



3rd ANNUAL

## **2016 NONPROFIT AWARDS**

CELEBRATION

September 29, 2016 at the Hyatt Regency  
Monterey

In 2004 a group of community leaders decided to meet to address a national economic crisis. Our goal was to combine resources, collaborate, and advocate for the sustainability of services to our community, jeopardized by the economic cuts of the time. Core leaders from a variety of nonprofits – human services, arts & culture, environment, animal rights, and philanthropists, - have been working ever since to maintain crucial safety nets and quality of life services for all County residents.

We are pleased to present the **2016 Nonprofit Award Recipients**.

### **Core Community Leader Award: Mr. Dan Baldwin, President / CEO of the Community Foundation for Monterey County**

The Core Community Leader Award is presented to an individual who has made a significant positive difference in the nonprofit community. This year's recipient believes in the mission of NAMC and has been extremely instrumental in the support of hundreds of nonprofit organizations and projects throughout Monterey County. Most recently he has led the charge to raise funds to aid those in our community affected by devastating forest fires.

### **Nonprofit Organization Winners**

#### **Advocacy and Social Justice: The Romero Institute**

This award goes to a nonprofit law and policy center based in Santa Cruz. Its mission is to advocate for the poor and oppressed by defending their rights through public education, grassroots organizing, leadership development, research, investigation, litigation, and public policy formation. Its local projects include an effort to pass legislation protecting Santa Cruz and the surrounding area under the National Defense

Authorization Act; and a 2016 initiative to pass community choice “Green Power” energy legislation in Santa Cruz, San Benito, and Monterey Counties.

### **Arts & Culture: Caminos del Arte. (Ways of the Art)**

This organization is a small grassroots East Salinas cultural nonprofit founded in 1998 to help families and especially young people counter the growing problems of gang, drugs and family dysfunction among the largely marginalized immigrant Mexican farm worker community. Their mission is to educate youth through mentoring, counseling, performance, and cultural programs, leveraging existing networks and resources to help youths reach their highest potential, and instill in them leadership skills that will last a lifetime

### **Education: The Dream Academy**

This Salinas organization is a youth leadership academy that does a lot with a little – inspiring, engaging and empowering 100 high school students each year with the tools and the motivation to be the leaders of today and tomorrow. Founded by Alisal High School teacher Ruben Pizarro, they encourage students to attend college and be involved in their community. It instills in them that their success is important not only to themselves, their families and community, but also that they are part of an organization that wholeheartedly believes in them

### **Environment/Animals: The SPCA for Monterey County**

During the Soberanes fire, this organization located in Monterey County has taken in 232 displaced pets, including 57 cats, 45 dogs, 88 chickens, and myriad of other species, even a tarantula, a king snake, and a leopard gecko! Nearly 200 of the rescued pets have been returned to their owners and dozens are still in the loving care of this organization – which is providing free food, supplies, and emergency evacuation services to hundreds more. All of these services are provided at absolutely no charge to anyone affected by the fire, and will continue post-disaster in order for residents to keep their beloved pets with them while they work to rebuild. In addition to these rescues, they have also provided for dogs to visit emergency responders returning from the fire lines to give their (often quite slobbery) thanks and some much-needed TLC to thank them for all their hard work to protect our community.

## **Health Care: Door to Hope**

This organization has served Monterey County since 1971 when it began as a residential program serving women in recovery from alcohol addiction. Forty-five years later they have grown by leaps and bounds to 10 innovative programs which provide comprehensive behavioral health services. When people of any age struggle with addiction, mental health issues, trauma or an unstable home life, this organization empowers clients by providing them with the knowledge and skills needed to reintegrate themselves into productive and happy life through recovery. Their amazing staff love what they do and it shows. The licensed, certified and professional staff brings an exceptional level of expertise in the science and psychology of behavioral health which is matched by warm, supportive approaches. This provides an invaluable difference in the course of recovery to all who enter their doors.

