are dedicated to supporting California communities through responsive and humble actions and do this through a platform called “Community Possible,” including philanthropy, community investments, and team member volunteerism. The Community Possible platform invests time, resources, and passion into economic development, by supporting efforts to create stable jobs, better homes, and vibrant communities. U.S. Bank encourages employees to deepen community engagement by volunteering in support of the nonprofit organizations where their passion lives and invests in this commitment by offering 16 hours of paid volunteer time off per year for eligible employees. In 2023, employees recorded more than 360,000 hours, delivering financial education, serving on a nonprofit board, sharing skills-based services and personal volunteering efforts across communities. U.S. Bancorp has been recognized for its approach to digital innovation, community partnerships and customer service, including being named one of the 2024 World’s Most Ethical Companies and Fortune’s most admired superregional bank. Learn more at usbank.com/about.



SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARDS

Spirit of Carol Sigelman Award



Drew Moser

Nominated by Lucky Duck Foundation

Drew Moser is CEO of the Lucky Duck Foundation, which raises money to fund, activate and lead tangible and measurable programs designed to prevent and alleviate the suffering of homelessness throughout San Diego County. Drew is passionate about teamwork and facilitating the generosity of donors to help those suffering from or at risk of homelessness.

Prior to joining the Lucky Duck Foundation, Drew was the Executive Director and President of the San Diego Hall of Champions and San Diego Sports Association, where he led the organization through a significant transition to position the organization for long-term sustainability.

Prior to that he was the Director of Basketball Operations and Video Coordinator for Men's Basketball at the University of San Diego. Drew earned a Business degree and MBA from the University of Redlands, where he also played basketball for the Bulldogs. During his senior season, his team set the all-time scoring record for all NCAA divisions by averaging 132.4 points per game.

Drew and his wife Whitney Moser have three kids who share their parents' affinity for sports. In his free time, Drew coaches their kids in youth sports and serves on various boards and volunteer roles at their school, church and youth baseball league.

REMEMBERING CAROL

Carol Sigelman was a true development professional. She helped open the Children's Museum of San Diego and grow the Palomar Pomerado Health Foundation. Carol served on the boards of NCPC and of Nonprofit Management Solutions. She was president of the Torrey Pines High School Foundation where she was known as the "godmother of the foundation." She was also their first paid executive. Carol passed away in 2005. As a tribute to her, the NCPC Spirit of Carol Sigelman Award is given annually to a nonprofit professional in San Diego County who exemplifies the passion, integrity, wisdom and humor that Carol brought to all of us. We will always remember her motto, "Get the job done — and done well!"



Robert Krejci Standards of Excellence Award



Adriana Brunner

Nominated by San Ysidro Health

Adriana “Adri” Brunner is a seasoned professional dedicated to empowering marginalized communities and fostering sustainable business growth. With over 17 years of experience at a local San Diego Credit Union, Adri has served as the VP of Community and Business Development, playing a pivotal role in driving community development and economic empowerment.

Recently, Adri joined JP Morgan Chase as VP-Senior Business Consultant, where she focuses on providing strategic insights and solutions to help entrepreneurs in underserved communities overcome systemic barriers and achieve sustainable success.

Adri’s extensive background spans banking, business development, marketing, PR, and partnership development. Originally from Medellín, Colombia, she has leveraged her expertise to champion various initiatives aimed at uplifting local businesses and communities.

Adri volunteers on numerous boards and committees dedicated to promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion. She currently serves as a board member and/or in an advisory capacity for Chicano Federation of San Diego, City Heights CDC, MANA de North County, the National Latina Business Women Association, the San Diego Colombian Chamber of Commerce, the San Diego Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, the San Diego Regional East County Chamber of Commerce, the San Diego Equality Business Association, the Kim Center for Social Balance, the San Diego and Imperial’s Women’s Business Center, the San Ysidro Philanthropy Leadership Council, and the Burnham Center for Community Advancement.

Her contributions have been recognized through prestigious awards, including the National City Chamber of Commerce’s “Volunteer of the Year” and San Diego Business Journal’s “50 Latinos of Influence”. As a passionate advocate for the Latino and small business communities, Adri shares her insights through various Hispanic publications and media channels.

In her leisure time, Adri enjoys traveling with her family and immersing herself in Latin American literature. She resides in North County San Diego with her husband, daughter, and their pets.

REMEMBERING ROBERT

Bob had a distinguished career as a consultant and fundraising counselor for nonprofit, community service organizations. He served as a Boy Scout Executive for Councils until he joined the Cumerford Corporation as a professional fundraiser and public relations consultant for nonprofit groups. A Rotarian since 1950, he was instrumental in building the Rancho Bernardo Rotary Charitable Foundation.

