

# LEADERS OF INFLUENCE: NONPROFIT & PHILANTHROPY



**T**HERE ARE MANY IMPACTFUL ORGANIZATIONS HERE IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY DOING INCREDIBLY IMPORTANT work, and the leaders behind those organizations are essential contributors to the fabric of our community. They steward their teams through a delicate balance of running a business while selflessly serving essential and worthy causes.

In this section, we acknowledge some of the leading lights of the nonprofit sector – inspirational individuals who have stepped up to provide examples of forming powerful partnerships and developing strategies to better meet the many needs of our community and beyond.

We've alphabetically compiled this lineup of superb nonprofit leaders and supporters, along with information about their careers, roles and relevant accomplishments they've achieved. Congratulations to these outstanding trail blazers who made our class of '24.

*Methodology: The professionals featured in these pages did not pay to be included. Their profiles were drawn from nomination materials submitted to the Los Angeles Business Journal. Those selected for inclusion were reviewed by the editorial department. The professionals were chosen based on a demonstration of impact made on the profession and on the Los Angeles community.*

## LOI: NONPROFIT &amp; PHILANTHROPY

**DARLINGTON AHAIWE**

Chief Finance Officer  
Woodcraft Rangers

**D**arlington Ahaiwe, chief financial officer of Woodcraft Rangers, has over 14 years of extensive experience in nonprofit, public and private accounting. With changes in the economic landscape, increased government investment in education and expanded school partnerships, Ahaiwe adeptly manages budgeting and forecasting to accommodate rising wages and supply costs in a volatile market.

Ahaiwe combines his financial expertise with a deep commitment to youth empowerment, making a significant impact on the community. With his financial oversight, Woodcraft Rangers went from a \$32 million operating budget this past year, to an expected \$45 million for FY25, while maintaining an impeccable track record of program, grant, and labor compliance, alongside fiscal responsibility, guaranteeing uninterrupted and efficient programming and partnerships. Ahaiwe's team ensures Woodcraft is in good standing with all school district partners and state and government agencies whose grants the organization manages and/or is a recipient of.

**ROBERTO ARNOLD**

Chairman  
Multicultural Business Alliance

**S**ergeant First Class Roberto Arnold holds over 16 years of service in the US Army and has earned numerous military honors. He served as a ranger with 75th Ranger Battalion and volunteered to be deployed in support of the war on terror to Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation New Dawn, among other conflicts across the world.

Arnold is also the founder of the Multicultural Business Alliance, an organization that focuses on helping minority small businesses – specifically women and Veterans. MBA is also partnering up with local chambers to provide support in all business-related issues to members. Arnold is also currently serving as co-chair of anti-poverty and economic mobility for the Los Angeles Business Federation and is a board member of the Pomona Chamber of Commerce. Arnold continues to partner up with large corporations to bring new resources to the members and chambers he works with.

**ELIZABETH BAWDEN**

Partner  
Withersworldwide

**W**ith a focus on philanthropy inside and outside the office, Elizabeth Bawden is a coveted advisor for clients and change makers who are looking to improve the world. She advises individuals and families on creative and effective options for expanding and preserving their legacy and social missions. A trust, estates and charitable planning lawyer in Withers' Los Angeles office, her sophisticated and innovative legal practice opens paths for those looking to turn their passions into positive progress in the world.

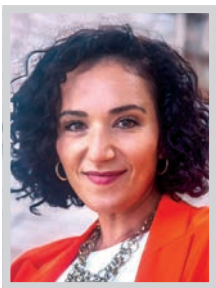
Bawden represents some of the region's most prominent and successful individuals and organizations – from artists, actors, musicians and celebrities to business owners and nonprofits – on their most complex estate planning, planned giving and tax planning matters. A significant part of her practice includes representing charities providing organizational and operational advice, with a focus on gift planning and the structuring and receipt of complex gifts.

**SHAMEKA BEAUGARD**

Chief Executive Officer  
Youth With a Purpose

**S**hameka Beaugard's career is a testament to her dedication to youth empowerment and community development. As the founder and executive director of Youth With a Purpose (YWAP), she has significantly impacted the lives of countless young individuals. One of her most notable achievements is the creation of the "Leaders of Tomorrow" program, which pairs at-risk youth with mentors who provide guidance and support. This program has achieved a remarkable 95% success rate in high school graduation and post-secondary education or vocational training.

Founded in 2020, YWAP was born out of Beaugard's desire to address the gaps in existing youth development programs. She recognized the need for a comprehensive approach that not only focuses on academic achievements but also on emotional, social, and practical life skills. Under her leadership, YWAP has developed a range of programs, including mentorship, leadership development, educational support and life skills training.

**HANNAH BERGER**

President  
The Philanthropy Coach LLC

**H**annah Berger has dedicated over 20 years to the field of philanthropy, becoming a cornerstone in the nonprofit sector in the Los Angeles and San Diego areas. Her career is marked by a profound commitment to empowering organizations to achieve their missions and make lasting impacts in their communities.

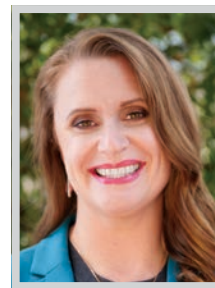
Throughout her extensive career, Berger has played an instrumental role in helping nonprofits raise millions of dollars. Her expertise in campaign management and strategic fundraising has enabled countless organizations to thrive and expand their reach. She possesses an innate ability to understand the unique needs of each nonprofit, tailoring her approach to maximize their fundraising potential and ensure sustainable growth. One of Berger's key strengths is her holistic approach to philanthropy. She doesn't just focus on immediate fundraising goals but looks at the bigger picture, providing organizations with the tools and knowledge they need for long-term success.

**KRISTIN BERTELL**

Chief Philanthropy Officer  
City of Hope

**T**oday, while many nonprofits experience a decline in donor giving, City of Hope's chief philanthropy officer Kristin Bertell, with her ability to identify community needs and drive results, has tripled fundraising revenue to \$300 million since 2023. Importantly, all cancer research, investments, expanded access and compassionate care at City of Hope can be traced back to philanthropy.

In her nine years as CPO, Bertell has been fundamental in orchestrating this philanthropic vision, building upon and growing City of Hope's extensive grassroots network of philanthropic partners. Currently overseeing more than 250 staff in executing a diverse portfolio of fundraising programs, Bertell led the charge in evolving City of Hope's 100-plus-year fundraising platform into the industry-leading, mission-driven philanthropic enterprise it is today. Bertell's dynamic leadership has driven improvements in patient experiences and advancements in cancer care equity through remarkable philanthropic support, yielding investments in innovative treatment options and state-of-the-art clinics.