## **Human Services: Papillon Center for Loss and Transition**

This organization was founded in 2013 and its mission is to build healthier communities by providing professionally led, compassionate services for individuals, families and children experiencing loss and transition. Recognizing that each person's path through grief is unique, the organization strives to individualize services and programs to meet the broad spectrum of needs and the timing of recovery. The programs are facilitated by volunteer professionals free of charge and provide groups for children, teens and adults. Over 125 adults and children have been served, and they recently started a Pregnancy and Infant Loss Support Group. They are also responsive to community needs, including facilitating Good Grief for Kids at a school where a teacher died, and assisting adults and children who have lost homes in the Soberanes Fire. This organization is becoming the "go to" resource when the community identifies a need for bereavement assistance.

## **Nonprofit Sustainability:**

This organization is part of the nationwide solution to end Veteran homelessness. Over 1,250 underserved homeless Veterans entered their doors last year for housing, employment, food, clothing, legal, and mental and physical healthcare assistance. For 15 years, they have run central California's most effective transitional housing

program. Last year they housed over 160 Veterans via new 'Housing First' options, worked with the US Army and City of Seaside to create a first-of-its-kind permanent housing project, and over 375 homeless Veterans received dental and medical care during the "Stand Down" in August that they led. All Veterans have immediate access to a critical array of rehabilitative services to help them successfully re-enter society as healthy, productive, self-sufficient citizens. This group is 95% successful in gaining employment, income, and housing for its graduates. The Veterans Administration rates this organization as a "Top Organization" of its kind in the nation and a model for replication in other communities.

### **Children, Youth and Families: to Jacob's Heart Children's Cancer Support Services**

Since 1998, the staff and volunteers of this organization Since 1998, Jacob's Heart's staff and volunteers have been committed to one goal: to alleviate the trauma faced by families enduring the unimaginable. We accompany families of children with cancer and other life-threatening illnesses through treatment, post treatment, and bereavement through a culturally appropriate model of care that includes bicultural services delivered by staff and volunteers trained in the art and practice of pediatric palliative care. These services, working as a cohesive intervention, are in direct alignment with our mission: to improve the quality of life for children with cancer and other life-threatening illnesses by supporting their families in the challenges they face. Our holistic services address the struggles of families of children and teens in treatment, families experiencing anticipatory grief, and those who are bereaved. In 2015 alone, Jacob's Heart provided the following services to 202 children with cancer and 904 of their family members: \$228,606 worth of direct financial assistance and practical support, including payment for rent, utilities, gas, groceries, meals, funeral assistance and other necessities; 185 bilingual support groups for families in treatment and those who are bereaved; 2,362 hours of direct support; and 2,400 deliveries of gift baskets, meals, quilts, cards and other comforts to children and families. Every dollar donated to Jacob's Heart is doubled in impact to families. Last year the value of donated goods and volunteer services exceeded cash expenditures. We envision a community where every child with a life-threatening illness has a strong, supported, and informed family empowered to fully participate in their care. We strive to inspire compassionate action within local communities to create a safety net of support for the unique needs of each child and family. have been committed to one goal: to alleviate the trauma faced by families enduring the unimaginable. They accompany families of children with cancer

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### **Congratulations to the 2016 NONPROFIT AGENCY NOMINEES**

Arts Council for Monterey County  
Caminos del Arte  
Central Coast Center for Independent Living  
Coastal Kids  
Community Human Services  
Community Partnership for Youth  
Door to Hope  
Dream Academy  
Fort Ord Environmental Justice  
Girls Inc. of the Central Coast  
Jacob's Heart  
Junior League  
Monterey County Bar Association and Foundation  
Monterey County Agricultural & Rural Life  
Museum Monterey Museum of Art  
Multiple Sclerosis Quality of Life Project  
Papillon Center for Loss and Transition  
Reading is Fundamental  
The Romero Institute  
Salinas PAL  
SPCA for Monterey County  
The Offset Project

Veterans Transition Center  
Voices for Children CASA - Monterey County

**2016 Nonprofit Staff Awards**

**The Nonprofit Staff Awards recognize the exemplary work of nonprofit staff nominees in three award categories: Innovation, Leadership, and Personal Achievement.**

**NONPROFIT STAFF AWARD FOR LEADERSHIP: JOHN Bokanovich – Recovery Director with Sun Street Centers**

Our winner of the Leadership Award has been an employee of the organization since 2009 starting as a cook. From there this person completed an alcohol and drug counseling certification then became a counselor. In 2015, he was appointed the Recovery Director. Within the past year, this person has developed new revenue that accounts for a 15% increase in funds. Also he initiated the use of a database to track program outcomes, implemented a new alumni scholarship, developed a innovative way to deal with a temporary building closure last summer – and worked it into an opportunity to take the residents camping.