In 1986, Bob Krejci and colleagues, Richard Henrickson and Myron Lewis, brought to life their vision of an organization to connect members of the local philanthropic community; founding the North County Philanthropy Council. Bob passed away in December 2011. As a tribute to his leadership, NCPC has created the Robert Krejci Standards of Excellence Award which is presented to an individual who has demonstrated outstanding civic and charitable responsibility to North County.



2024 NCPC VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR

Mission Fed Credit Union

Angela Aceves

Community Resource Center

Lee Auerbach

MiraCosta College Foundation

Alec Babiarz

Resounding Joy

Diane Beckman

North Coast Repertory Theatre

Ginny Beneke

*Escondido Community
Foundation*

Rita Bowcock

*National Conflict Resolution
Center*

Robert Bowen Jr.

*Rancho Bernardo Community
Foundation*

David Brooks

Miracle League of San Diego

Nick Brumbach

Canine Companions

Teri Buckley

*Support the Enlisted Project
(STEP)*

Cindy Campbell

Davis Farr LLP

Dawn Casillas

TrueCare

Rosalie Cerna

*Assistance League
of North County*

Beverly Charles

I Love A Clean San Diego

Tracey Claesson

Foundation for Women Warriors

Linda Colker

Words Alive

Sandy Connolly

Oceanside Museum of Art

Cathy Crowser

Ivey Ranch Park Association

Irene Diggs

*Meals on Wheels San Diego
County*

Linda Dingeldine

Catalent

Chloe Doan

MAAC

Elizabeth Engleberg

*Netzel Grigsby Associates on
behalf of St. Paul's Cathedral*

Rockette Ewell

*Escondido Community Child
Development Center*

Ryan Ferguson

Neighborhood Healthcare

Judy Fitzgerald

Scatena Daniels Communications

Geneva Gámez

Alabaster Jar Project

Natalie Gohrick

Hebrew Free Loan of San Diego

Mindy Gurrera

*Chicano Federation
of San Diego County*

Tim Hart

*Junior Achievement
of San Diego County*

Ryan Heath

My San Diego North County

Maribel Hernandez

Boys & Girls Clubs of Oceanside

Pablo Holguin

Promises2Kids

**ICW Group Insurance
Companies**

Rotary of North County Route 78

José Jaimes

Oceanside Theatre Company

Michelle Jimmink

Pro Kids, First Tee - San Diego

Rod Jiu

Viasat

Rachel Jobin

*San Diego Children's Discovery
Museum*

Nan Katona

Woman's Club of Carlsbad

Lisa Kaufman

Coastal Roots Farm

Christianne "Kiki" Knoop

Jewish Family Service San Diego

Brian Kougl

*California State University
San Marcos*

**Carleen Kreider
& Dick Lansing**

*Women's Empowerment
International*

Linda Kurtz

Century Club of San Diego

Gregg Lawless

*Foundation for Developmental
Disabilities*

Falon Leszczynski

*Armed Services YMCA
San Diego*

William Lu

*San Marcos Community
Foundation*

Colleen Lukoff

Casa de Amistad

Sydney Mafong

Kids for Peace

Margi Malek

*Boys & Girls Clubs of Northwest
San Diego*

Larry McDonald

*Carlsbad Educational
Foundation*

Shalu Mittal

Operation HOPE-North County

Louanne Murawski

Universidad Popular

Georgina Najera

Lifeline Community Services

Gary Nessim

*Oceanside Community
Foundation*

Amber Newman

Magdalena Ecke Family YMCA

Stephen Nichols

*Netzel Grigsby Associates on
behalf of St. Paul's Cathedral*

Russell Okihara

*Agua Hedionda Lagoon
Foundation*

Michael O'Tousa

Feeding San Diego

Pacific Builders Group

The Elizabeth Hospice

Mary Padilla

Alzheimer's San Diego

Ron Peterson

Project Next

Gavin Pyle

San Diego Oasis

Natalie Richardson

Interfaith Community Services

Matthew Roberts

San Diego Foundation

Lisa Ruder

*California Center for the Arts
Escondido Foundation*

Leila Sackfield

Carlsbad Charitable Foundation

Bret Schanzenbach

Fallbrook Food Pantry

Mary Scott

Rancho Coastal Humane Society

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San Diego*

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The Mano a Mano Foundation

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Dan Villaseñor

Century Club of San Diego

Mark Ward

The Mano a Mano Foundation

Martha Zamora

Feeding San Diego

Laura Zuckerman

NPC Volunteer Awards Celebration Honorees



Mission Fed Credit Union

Angela Aceves

My community recently suffered great loss during the January 22nd storm. My family, neighbors and friends arranged a post at our house. We provided food, cleaning products and good conversations for several months. I now know many of my neighbors closer than I would have ever imagined.



Community Resource Center

Lee Auerbach

Life is a blessing. Through the CRC I can share my heart, fill hungry stomachs, build relationships, and create a safe space for our local community. It is the most fulfilling, loving and humbling experience to be with both the volunteers and clients every week... and I'm grateful for every interaction.