**JULEE BROOKS**

CEO  
Woodcraft Rangers

**J**ulee Brooks, CEO of Woodcraft Rangers since 2018, is a social entrepreneur with two decades of experience in high-caliber family programming and guiding nonprofit growth. Her leadership combines sophisticated thought leadership, business acumen and exceptional relationship-building skills to ensure programmatic excellence and operational sustainability.

Under Brooks' guidance, Woodcraft Rangers has become a leader in youth development, tackling educational challenges with innovative solutions. By aligning the agency's values with its mission of guiding young people to explore pathways to purposeful lives, Brooks fosters a culture of inclusion and leverages community partnerships and public funding. These initiatives include support for neurodiverse students, investments in early learning, staff development and equitable access to immersive outdoor nature experiences for all.

**JOSEPH BUI**

Managing Director; Endowment and  
Foundation Specialist  
Bank of America Private Bank

**I**n his unique role as managing director and endowment and foundation specialist at Bank of America Private Bank, Joe Bui works day to day in the trenches of the nonprofit sector as a trusted advisor to Los Angeles and West Coast-based boards of directors, C-suite executives, centers of influence, cultural institutions, corporations, healthcare and faith-based organizations, foundations, families and individuals to help maximize efforts in their philanthropic endeavors. He leads a team of nonprofit experts across 11 states, bringing in over \$1 billion annually in new endowment and foundation assets.

In his role, Bui provides resources and tools to public charities and nonprofits such as homeless shelters, food banks, healthcare clinics, public universities and more to help grow their missions, advising on everything from strategic planning to fundraising. He also works with private foundations and family philanthropies to maximize their giving potential and impact investing.

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Screening tests can detect cancer before it starts or catch cancer early, when it may be easier to treat. Many tests are available for free or covered by insurance.

**Talk to a doctor about which screening tests are right for you.**

**Age 25+** Cervical screening

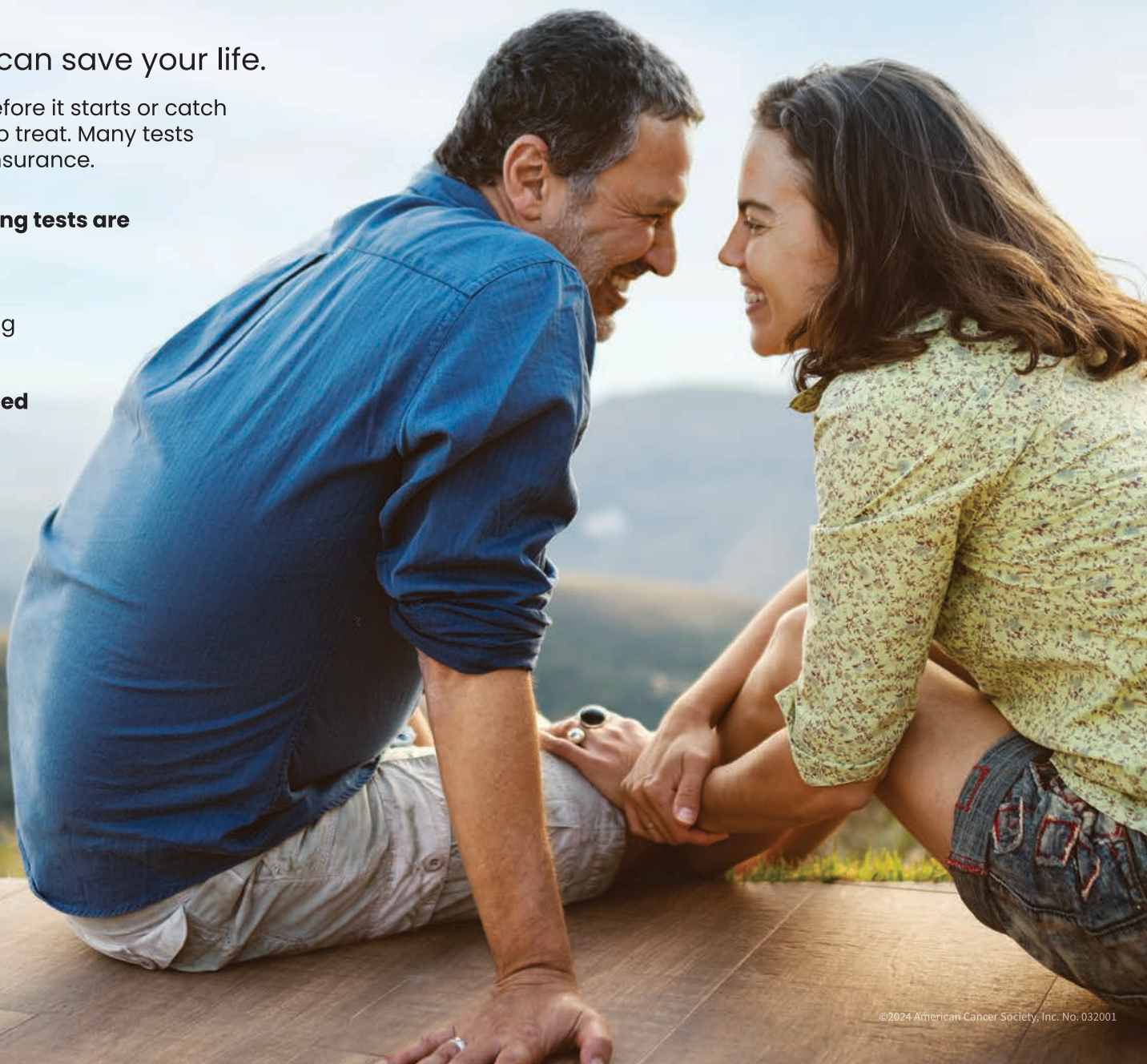
**Age 45+** Colorectal & breast screening

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## Meet our Los Angeles 2024-2025 leadership volunteers!

We applaud their commitment to helping us end cancer as we know it, for everyone.