This person has exemplified personal achievement through his ability to recreate himself and become a mentor and example to other men and in the community of recovery.

There are only a handful of alcohol and drug counselors in our country that have achieved credentials for LADC – a national AOD counseling certification and John is one of the handful.

**NONPROFIT STAFF AWARD FOR INNOVATION: Veronica Miramontes, Victim Offender Reconciliation Program Coordinator for Restorative Justice Partners, Inc.**

This person brings a personal touch of thoughtfulness and dedication to her work at the Restorative Justice Partners Inc. As the Victim Offender Reconciliation Program Coordinator, she has grown the program's reach and effectiveness. She has strengthened the VORP program in regard to product, training, communication, partnerships and continues to develop into an exemplary employee. She applies innovative ideas to her work and brainstorms ways to continually improve services. She brings a zest of creativity to her work. Her planning, program vision and genuine desire

to beneficially impact the lives of minors referred to the Victim Offender Reconciliation Program are respected and honored.

**NONPROFIT STAFF AWARD FOR PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENT: Tina Stewart, Executive Assistant, for the Arts Council of Monterey County**

This person has been employed as an Executive Assistant for the Arts Council for Monterey County since August of 2015. During the past year, she has maintained herself in a highly professional manner, while dealing with some very challenging personal issues.

Over the past year, she has assisted the Executive Director in developing record keeping systems that make minutes, agendas and correspondence accessible and organized. She has assisted with the organization and development of the 2017-2020 Strategic Plan and the By-Laws revisions. She took on the role of the volunteer coordinator for the Arts Council and staffed multiple events with volunteers. She has been instrumental in planning several events including the Arts Education Summit, the 2016 Champions of Arts Gala, Breakfast with Champions, and the Arts Leadership Summit – all while always maintaining the highest professional standard.

She is a disabled Veteran and we thank her for her service and her commitment to personal achievement. And if all of that is not enough - She continues working toward her Masters of Science Degree in Nonprofit Management without compromising her work responsibilities.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO 2016 NONPROFIT STAFF NOMINEES**

Marlene Baker, Veterans' Transition Center

John Bokanovich, Sun Street Centers

Joyce Breckenridge, Lyceum of Monterey County

May Clark, Monterey Bay Aquarium (Volunteer)

Ken Collins, Elkhorn Slough Foundation

Elizabeth Contreras, Girls Inc.

Erika D'Auria, Monterey Museum of Art

Steve Dennis, Monterey Bay Aquarium (Volunteer)

Sandi Ellis, Alliance on Aging

Carolina Fabry, International School of Monterey

Donna Ferraro, Boys and Girls Club  
Victoria Flores, Legal Services for Seniors  
Gelacio (Gel) Gonzalez, Easterseals Central California  
Mayra Guzman, Community Human Services  
Susie Hansen, Teddy Bears with Heart  
Christy Ingram, Monterey Zoo  
Janet Krupa, Jacob's Heart  
Rosanna Leighton, SPCA for Monterey County  
Margy Mayfield, Coastal Kids  
Veronica Miramontes, Restorative Justice  
Clare Munteer, Monterey Rape Crisis  
Roman Perez, Central Coast Center for Independent Living  
Alena Porte, Ventana Wildlife Society  
Jerry Sera, Alliance on Aging  
Tina Stewart, Arts Council for Monterey County  
Frances "Pinkie" Weesner, Harmony at Home  
Lisa Wichel-Loomis, International School of Monterey

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