MiraCosta College Foundation

Alec Babiarz

Through Board leadership, Alec has been a vocal advocate for student success. Alec championed the STEM Academic Support Center, an endowment matching fund campaign, and the College's first Comprehensive Campaign. Thank you, Alec, for your leadership and support of the MiraCosta College Foundation, students, and campus!



Resounding Joy

Diane Beckman

I believe deeply in the mission and the work music therapists provide to clients in need. I have seen first-hand the profound power of the connection and cumulative effect of music therapy to improve the lives of many from very young to very old. There are so many events, people, moments of Resounding Joy that have impacted me. That is why I have remained involved and hope to continue to be involved with Resounding Joy.



North Coast Repertory Theatre

Ginny Beneke

Volunteering at North Coast Rep Theatre is deeply rewarding as it allows me to blend my passion for the arts—particularly the world-class productions in such an intimate setting—with my professional expertise. The exceptional quality of the performances, along with the incredible people who work and volunteer at the Theatre, makes this experience truly special.



Escondido Community Foundation

Rita Bowcock

The benefits from raising \$8 million through pooled philanthropy and seeing the difference it makes in our community has been the best experience. From building community gardens, to EPD's Secret Santa program to STEAM education and so many more grants, it has been a privilege to see the impact ECF has made in our community.

NCPC Volunteer Awards Celebration Honorees



National Conflict Resolution Center

Robert Bowen Jr.

A few months back, I had the opportunity to mediate a bit of a tricky vehicle purchase conflict. It was gratifying to see how, once everyone agreed to stick to the ground rules, they opened up about their needs and feelings. The air really lightened up! While the parties didn't come to a final agreement right then and there, they decided to share some extra info and keep the conversation going the following week. It was so fulfilling to help them connect and keep moving toward a resolution. Situations like these are what make volunteering so rewarding!



Rancho Bernardo Community Foundation

David Brooks

We present checks to all our grant recipients at an annual luncheon the week before Thanksgiving. It is a lot of work for our board, and immediately after the event we meet to celebrate the successful conclusion of another grant cycle. It's my favorite meeting of the year.



Miracle League of San Diego

Nick Brumbach

There is no single achievement or experience. It's all about the families and seeing the smiles on every player's face. It's the relationships I've built connecting with players while taking pictures on the field. It's knowing that I make a difference every day.



Canine Companions

Teri Buckley

What drew me to Canine Companions was my love for dogs and to be of service to others. Being a puppy raiser, walking and fostering dogs and seeing the mission first hand by raising a service dog for a family with twin girls has given me the ultimate joy. The mission of Canine Companions will always be near and dear to my heart.



Support the Enlisted Project (STEP)

Cindy Campbell

Cindy's most memorable experience at STEP is coming into our warehouse twice a week and working alongside an incredible group of dedicated female volunteers. Together, they form a powerhouse team, making the magic happen behind the scenes to support our military families. Cindy loves the camaraderie and teamwork that builds each week, knowing that their hard work directly impacts military families and their loved ones. It's these special moments of coming together that make all the difference.



Davis Farr LLP

Dawn Casillas

I have saved over 10,000 pounds of trash from entering our oceans and along this journey I have been able to educate and inspire others to treat our planet and wildlife with the utmost respect as well as make better choices in their daily life that have a positive impact on our planet.

NCPC Volunteer Awards Celebration Honorees



TrueCare

Rosalie Cerna

Volunteering brought me out of my shell to help others. I am now a support system for those around me. At the food distribution, someone drove all the way from Bonsall because they didn't know any other food resources. I connected them to a food distribution closer to home.



Assistance League of North County

Beverly Charles

Being a member of the Assistance League of North Coast has not only brought joy and new friends, but also enriched my life. I have loved belonging to an organization that provides scholarships, books, clothing, shoes and jackets to children plus grants to assist teachers. Doing good feels good!



I Love A Clean San Diego

Tracey Claesson

I've had the honor of serving as a site captain for ILACSD in San Diego County since 2013. Witnessing the tangible impact a dedicated group can make on the environment is inspiring and fulfilling, especially when I see children learn that it's fun and easy to positively impact our surroundings.



Foundation for Women Warriors

Linda Colker

For me it is about giving back to those veterans that sacrifice their lives for this country. The only way I could think to say thank you continuously is to support them in their civilian life.



Words Alive

Sandy Connolly

As a Words Alive volunteer, I love making meaningful connections with children through storytelling. Their joy and excitement lift my spirit and feed my soul! Sharing new topics, increasing vocabulary, and understanding the world allows me to inspire children to become readers and writers who can go on adventures anywhere.