**Dom Parero** | UCLA Health  
ACS Moonshot 2024 – 2025 Chair



**Shawn Sheffield** | Keck Medicine of USC  
ACS California Spirit 2024 Chair



**Matt Segal** | NKSFB  
ACS Los Angeles Golf Classic 2025 Co-Chair



**Brett Longenecker** | Paradigm Gilbert  
ACS Los Angeles Golf Classic 2025 Co-Chair



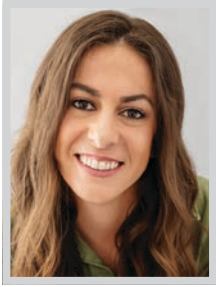
**Chang Liu** | Cathay Bank  
CEO's Against Cancer Chair



**Joan August** | Cedars Sinai Cancer  
ACS Los Angeles Board Chair

If you are interested in leadership volunteer opportunities with ACS, please contact: [len.swegart@cancer.org](mailto:len.swegart@cancer.org)

## LOI: NONPROFIT &amp; PHILANTHROPY

**HILLARY COHEN**

*Co-Founder & CEO*  
Every Day Action

Hillary Cohen is the co-founder of Every Day Action, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that aims to eliminate food waste by redistributing unused meals from film and TV sets to communities across Los Angeles facing food insecurity. With extensive experience spanning over 11 years in the entertainment industry, Cohen has transcended her behind-the-scenes work to address a critical and often overlooked issue: food waste. Her visionary leadership and impactful initiatives have transformed sustainable practices in Hollywood while significantly alleviating food insecurity.

Cohen co-founded Every Day Action during the pandemic. Since launching, she has helped spearhead the legal partnership acquisition of major studios and production companies such as Netflix, HBO, Disney, CBS and Sony, among others. Today, the organization is rapidly becoming the nonprofit film industry standard for reducing food waste on sets and actively working to eradicate hunger across Los Angeles, donating surplus meals to those in need.

**MARY CONNORS**

*Volunteer*  
Los Angeles Regional Food Bank

Mary Connors is passionate about providing food relief to as many people in LA County as possible. As someone who experienced food insecurity as a child, she doesn't want anyone to face hunger. For over 12 years, Connors has been a volunteer at the Los Angeles Regional Food Bank. She not only helps sort, glean and package food at the Food Bank's warehouses; she also volunteers her time at drive-through food distributions.

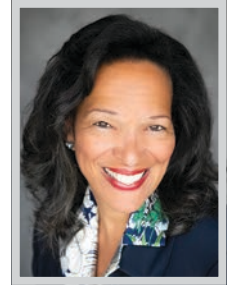
Connors participates monthly in the food distributions at Clara Street Park in Cudahy and the Carson Senior Center in Carson. Additionally, thanks to her expertise and time with the Food Bank, Connors helps other volunteers understand their roles and responsibilities, and makes sure that every food recipient receives the food they need and are treated with dignity and respect. She understands that a large portion of the Food Bank's work is completed by volunteers.

**VITO COSTANZO**

*Partner*  
Holland & Knight

Driving a couple of miles from his house in Tarzana recently, a partner at a major law firm came across a group of volunteers picking up trash in the street. Many passersby wouldn't have given the sight a second thought. Once in a blue moon, somebody might roll down their window to say thank you. But Vito Costanzo, a litigator with Holland & Knight, is different. He parked his car, rolled up his sleeves, grabbed a bag and collected garbage for two hours.

Constanzo's accomplishments for nonprofits go far beyond random acts of volunteering. As an attorney and volunteer, he has helped win fights in court and in the state legislature that saved untold millions of dollars for nonprofit universities and colleges around California. For 20 years, he also has helped lead a Southern California nonprofit that serves pregnant teenagers and their babies, changing these lives for the better.

**GLORIA CROCKETT**

*Executive Director; Region 3 Leader*  
Alzheimer's Association  
California Southland Chapter

Gloria Crockett has more than 25 years of management and leadership experience at both a local and national level within the nonprofit arena. Currently, she is the executive director of the Alzheimer's Association California Southland Chapter and the Region 3 Leader (Central and Southern California). Crockett ensures no-cost access to care and support to those facing Alzheimer's and their communities. In the months that Crockett has been with the organization she has managed to motivate, streamline and lead many processes within the region to ensure that Central and Southern California is a leader across Alzheimer's and dementia research; advocacy; and diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives.

In California alone, there are over 700,000 people living with Alzheimer's disease. Crockett has gained extensive experience in working with community and corporate leaders, volunteers, major gift donors and leading high-performance teams of staff and volunteers.

**SCOTT DRURY**

*Chief Executive Officer*  
SoCalGas

As CEO of Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas), the largest natural gas distribution utility in the United States, Scott Drury has led the company in substantial strides in sustainability and innovation. Drury focused on integrating renewable natural gas (RNG) into the supply, reducing carbon emissions and improving infrastructure resilience. His commitment to promoting renewable natural gas and advancing hydrogen technologies aligns with global climate goals and demonstrates a forward-thinking approach to energy management.

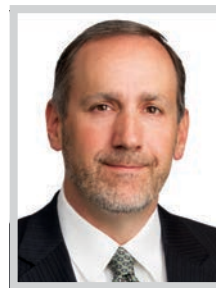
Scott Drury was named CEO Diversity Champion by the Southern California Minority Supplier Development Council (SCMSDC), which represents over 1,500 certified minority-owned businesses. SoCalGas partners with the SCMSDC throughout the year for various programs including technical assistance classes, providing fundamentals to business owners in accounting, finance, and management, creating a stronger business plan, pitching competition, and identifying solutions and strategies to grow their businesses.

**TIA DWYER**

*Chief Operating Officer*  
Think Together

For over 17 years, Tia Dwyer's organizational leadership has provided significant growth of revenue, along with fiscal and strategic leadership. From her roots as a teacher in the Los Angeles area, Dwyer's journey reflects a commitment to educational equity. In her teaching career, she quickly saw the students she was teaching needed more support outside the regular school day to overcome the various challenges they faced.

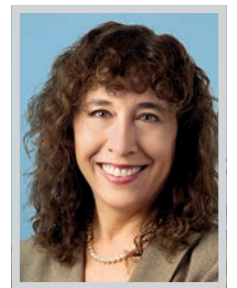
Dwyer leads talent acquisition, human resources, organization development, program design & implementation, data & evaluation and business development for Think Together. By focusing on the processes and operations of the organization, her strategic vision continues to shape educational landscapes and elevate opportunities for countless students statewide. With the receiving of additional funding through the Expanded Learning Opportunities Program (ELO-P), Think Together experienced a period of unprecedented growth amid nationwide staffing shortages.

**DENNIS M.P. EHLING**

*Partner, Business Litigation;*  
*Co-Chair, Gaming Industry Team*  
Blank Rome LLP

Blank Rome partner and Gaming Industry Team co-chair Dennis Ehling has worked with clients in the highly regulated and rapidly expanding gaming and interactive entertainment industries for decades on a wide variety of issues. He has built a reputation as one of the most sought-after advisors in the country.