Oceanside Museum of Art

Cathy Crowser

I am deeply passionate about art and strive to make a positive impact. Leading the OMA Gala was a rewarding experience. Months of planning and coordinating are required to unite the community for an evening celebrating art and artists, all in support of the museum, its exhibits, and outreach programs.

NPC Volunteer Awards Celebration Honorees



Ivey Ranch Park Association

Irene Diggs

Both humans and horses are central to the success of Ivey Ranch. As volunteers, we all participate in supporting the well-being of both. I am awed by the generosity of the horses, their patience for holding a space for healing, building confidence and sharing pure joy with our riders.



Meals on Wheels San Diego County

Linda Dingeldine

Linda's most rewarding experience was delivering meals to a client named Evelyn Hyatt, who was 100 years old. She fondly remembers Evelyn as a delightful person with whom she had many enjoyable conversations. Linda finds interacting with and getting to know her clients deeply fulfilling. She appreciates the two-way conversations and the opportunity to positively impact their lives.



Catalent

Chloe Doan

My most rewarding experience was leading a two-week beanie for premies event for Sharp Mary Birch hospital. I got the opportunity to teach my coworkers to crochet and together we helped make over 100 beanies for premature babies. I couldn't have asked to give back to a more worthy cause.



*Metropolitan Area Advisory Committee (MAAC)
on Anti-Poverty of San Diego County, Inc.*

Elizabeth Engleberg

As Rotarians, our motto is "Service above Self." It was so rewarding to assemble 100 learning kits for MAAC's Early Head Start students and families. Knowing we are making a difference in the lives of young children was gratifying, and we look forward to many more local volunteer projects.



*Netzel Grigsby Associates on behalf
of St. Paul's Cathedral*

Rockette Ewell

The most significant and rewarding achievement I have had at St. Paul's Cathedral, is reaching the goal we set for the Music Center Campaign. When I was first asked by Dean Penny almost 3 ½ or 4 years ago to think about leading a capital campaign, we were deep in the fog of the pandemic. As a church community, we had a vision and we had each other. Which as it turns out was apparently enough - along with really good consultants NGA - to help us define and do the work and ultimately reach the goal.



Escondido Community Child Development Center Inc.

Ryan Ferguson

I am sure as with many people who volunteer, it's difficult to describe my most significant experience with ECCDC. There have been so many - each one builds on the other, from a small cloud to a beautiful sunrise. The most recent and heartwarming was being a part of, and the emcee for, ECCDC's 50th Anniversary Celebration. Having the show upstaged by a 3 minute thank you from the founder, Lorraine Boyce, was about as moving as anything I've ever heard. It made me know ECCDC is worth every ounce of effort I put into it.

NCPC Volunteer Awards Celebration Honorees



Neighborhood Healthcare

Judy Fitzgerald

I'm in awe of how this organization and its dedicated team of medical and support professionals care for everyone in our community by providing quality, compassionate care regardless of their circumstances. No one gets turned away. In doing so, they make our region better.



Scatena Daniels Communications

Geneva Gámez

Geneva's most rewarding experiences include working with San Diego Blood Bank to draw attention to their need for Precision Blood and witnessing the positive impact on a young patient, and seeing the joy in seniors' faces as they are welcomed to new homes through Wakeland Housing & Development Corporation.



Alabaster Jar Project

Natalie Gohrick

Since joining the AJP team in January, I've felt truly welcomed and appreciated by everyone. The most rewarding part of my job is working closely with each participant, allowing me to watch them grow and heal as they are in a safe, supportive environment. Being part of their healing journey has been incredibly valuable, and it motivates me to return each day with enthusiasm.



Hebrew Free Loan of San Diego

Mindy Gurrera

It is an honor to volunteer with Hebrew Free Loan of San Diego. HFLSD makes a tangible difference in people's lives with dignity and compassion. It is wonderful to see people given a hand up and flourish and it really touches my heart. I am proud to do a small piece to help.



Chicano Federation of San Diego County

Tim Hart

My favorite memory was Chicano Federation's Holiday Distribution because I witnessed the joy and relief on families' faces as they received toys, blankets, and essential items. It reminded me of the impact of collective kindness, especially during the holiday season. Every contribution, regardless of size, made a meaningful difference.



Junior Achievement of San Diego Country

Ryan Heath

Delivering financial literacy fundamentals to our youth has provided me with new perspectives and gratifying relationships. JA will impact the trajectory of our future leaders. I'm proud to support their vision to foster growth and success in our community.

NCPC Volunteer Awards Celebration Honorees



My San Diego North County

Maribel Hernandez

Helping create the North County Business Expo magazine, featuring Latino professionals, has been a very rewarding experience. The countless hours invested were motivated by the desire to support the success of others and contribute to the community, with no expectation of recognition or reward.



Boys & Girls Clubs of Oceanside

Pablo Holguin

I'm incredibly proud to have been part of the merger between Oceanside and San Dieguito Boys & Girls Clubs. This partnership will unlock new opportunities for youth through shared resources and offer unique growth prospects for staff, enhancing our collective ability to serve and uplift our communities.



Promises2Kids

ICW Group Insurance Companies

ICW Group's partnership with Promises2Kids has been a powerful reflection of our values, culture, and commitment to giving back. Team Members at all levels have become part of something bigger and truly make a positive impact on our community. We're proud of our company's contributions and all we've achieved together.



Rotary of North County Route 78

José Jaimes

In these modern technological times, social media and more have taken away part of what makes us unique, which affects our youth. My most rewarding experience is our club being able to expose our youth to the arts via music at our annual Mariachi Festival.



Oceanside Theatre Company

Michelle Jimmink

Enrich. Connect. Expand. Creative and performing arts are unique in the ability to simultaneously bring enrichment to youth education, connection to peers, mentors and audiences, and expand the worldview of the student experience. Helping OTC provide increased access to live theater education for youth in my community is my privilege



Pro Kids, First Tee - San Diego

Rod Jiu

His most rewarding achievement has been spending time with the kids, getting to know them personally, and witnessing their growth over time

NCPC Volunteer Awards Celebration Honorees



Viasat

Rachel Jobin

I started volunteering with the SEMS and SMHS Music Programs after seeing first-hand the positive impact of music education on students' wellbeing. This is a true community for hundreds of students, and I am honored to support these programs that foster growth and build life skills during these pivotal years.



San Diego Children's Discovery Museum

Nan Katona

I've been a fan of the SDCDM since it first opened at 150 Grand Ave. over 20 years ago. I took my grand children there and to the larger space at the Center for the Arts until they "aged out". Many fond memories. I got reintroduced through the SDWF when we awarded a water conservation education grant to the Museum and have been a volunteer ever since focusing mostly on event planning and marketing. The love and fun continue - thanks for the honor!



Woman's Club of Carlsbad

Lisa Kaufman

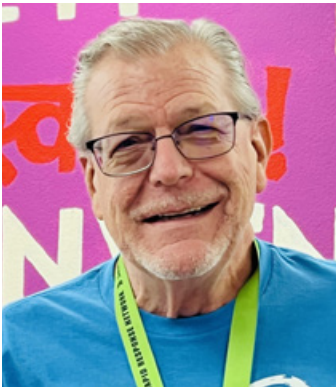
It gives me such pleasure by helping Meals on Wheels scatter joy to these 600 seniors and to receive written notes and letters of appreciation from the organization and recipients.



Coastal Roots Farm

Christianne "Kiki" Knoop

Kiki's most rewarding Farm Stand moments are the countless experiences of genuine gratitude from customers whose lives have been touched by the gift of affordable (or free) locally-grown, healthy produce. Kiki has been volunteering her entire life, and it is her mission to share her time and labor with those in need.



Jewish Family Service San Diego

Brian Kougl

Brian recalls helping a young woman reconnect with her father in New York, who was the only person she knew in the US. She hadn't been able to contact him, so Brian connected father and daughter over the phone, and the two sobbed tears of joy and relief as Brian helped the woman make plans to reunite with her father.



California State University San Marcos

Carleen Kreider & Dick Lansing

We are pleased to actively impact the lives of students at CSUSM, a university committed to student success and accessible education. From our volunteer work with business students to our passion for CSUSM Athletics, we are proud to support our incredible students.

NCPC Volunteer Awards Celebration Honorees



Women's Empowerment International

Linda Kurtz

I am proud to have discovered and nominated Multicolores as a WE grant partner. Multicolores equips and empowers Guatemalan women who are experiencing poverty with skills training, leadership development, and support services. The women are able to improve their living conditions, send their children to school, and create opportunities for other women in their communities.



Century Club of San Diego

Gregg Lawless

As co-chair of Gallery Management at the Farmers Insurance Open, I manage 450+/- volunteers to ensure they have a positive, enjoyable experience. I manage schedules, assign tasks, and address issues as they arise while fostering a supportive team environment. My goal is a smooth event where everyone contributes effectively and enjoys their experience.



Foundation for Developmental Disabilities

Falon Leszczynski

One of the most rewarding experiences I've had with our organization was participating in the FDD Grantee Awardee Showcase. It was truly inspiring to witness the incredible work being done in the community by so many dedicated grantees. Seeing the direct impact these initiatives are having on individuals with developmental disabilities and their families made me feel immensely proud. The showcase reminded me how powerful collective efforts can be in creating meaningful change and furthering our mission to support those we serve.



Armed Services YMCA San Diego

William Lu

My most memorable experience with the ASY was volunteering for the Magical Holiday Party. It was my first time interacting with the families we serve. When I saw the joy the event brought to the families, it was then that I understood the impact we had on the community.