But it is his work outside of his law practice, with the Arthritis Foundation, that has landed him in this section. Each year, Ehling and his wife Peggy complete the Arthritis Foundation's world-renowned San Francisco to Los Angeles California Coast Classic bike ride fundraiser. He was named to the board's executive committee in 2021 and in November will take the helm as chair of the board, where he will keep the lines of communication and collaboration open across the Foundation's geographic markets nationally, to help support the awareness and fundraising efforts of supporters in each region.

**LAURA FARBER**

*Partner*  
Hahn & Hahn LLP

Laura V. Farber is a partner in the Pasadena law firm of Hahn & Hahn LLP and is an accomplished trial lawyer in the areas of employment and commercial litigation, and personal injury. Farber practices civil litigation with an emphasis in employment disputes and also counsels clients in employment and a variety of other matters. Born in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Farber's native language is Spanish. As a Tournament of Roses past president, Farber provided leadership for the 131st Rose Parade and the 106th Rose Bowl Game.

Farber has a deep commitment to community engagement. Pasadena has more nonprofits per capita than any other city in the country. Farber has contributed her energy and efforts to many of those nonprofits in addition to her active involvement in the American Bar Association while maintaining a full-time employment law practice.

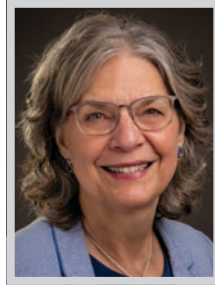


**DEBORAH FELICIANO**

*Office Administrator  
Foley & Lardner LLP*

A hallmark of Deborah Feliciano’s esteemed career is truly her profound commitment to community engagement and philanthropy, which has become deeply rooted in the LA office culture. A distinctive aspect of Feliciano’s community impact is her innovative approach to youth education and empowerment. She has developed strong partnerships with multiple local Boys & Girls Clubs, creating unique programs that bridge the gap between the legal profession and the community.

In addition to her work with the Boys & Girls Clubs, Feliciano has been instrumental in establishing a robust collaboration with Verbum Dei High School. For two decades, she has led a mentorship and work-study program that integrates academic learning with professional development. This program provides students with the rare opportunity to gain real-world experience within a corporate environment, significantly enhancing their readiness for future careers.

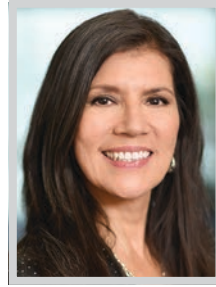


**DEBORAH FERRINGTON**

*Chief Scientific Officer  
Doheny Eye Institute*

Deborah Ferrington, PhD, is Doheny Eye Institute’s Chief Scientific Officer and holds the Stephen J. Ryan - Arnold and Mabel Beckman Foundation Endowed presidential chair. Dr. Ferrington’s career includes 20 years of experience in academic research, and she is internationally recognized for her ground-breaking research on age-related macular degeneration, the leading cause of blindness among the elderly.

With an aging global population, it is estimated that approximately 290 million individuals will suffer from AMD by the year 2040, imposing heavy burdens on health care systems worldwide. With limited and largely ineffective treatment options available to most AMD patients, there is an urgent need for new therapeutic strategies, which has been the focus of Dr. Ferrington’s research. Her laboratory’s investigations in human donor eyes led to the novel finding that defects in the mitochondria, which make the energy required for cells to function, is an early pathological event in AMD.

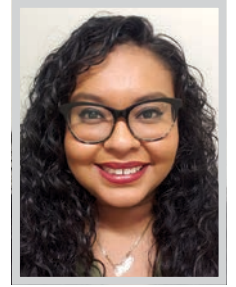


**MARISSA GOLDBERG**

*CEO  
Doheny Eye Institute*

As CEO of the nonprofit Doheny Eye Institute, Marissa Goldberg has made an indelible mark in vision care throughout the Los Angeles area, and – in affiliation with UCLA’s Stein Eye Institute – helps lead Doheny to uphold its mission to further the conservation, improvement and restoration of human eyesight.

During her more than 30 year career at Doheny, Goldberg has held a variety of roles before being named CEO. Through her business guidance, she and the Doheny Board of Directors worked tirelessly to forge a new, powerful alliance and ensure a smooth union between Doheny and UCLA. Deeply committed to the mission of Doheny Eye Institute, it is her guidance and support, along with her commitment to securing endowments that fund the important work of Doheny, the incredible team of scientists continue to make transformative discoveries.



**CHRISTINE GONZALEZ**

*Co-Director, AmeriCorps Seniors - RSVP  
L.A. Works*

Christine Gonzalez’s journey as a leader of influence in the nonprofit sector is a story of dedication, innovation and impact. As co-director of AmeriCorps Seniors at L.A. Works, Gonzalez has demonstrated an exceptional ability to harness the power of older adult volunteers to address critical community needs. Her work has not only improved the lives of countless individuals but also set a standard for volunteer engagement and program development.

In her role at L.A. Works, Gonzalez oversees a program that engages over 600 unique older adult volunteers annually, known as RSVP (Retired and Senior Volunteer Program). These volunteers are involved in various impact areas, including housing equity, education equity, climate action, disaster preparedness, food insecurity and economic opportunity. Gonzalez’s leadership has been instrumental in ensuring that these volunteers are matched with opportunities that align with their skills and passions, thereby maximizing their impact.



**So more kids find their greatness.**

Think Together partners with schools to provide academic and enrichment programs so that students have the opportunity to discover their talents, unleash their possibilities and prepare for their brightest future.

We thank and honor our own Think Together leaders of influence in Los Angeles County, who each day dedicate their time, energy and hearts to changing the odds for over 40,000 students.



For more information visit [thinktogether.org](http://thinktogether.org)  
Or scan the QR code



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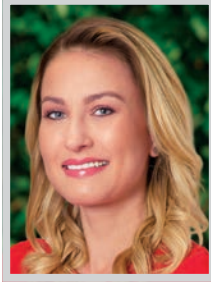


**STEVEN HERMAN**

Senior Vice President;  
Community Reinvestment Department Manager  
California Bank & Trust

For over 25 years, Steven Herman has held senior level positions with private and nonprofit companies that support affordable housing and community and economic development. He is currently senior vice president and manager of the Community Development Finance Division at California Bank & Trust (CB&T), a division of Zions Bancorporation. Herman manages CB&T's community reinvestment initiatives, including lending, investment and service programs that support low and moderate-income communities. He has originated and managed over \$2.5 billion in lending and investments for community development projects throughout the Western US.

Herman established the bank's Affordable Housing debt platform and is responsible for all Low-Income Housing Tax Credit equity investments for Zions Bancorporation. He has managed a variety of community reinvestment partnerships and programs with numerous nonprofit organizations, banking regulatory agencies and universities.