San Marcos Community Foundation

Colleen Lukoff

It has been an honor and a privilege to provide resources in support of non-profit organizations serving San Marcos residents. So many people working to make life better for our residents inspires us all to do our part to help.



Casa de Amistad

Sydney Mafong

The most rewarding part of working with Casa is seeing how excited the kids are about reading. It's great to see them dive into books, knowing they're not just learning but having fun along the way.

NCPC Volunteer Awards Celebration Honorees



Kids for Peace

Margi Malek

In 37 years as an educator, my greatest achievement was empowering students to become peace ambassadors through Kids for Peace. Watching them inspire their peers with school-wide kindness assemblies, playground activities and heartfelt actions, I witnessed the transformative power of compassion in action. It was the most inspiring experience of my life.



Boys & Girls Clubs of Northwest San Diego

Larry McDonald

Volunteering at the Boys & Girls Club has brought great joy into my life, I have seen the club make a difference in the lives of countless youth. Many of them have become leaders in their own right within the club and in their communities. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve at the Boys & Girls Club.



Carlsbad Educational Foundation

Shalu Mittal

I coached the Supersonic Falcons (a First Lego League team) for three years. Our team won the Southern California FLL Championship along with the nomination for the Global Innovation award. This amazing accomplishment was a result of exemplary teamwork by all members putting team goals ahead of their personal goals.



Operation HOPE-North County

Louanne Murawski

When community members come to the boutique, they may be a little reserved and shy, not sure about what they will get from us. Making them feel comfortable and welcomed, ensuring they are able to get what they need for their families and feel dignified in the process.



Universidad Popular

Georgina Najera

Mi experiencia como voluntaria en Universidad Popular me ha enseñado a tener compromiso, ser respetuosa y a tener compasión con las personas. He aprendido sobre la historia de la comunidad inmigrante y me siento orgullosa de ser parte del movimiento de derechos civiles que apoya el empoderamiento del pueblo.



Lifeline Community Services

Gary Nessim

My life and the lives of so many volunteers wouldn't be complete without the opportunity to share their time, experience, problem solving, empathy, etc. Thank you Lifeline for maintaining the infrastructure which allows volunteers to receive more back than the time they give.

NCPC Volunteer Awards Celebration Honorees



Oceanside Community Foundation

Amber Newman

Being part of OCF is more than a single experience—it's a movement. A collaborative effort that I have been honored to help grow for eight years. If I had to choose, the crowning achievement so far is celebrating the infusion of \$1 million into our City of Oceanside.



Magdalena Ecke Family YMCA

Stephen Nichols

Most rewarding experience: 7 a.m. on Bike-A-Thon day every year, with riders on all the bikes, the excitement, the music playing, the auction tables full — it's the moment when months of hard work come to fruition. That's my Christmas morning! :)



*Netzel Grigsby Associates on behalf of
St. Paul's Cathedral*

Russell Okihara

As co-chair of the successful Capital Campaign I am extremely proud of our accomplishments. So many individuals from within the cathedral and community have supported us to allow us to meet our goal to provide a safe, faith-based Music Center for St. Paul's and our surrounding communities.



Agua Hedionda Lagoon Foundation

Michael O'Tousa

A significant and meaningful volunteer experience is assisting with Hubbs Trail maintenance controlling erosion along the bluffs, repairing damage from storms and rising tides allowing the lagoon to prosper while observing increasing enjoyment by fishermen, runners and walkers alongside. Think globally, act locally, the lagoon, then the ocean, prosper.



Feeding San Diego

Pacific Builders Group

We are proud to support the essential work that Feeding San Diego does to address hunger in our community. Our commitment to giving back to the community is a core pillar of our company's values, and we are honored to contribute to an organization that tirelessly works to provide food to those in need.



The Elizabeth Hospice

Mary Padilla

I am a bilingual Spanish-speaking volunteer who spends time with patients when their families cannot be present. Communicating with patients in their native language makes them feel at ease, and patients share their thoughts and concerns. This is the purpose I was looking for in life.

NCPC Volunteer Awards Celebration Honorees



Alzheimer's San Diego

Ron Peterson

What Ron finds most rewarding when volunteering with us is his ability to share his own useful insights and techniques about memory loss with clients who are also struggling with those issues. Due to his lived experiences as a caregiver and now a disabled individual himself, he understands how memory and cognitive issues can limit our experiences if we don't make accommodations for them.



Project Next

Gavin Pyle

My most rewarding Project Next experience has been fostering community connections and partnering with CSUSM to provide students valuable opportunities. With two younger cousins in the district, I'm excited to see the lasting impact Project Next will have.



San Diego Oasis

Natalie Richardson

The volunteer work I do for San Diego Oasis impacts thousands of senior adults in our community. The power-point presentations I develop help instructors promote their classes, and are viewed by hundreds of attendees at our bi-monthly catalog pick-up parties, providing information and assistance in class selection for the attendees.