**MELANIE HOROWITZ**

Principal  
GHJ

Melanie Horowitz, CPA, is an emerging leader at GHJ and plays a vital role in the Nonprofit Practice. She provides auditing and consulting services to a diverse range of nonprofit clients, including organizations that offer social services such as child development, mental health and educational services. Her expertise helps these organizations maintain financial stability and compliance and enables them to focus on their critical missions.

Horowitz's work ensures that nonprofit organizations can operate effectively and transparently to foster trust and confidence among donors and stakeholders. Her contributions have a direct impact on the success and sustainability of these organizations. She was promoted to principal in 2024 in recognition of her commitment to high-quality service and professional excellence. She continuously seeks opportunities to enhance her skills and knowledge, benefiting both her clients and the broader nonprofit community.



**SHELLEY HURWITZ**

Partner  
Holland & Knight

Shelley Hurwitz, one of the leaders of Holland & Knight's Bequest Revenue Program represents some of the largest, most recognizable nonprofits in the country. While their footprint and familiarity may be wide, just like community charities, her clients are highly dependent on donations for their reach and effectiveness. Hurwitz has been part of building a niche national law practice focused on ensuring her clients receive maximum value from gifts left to them in a donor's Will or Trust.

Hurwitz's practice covers the entire nonprofit sector – including charitable, medical, religious and educational organizations – with the ultimate goal of following donor intent to accelerate and increase bequest revenue to those organizations. Hurwitz and the team follow donor intent by reducing administration fees, maximizing gift value and expediting distributions. Her approach is informed, sensitive, rational and compassionate.



**MEYMUNA HUSSEIN-CATTAN**

Founder & CEO  
Tiyya Foundation & Flavors from Afar

Born in an Ethiopian refugee camp in Somalia, Meymuna Hussein-Cattan relocated to the US when she was three. She turned her early life challenges into a force for change, becoming a grassroots community organizer in California. In 2010, she and her mother started Tiyya Foundation, a nonprofit providing critical resources to refugees, immigrants and low-income immigrants in LA and Orange County, helping them find housing, livable wages and connections to their new community.

Six years ago, Hussein-Cattan founded Flavors From Afar, a refugee-run social enterprise restaurant. This venture aims to transcend barriers through food, sharing the culinary traditions, cultures and stories of refugees and asylum seekers with Los Angeles. Each month, Flavors partners with the foundation to feature a different refugee or asylum seeker, who creates an authentic menu of traditional cultural dishes. These chefs gain valuable work experience and receive a portion of the sales for the month.



**children's institute**

**CONGRATULATIONS**

LOS ANGELES BUSINESS JOURNAL'S LEADERS OF INFLUENCE,  
NON-PROFIT & PHILANTHROPY

Every year, Children's Institute supports 30,000 children and families in achieving educational success and emotional well-being, which build pathways to economic mobility and lifelong health.

Join us on Sunday, December 8 to celebrate local heroes and support CII's programs that make a lasting and positive impact in our Los Angeles community.

**Together, we are better.**

**6TH ANNUAL CAPE & GOWN GALA | DECEMBER 8, 2024, 5-8PM | SKIRBALL CULTURAL CENTER**

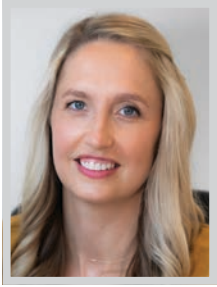
Learn more & secure your sponsorship at [childrensinstitute.org/gala](https://childrensinstitute.org/gala)



**MARTINE SINGER,**  
PRESIDENT & CEO,  
CHILDREN'S INSTITUTE



LOI: NONPROFIT & PHILANTHROPY



**KRISTIN LARSON**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Southwest Industrial Electric

**K**ristin Larson’s career is marked by her exceptional leadership and transformative impact at Southwest Industrial Electric (SIE). Joining SIE over 16 years ago as the director of technical services, Larson demonstrated an innate ability to manage complex technical and operational aspects of the business. Her early career experiences in a nonprofit tutoring center honed her skills in training, sales, recruiting and finance, which have been invaluable in her role as CEO.

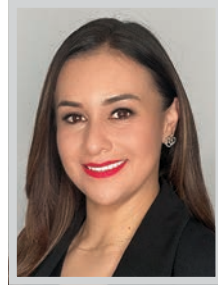
Under Larson’s leadership, SIE has grown significantly, earning recognition as a six-time Inc. 5000 award winner. This accolade highlights the company’s sustained growth and innovation in the electrical services industry. Larson has been instrumental in developing strategic initiatives that have enhanced the company’s service offerings and operational efficiency. Her commitment to empowering her team and fostering a positive workplace culture has been pivotal in maintaining high levels of employee satisfaction and productivity.



**JOSHUA MANDELL**  
Partner, Litigation, Commercial Disputes  
Akerman LLP

**J**oshua Mandell’s distinguished career, marked by a series of significant legal victories, a profound commitment to pro bono work, and community engagement, makes him an exemplary candidate for this prestigious award. As a litigation partner at Akerman LLP, a top 100 law firm with over 700 attorneys in 25 cities, Mandell has adeptly handled complex business and real estate disputes, showcasing his exceptional skill and versatility across various sectors, including financial services and commercial real estate.

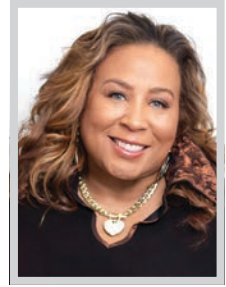
Mandell’s expertise extends into the emerging field of cannabis law, where he serves as a member of Akerman’s Cannabis Practice. He provides counsel to clients on complex legal and business issues impacting companies with interests in the medical and adult-use cannabis industries. His leadership as the founder and former chair of the Los Angeles County Bar Association’s Cannabis Law Section marks him as a key influence in shaping legal frameworks in new markets.



**JANIE MARQUEZ**  
Senior Vice President; Relationship Manager  
Enterprise Bank & Trust

**A**s senior vice president, relationship manager for Enterprise Bank & Trust, Janie Marquez brings 24 years of tenured banking experience primarily serving affluent individuals and business clients. She provides strategy and support for the highly visible Los Angeles market as the bank continues to expand its reach.

Marquez is also committed to exchanging knowledge and advice with other rising professionals in Los Angeles, especially women in business. A recent milestone of her success in this endeavor included speaking at the Los Angeles Business Journal’s “Women’s Leadership Symposium 2024.” Like her previous participation in empowering events with organizations such as Latina Golfers Association, TEAM (The Empower Amiga Movements) and BABC Scholarship, she values mentorship and encourages women to pursue their ambitions. Her dedication to community service is also strong, and is evident in her lengthy list of volunteer work and involvement with various nonprofit organizations.



**CYNTHIA MITCHELL-HEARD**  
President & CEO  
Los Angeles Urban League

**C**ynthia Mitchell-Heard is the Los Angeles Urban League’s first woman in more than 90 years to lead as president & CEO. Prior she was also the first female COO. Her leadership is instrumental as LAUL enters its second century, continuing its mission to serve Los Angeles’ underserved communities. Mitchell-Heard has over 25 years of experience in nonprofit management, government, philanthropy, community and corporate engagement.

Mitchell-Heard has been an intricate partner in the field as a nationally acclaimed social impact strategist, coalition builder and philanthropic change agent. As a strong executive leader, she has worked to develop exemplary models to break through economic barriers to create systemic change for marginalized communities both locally, nationally and internationally. She previously served as the VP of business development for the YWCA of Greater Los Angeles where she developed a myriad of public/private, state, local and federal partnerships to fund program services and operations.



Congratulations to **Aashika Patel** for being named to LA Business Journal’s Leaders of Influence: Nonprofit & Philanthropy

**CONTACT**

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LOI: NONPROFIT & PHILANTHROPY



**JESSICA MONNETTE**  
 Director of Corporate Engagement  
 L.A. Works

Jessica Monnette’s journey in the nonprofit sector is a testament to her unwavering dedication, strategic acumen and passion for community service. As the director of corporate engagement at L.A. Works, Monnette has emerged as a beacon of influence and leadership, orchestrating impactful collaborations that bridge the gap between corporate resources and community needs.

Monnette oversees partnerships with corporations, harnessing their resources to drive meaningful change in the Los Angeles community. Under her leadership, L.A. Works has seen a significant increase in the number of corporate partners involved in volunteer initiatives, growing its partnerships and budget year over year. These partnerships are not merely transactional; they are transformative, fostering a culture of corporate social responsibility and community involvement. Monnette has an ability to build and nurture relationships. She understands that successful partnerships are built on trust, mutual respect and a shared vision for a better community.



**MICHAEL MONTGOMERY**  
 Board Member  
 Los Angeles Regional Food Bank

Michael Montgomery was co-founder and president of Montgomery & Co., LLC, a boutique investment bank focused on media and technology. Currently, he serves as an advisor and investor in early-stage companies, an active board member, and a lecturer at the Anderson School of Business.

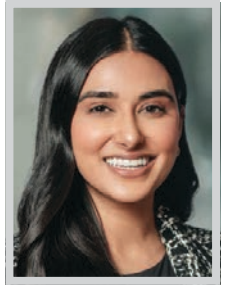
Montgomery has served as a volunteer on the Board of the Los Angeles Regional Food Bank since 2014 and plays a critical role on the Food Bank’s Philanthropy Committee, guiding the Food Bank to record-breaking fundraising years. Notably, he served as the co-chair of the Philanthropy Committee during the incredible Building Hope Campaign, which raised \$177 million in four years and led to the acquisition and renovation of the Food Bank’s 260,000-square-foot distribution center in the City of Industry. Montgomery has been a tremendous advocate, generous financial supporter and great leader for the Los Angeles Regional Food Bank.



**LIZBETH NEVAREZ**  
 Principal  
 GHJ

Lizbeth Nevarez, CPA, is the Nonprofit Tax Practice leader at GHJ, where she leverages her extensive experience in public accounting and nonprofit leadership to drive impactful change. Her expertise in nonprofit accounting has significantly contributed to GHJ’s growth and reputation as a leader in the sector. Her guidance helps nonprofit organizations achieve financial stability and compliance, enabling them to focus on their missions.

Recently promoted to principal in July 2024, Nevarez’s leadership and dedication to her clients and colleagues have been instrumental in her career progression. She frequently shares her insights on nonprofit accounting and leadership through articles, presentations and workshops. Her thought leadership helps shape industry best practices and empowers other professionals in the field. As co-leader of GHJ’s Women’s Empowerment Cohort, Nevarez also plays a pivotal role in advancing gender equity within the accounting profession.



**AASHIKA PATEL**  
 Managing Director  
 CCS Fundraising

Aashika Patel leads with her heart and building true, long-lasting, and genuine relationships. She began working with the Cayton Children’s Museum (formerly Zimmer) in 2016 through her work at CCS and supported them through a feasibility study followed by campaign activation and management. Patel worked alongside leaders in the philanthropic community and supported their capital campaign to build out the current location.

Patel’s relationship with Cayton didn’t end in 2019 when its contract with CCS ended. She has remained in touch and now serves on the board and most recently, partnered with Cayton’s founder, Esther Netter, to host a convening of Jewish philanthropic leaders to assess giving since October 7th 2023. This is just one example of how Patel approaches her work with genuine care for each organization she works with and the bond she develops with colleagues and peer leaders.



**CONGRATULATIONS TO STEVE HERMAN!**

Senior Vice President,  
 Community Development Finance Division

Steve has been recognized as a **2024 LEADER OF INFLUENCE: NONPROFIT & PHILANTHROPY** by the LA Business Journal. We celebrate all of the leaders who earned this recognition and who are making a positive impact in the community.

[calbanktrust.com](http://calbanktrust.com)



**ScholarMatch** 

**KARLA V. SALAZAR**



**ScholarMatch’s Executive Director**

**ESTEBAN RODRIGUEZ**



**ScholarMatch’s Board Member and Partner at O’Melveny & Myers, LLP**

**CONGRATULATIONS!**

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**ELLEN ROBBINS**  
Partner, Litigation  
Akerman LLP

Ellen Robbins, a litigation partner and co-head of litigation for the Los Angeles office of Akerman LLP, boasts an impressive career trajectory marked by her pivotal role as the senior trial lawyer on the West Coast. With a focus on complex commercial disputes, she navigates the intricacies of state and federal courts, advocating vigorously for her clients' interests.

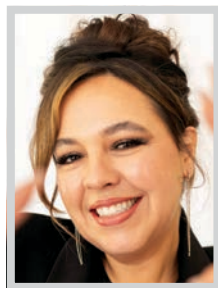
In addition to her professional achievements, Robbins is committed to aiding the Los Angeles community and guiding fellow businesswomen. Her philanthropic commitment shines through her involvement with a wide spectrum of organizations. As a board member and mentor at Walk With Sally, Robbins provides invaluable support to children impacted by cancer, offering emotional assistance and guidance to families. Her substantial donations, including personally funding an annual college scholarship for deserving mentees who exhibit resilience and character, further demonstrate her commitment to Walk With Sally's mission.