Interfaith Community Services

Matthew Roberts

Oh, my goodness, the most rewarding aspect of volunteering at Interfaith is literally just simply having a role to play, showing up and being consistent. My default is to be selfish and self-centered, and the Interfaith team has provided me an outlet to be of service and give back.



San Diego Foundation

Lisa Ruder

I enjoy spearheading and chairing the Art and Beautification Committee for the Escondido Community Foundation. This committee is selecting and funding murals, a sculpture, and a lighting project in Escondido. The committee researched with regional arts organizations and partnered with Escondido arts organizations to assure Escondido has more beautiful art.



California Center for the Arts Escondido Foundation

Leila Sackfield

CCAE has held a special place in my heart for 30 years. It represents the essence of community and collaboration. I am incredibly proud of the partnerships I've helped to build and nurture, especially those with our local schools. As a former educator, events like the SmArt Festival are a true highlight. It provides school age children the chance to share their artistic and performing talents. Seeing the children and their families beaming with pride is priceless. Contributing my time, talent and treasure as a community collaborator and now Board Chair over these years has been a blessing.

NCPC Volunteer Awards Celebration Honorees



Carlsbad Charitable Foundation

Bret Schanzenbach

I love seeing the width and breadth of organizations that Carlsbad Charitable Foundation supports. Knowing that every dollar we bring in goes directly to organizations making a difference in people's lives is the best part of serving on this Board. It is very rewarding to lead such passionate people.



Fallbrook Food Pantry

Mary Scott

I truly appreciate the feeling of giving back to my community and my heart soars when our clients thank me for volunteering. I also enjoy meeting and interacting with our clients and putting smiles on their faces, especially the children.



Rancho Coastal Humane Society

Sarah Sedgwick

Volunteering has been incredibly rewarding and each week I socialize and build human trust with these amazing, sweet animals, making them more likely to be adopted. Through multiple adoption follow-ups, I help ensure they adjust well and have a happy outcome and life in their new, forever loving homes.



Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater San Diego

Joanne Sellner

My most significant and rewarding experience with the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater San Diego was leading the Steering Committee for our capstone fundraiser, the annual gala. This prestigious event, which has become a beacon of hope and a symbol of generosity, was recognized by the San Diego Business Journal as the 2023 fundraising event of the year. It was a testament to the hard work, dedication, and unwavering support of our community.



San Diego Gas & Electric

Peggy Sennett

Peggy has dedicated 70+ hours just in the last two years through Environmental All Stars, earning her 'Golden Gloves' time and time again. She has volunteered with many organizations including ProduceGood and Coastal Roots Farm. Her passion for giving back has motivated other employees to sign up for our events.



The Grauer School

Julie Silva & Diane Zeps

As Co-Presidents of The Grauer School Parent Association, one event close to our heart is "Grandfriends Day". This day fosters meaningful connections between students and their grandfriends and creates cherished memories that last a lifetime. We also love spoiling our teachers throughout the year, as they are the backbone of our children's education.

NCPC Volunteer Awards Celebration Honorees



Element Education

Jared Sinclair

My most fulfilling experience has been collaborating with such a talented team. It's been a true privilege to contribute to the organization's mission and support the students' journeys, witnessing their growth and success firsthand.



North County African American Women's Association

Alfreida Stevenson

One of my most rewarding achievements has been mentoring 8th-grade girls. I observed the growth and maturity of a young girl who, at the onset, walked into the program quiet and shy but developed into the most impressive, articulate, confident young girl. Also, through the members' combined efforts, we have awarded over 300 scholarships to girls and women.



Casa de Amparo

Kimberly Stewart

My first real success was the Halloween boutique. Using my resources in San Elijo Hills, through social media, I was able to collect a wide variety of costumes. What child doesn't want to have a fun Halloween costume every year? Mission Accomplished! My heart was full! Those kids would have a Halloween they would never forget.



North County LGBTQ Resource Center

Kass Stupack

Kass' unique ability to discuss deeply personal and sometimes sensitive topics with non-judgmental openness—and a delightful touch of silliness—has consistently enriched the group's experience. She truly goes above and beyond in her commitment to the community that has blossomed around CAYA, and the Center could not be more grateful for the invaluable contributions she has made.



Easterseals Southern California

Sarah Tira

Easterseals camp has shaped my life for 20 years, inspiring my career in special education teaching and advocacy. It's enhanced my leadership skills, broadened my creativity, and prepared me for other volunteer roles as a CASA and board member. The personal growth from camp changed my life for the better.



Girl Scouts San Diego

Marin Vaughn

After having to reschedule a San Francisco troop bridging trip due to COVID last year, we had an amazing experience! The girls create big opportunities—like selling 10,000 packages of cookies twice—and I support them. To be in the lives of these Girl Scouts as a volunteer is really fulfilling.