**ESTEBAN RODRIGUEZ**  
Partner  
O'Melveny & Myers LLP

Esteban Rodriguez is a partner at his firm O'Melveny & Myers, LLP for the last year and a half and was Counsel for over 13 years. He recently announced his candidacy to serve as Southern California regional president for the Hispanic National Bar Association (HNBA) where he is currently deputy regional president and vice chair of the Health & Life Sciences Law Committee.

Rodriguez was named as one of HNBA's 2022 Top Lawyers Under 40 Award due to his professional excellence, integrity, leadership, commitment to the Hispanic community and dedication to improving the legal profession. He also received the O'Melveny Warren Christopher Values Award in Jan. 2019 for embodying the firm's values of excellence, leadership and citizenship. With a deep commitment to education, Rodriguez has also served on the board of Scholar-Match, a nonprofit organization supporting underserved youth who are the first in their family to go to college.



**FATIMA DJELMANE RODRIGUEZ**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Ronald McDonald House Charities  
of Southern California

Fatima Djelmane Rodriguez, the first Latina CEO of Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southern California (RMHCSC), is a beacon of servant leadership, standing out in her role by driving impactful and compassionate change. Leading the largest RMHC chapter in the nation, Rodriguez oversees seven Ronald McDonald Houses, three Ronald McDonald Family Rooms and Camp Ronald McDonald for Good Times. With over 16 years of nonprofit leadership experience, she integrates her passion for service into her role, prioritizing the dignity of those touched by RMHCSC, from dedicated staff and volunteers to the thousands of families the organization serves annually.

In her two years at the helm of RMHCSC, Rodriguez has dedicated her efforts to understanding the community's needs and charting a visionary course for the organization. Her vision aims to establish the foundations that will propel RMHCSC into the next 50 years as a best-in-class nonprofit, exemplifying excellence and innovation.



**DANIELLE ROY**  
Founder  
Morale Matters

Danielle Roy founded Morale Matters, a business consulting firm, on her maternity leave with a mission to help small and mid-size businesses grow. She previously was on the executive team responsible for talent development and recruiting for over 4000 employees at a Forbes Top 25 Largest Private Company. Roy maintains eight certifications in her field and is on the EDD Employer Advisory Council for the state of California. Her purpose and passion is to empower inspirational leaders.

Roy moderated two panels on leadership and employee development at the Bar & Restaurant Expo at the Las Vegas Convention Center with some of the top hospitality operators and technology leaders in the country. She has led thousands of trainings and speaking engagements for both large and small businesses, and she is a guest lecturer for universities.

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**NEEMA SAHNI**

Partner; Co-Chair, Entertainment and Media Industry Group; Co-Chair, Commercial Litigation Practice; Co-Chair, Music Industry Group; Vice Chair, Sports Industry Group  
Covington & Burling LLP

Neema Sahni, partner and co-chair of Covington’s Entertainment and Media and Commercial Litigation Practices, has become a go-to counsel for some of the entertainment industry’s biggest names. Through her work at Covington, and her prior experience in-house at The Walt Disney Company, Sahni has developed a sophisticated understanding of the legal and business issues impacting content creators and platforms.

Sahni is highly dedicated for her pro bono practice. Most recently, acting pro bono in partnership with legal aid organizations Western Center on Law & Poverty, Public Counsel, and the Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles, Sahni helped reach a landmark settlement on behalf of tenant advocacy organizations with the California Department of Housing and Community Development regarding the State’s administration of its COVID-19 Emergency Rental Assistance Program.



**DANNY SALAS**

Chief Program Officer  
Woodcraft Rangers

Danny Salas oversees Woodcraft Rangers’ comprehensive expanded learning programs, anchored in a whole-child educational framework that encompasses the academic, physical and social-emotional development of TK-12 students across Los Angeles. He provides strategic vision for a program leadership team that guides nearly 1,000 site-based club leaders, site coordinators and program staff, impacting over 25,000 students across Los Angeles County.

In the past 18 months, Salas has expanded his oversight, developing deep relationships with community partners and working closely with school leaders to customize programs that meet the unique needs of each student in various school communities across Los Angeles. Under his guidance, Woodcraft’s impact has grown from four contracts covering 73 schools and serving 14,000 students in 2019 to now reaching over 25,000 students at more than 120 schools throughout Los Angeles County.

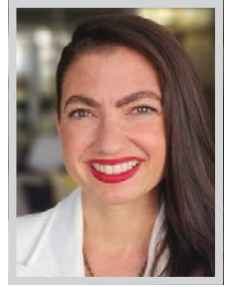


**KARLA SALAZAR**

Executive Director  
ScholarMatch

Karla Salazar is an experienced bilingual leader in the public, nonprofit and private sectors. This diverse intersection of public and private industry experience has allowed her to have the ability to work effectively with multidisciplinary professional and administrative staff. Many of her client interactions are directly with executives and board members.

Salazar’s life mission is to contribute to a more humane world by collaborating with visionary leaders, developing and implementing transformative ideas, strengthening organizations, and being of service to the community. The guiding principle that drives and motivates Salazar as a professional and citizen of the world is her ability to empower, impact and influence individuals and organizations toward a common good. Since 2010, Salazar has management experience in nonprofit organizations such as the California Community Foundation, Non-profit Finance Fund, Families In Schools, Casa Treatment Center and most recently as the executive director at ScholarMatch.



**AMBER SHEIKH**

Chief Impact Officer  
SHEIKH/Impact

Early in her career, Amber Sheikh knew she wanted to make an impact — on the front lines and systemically. While still in college, she worked locally in Sacramento with the California State Assembly and internationally with the United Nations. Her experience includes work with a UN women’s microfinance Non-Governmental Organization in Delhi, India, and with Women’s Edge Coalition.

Now, as the chief impact officer and owner at SHEIKH/Impact (formerly Thurlow/Associates) — a social-sector consulting firm — Sheikh and her team work to raise the capacity of organizations solving the toughest issues facing California communities: focusing on fundraising, external relations and organizational development. Sheikh is motivated by helping nonprofit organizations maximize their positive impact on the community. Sheikh’s specific areas of expertise include capital campaigns, individual fundraising, constituent/donor relations, strategic planning and executive/board development.

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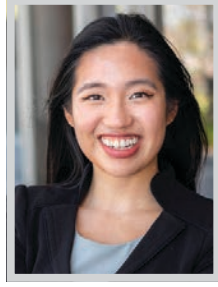
Candid.