NCPC Volunteer Awards Celebration Honorees



The Mano a Mano Foundation

Dr. Beatriz Villarreal

Leading the fentanyl awareness program in Spanish and distributing over 7,000 Narcan kits has been incredibly rewarding. Seeing the community's gratitude and knowing we've saved lives through education and support underscores the impact of our work.



Boys & Girls Club of Vista

Dan Villaseñor

Growing up attending the BGC Vista as one of the first Club kids, and now supporting the organization on the Board of Directors for the last 15 years, there are many significant moments that continue to bring joy from dressing up as Santa at the Annual Club Kid Holiday Party to having teens visit Pepper Tree Frosty for the Career Launch Program. I've loved seeing the growth of the Club over time. So much has changed since my days as a club kid - the programs, life changing experiences and skills provided. I am proud to support BGC Vista and encourage others to get involved.



Century Club of San Diego

Mark Ward

What brings me back every year as a volunteer at the Farmers Insurance Open is the camaraderie and friendship of the countless fellow volunteers all working together selflessly to put on a world class event while giving back to the San Diego community. These are true examples of seamless teamwork and dedication.



The Mano a Mano Foundation

Martha Zamora

Volunteering with Dr. Villarreal in organizing educational conferences has profoundly enriched my understanding of leadership and solidified my dedication to advocacy. Listening to the moving stories of families who have overcome adversity and their dedication to their children's education has been deeply rewarding and transformative.



Feeding San Diego

Laura Zuckerman

The most rewarding experience has been working with Indigenous communities to supply their weekly Feeding San Diego pantries. The Library's partnership with FSD has been transformational, not only bolstering tribal sovereignty, but also providing meaningful support that has made a big difference in building food sovereignty in our Native communities.



PROUD SUPPORTERS OF THE

North County Philanthropy Council's

2024 Volunteer Awards Celebration

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Thank You and Congratulations to our 2024 Volunteers of the Year



Bret Schanzenbach

Carlsbad Charitable
Foundation



Rita Bowcock

Escondido Community
Foundation



Amber Newman

Oceanside Community
Foundation



David Brooks

Rancho Bernardo
Community Foundation



Lisa Ruder

San Diego Foundation

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THANK YOU!

2024 INTERFAITH VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR



MATT ROBERTS

“Before I started volunteering, I was often selfish and self-centered. Through Interfaith I found my outlet to be of service and give back.”

Ready to make a difference? Visit: interfaithservices.org/volunteer

SAN DIEGO BUSINESS JOURNAL

SD500 AND BOOK OF LISTS

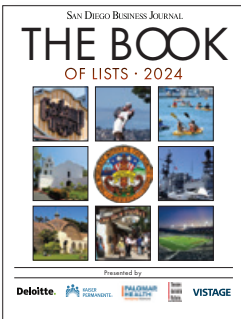
The San Diego 500 and the Book of Lists serve as the definitive source guides for the San Diego business community. The San Diego 500 is a book of key business leaders who are active in the business community and the Book of Lists is a company-based resource that covers all the key sectors of our local economy.



SD500 2024

PRINT PUBLICATION: **NOVEMBER 18TH**

The San Diego 500 is filled with over 500 people leading entities that support or create a significant number of high-paying jobs with key business roles in companies doing important work among our leading sectors. People so skilled in their business expertise they raise the game locally, regionally or nationally and are involved in high level professional groups, trade groups and significant local civic groups.



BOOK OF LISTS 2025

PRINT PUBLICATION: **DECEMBER 30TH**

The Book of Lists continues to be the best local company database in the market. It includes approximately 90 lists covering key industry sectors in the business community. Lists are compiled from a variety of sources, and companies are queried to confirm information and self-report revenue, local employee numbers and other pertinent information. When available, credible data from third-party sources is also used for key metrics in compiling our lists. Each list is updated once or twice a year depending upon various factors.

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**Volunteer
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Lee
Auerbach**

Congratulations
to all
**Volunteer Awards
Honorees!**

*Thank you for your compassionate
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Thank you to all the volunteers who make our communities a better place.

Congratulations to our
Volunteer of the Year

Mary Padilla

Patient companion, bilingual,
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The Elizabeth Hospice

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BRIAN KOUGL



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North County Philanthropy Council
2024 Volunteer Award Honorees



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Congratulations Adriana Brunner!

You are an inspiring leader and a
changemaker in San Diego.

San Ysidro Health is honored to support the North County Philanthropy Council's 2024 Volunteer Awards Celebration! Congratulations to all the honorees and volunteers for your time, energy, and selflessness. You make a profound impact in the lives of many San Diegans.



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RYAN FERGISON
VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR 2024



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GREGG LAWLESS

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Volunteer of the Year

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