**MARTINE SINGER**  
President & CEO  
Children's Institute

Martine Singer is the president & CEO of Children's Institute. Despite her professional accomplishments on Wall Street and in large media companies, she found her work fundamentally unsatisfying. She took a leap, dropped out of the business world and began volunteering at Hollygrove, a former orphanage where Marilyn Monroe had lived as a child. She volunteered in its special education classroom, working one-on-one with kids that were several grade levels behind due to their trauma history and multiple foster care placements.

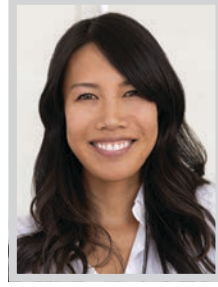
After serving as president & CEO of Para Los Niños, a nonprofit agency based in LA's Skid Row, Singer has (since 2016) served as the president & CEO of Children's Institute, which has revenues of over \$100 million and a workforce of 1,000. With over 38 locations in distressed communities including Watts, Compton and Wilmington, Children's Institute serves nearly 30,000 children and families each year.



**SHANELLE SUA**  
Private Wealth Service Advisor  
Strategic View Advisors

Shanelle Sua and Strategic View Advisors are committed to transforming local communities with their team's philanthropic arm, SVA CARES. SVA CARES was founded to create a giving system that would become a permanent and lasting part of the Strategic View Advisors legacy. As the team member in charge of SVA CARES, Sua is at the helm of all of SVA's community endeavors. SVA CARES is proud to support numerous charitable organizations, including Foster Nation, the Alzheimer's Association, the American Cancer Society, the Humane Society, and more.

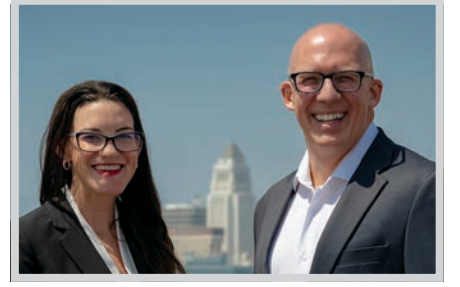
In April 2024, Sua and SVA CARES partnered with Northwestern Mutual's women's group to collect clothing donations for the Alexandria House, a transitional home located in Los Angeles. The Alexandria House provides safe and supportive housing for women and children in the process of moving from emergency shelters to permanent housing.



**NATALIE TRAN**  
Executive Director  
CAA Foundation

Natalie Tran serves as executive director of the CAA Foundation, the philanthropic arm of leading talent and sports agency Creative Artists Agency. The CAA Foundation activates popular culture to create sustainable social change by mobilizing timely initiatives and partnerships that create awareness and action. Based in the Los Angeles office, Tran sits at the intersection of entertainment and politics, consulting clients, executives and corporations on their philanthropic and pro-social initiatives.

Tran has been instrumental in the creation and launch of multiple social impact events/activations within the community. For instance, in 2018, Tran co-founded *I am a voter.*, a nonpartisan campaign that aims to create a cultural shift around voting and civic engagement by engaging brands and talent. Since its launch, the campaign has generated over four billion social media impressions, activated over hundreds of brand partners, and helped get out the vote in every state through its text platform.



**MATTHEW UMHOFFER & ELIZABETH MITCHELL**  
Partners  
Umhofer, Mitchell & King LLP

There is no more pressing issue in Los Angeles than the homelessness crisis, and no case has had a greater impact on this issue than the LA Alliance case, brought by Matthew Umhofer and Elizabeth Mitchell.

On behalf of a coalition of unhoused individuals, community members, service providers and businesses, Mitchell and Umhofer brought a first-of-its-kind case against the city and county of Los Angeles alleging that local government officials had failed at a constitutional level to address the crisis of homelessness playing out on the streets of LA. Over the course of the ensuing three years, Mitchell and Umhofer secured a massive \$1 billion preliminary injunction against the city and the county, inked a \$700 million interim settlement agreement, argued an interlocutory appeal, and fought the case to a settlement requiring a \$4 billion increase in funding for shelter, housing and services for those experiencing homelessness.

# Unexpected Giving Expands Philanthropy

Vanguard Charitable, sponsor of donor-advised funds (DAFs), recently released a new edition of *Why Giving Matters: Responsive granting with donor-advised funds spurs greater total giving.* The report includes more than a decade's worth of insight into donor giving from over 32,000 Vanguard Charitable DAF accounts as well as donor survey responses on giving sentiment and behavior. The study reveals a continued increase in support from all Vanguard Charitable donors, specifically around long-term, expected giving and responsive, unexpected giving. Results suggest donors' unanticipated, responsive giving to events like natural disasters and humanitarian crises also causes their expected giving to increase as well, resulting in a boost to their total giving.

Vanguard Charitable donors who use their Vanguard Charitable DAF for unexpected grants gave 39% more than those who use their DAF only for expected, ongoing giving. The research indicates that a donor's unexpected granting also encourages more expected granting, with a 24% increase in prioritized, ongoing giving from their Vanguard Charitable DAF.

"It's so inspiring to see our donors' generosity in supporting the causes and charities they care about most," said Rebecca Moffett, president of Vanguard Charitable. "This year's *Why Giving Matters* report underscores the essential role DAFs play in facilitating not only long-term planned giving, but unexpected giving as well. That flexibility, combined with our quality investments and low-fee structure, enables more dollars to go to nonprofits in need."

The report details how by using a DAF, Vanguard Charitable donors can be agile in the way they fulfill their philanthropic goals.

**'In times of crisis, such as natural disasters or humanitarian emergencies, unexpected giving becomes a lifeline for our ability to scale activations, providing immediate relief and support where it is needed most.'**

Expected giving serves as the true lifeblood for nonprofits. In diversifying to include unexpected giving, donors can provide resources to respond quickly and efficiently during emergent events. The result of this multi-faceted approach is an increase in both giving types and total giving overall.

"There are always core charities we give to but enough is left over to be flexible with unexpected needs," said one Vanguard Charitable donor. "If something doesn't pop up, we just give a bit more to our regular charities."

### ADDITIONAL SURVEY FINDINGS

- More than three-quarters of individuals who give unexpectedly say their unexpected giving increases their total giving, rather than displacing the giving they'd already planned to do.
- 46% of nonprofits receiving an unexpected grant from Vanguard Charitable receive a second grant from the same donor in the future.
- Over 72% of donors identified two or



more types of events as inspiring their unexpected giving, suggesting donors respond to a variety of prompts for giving.

Over the last ten years, Vanguard Charitable donors' expected giving has grown 17% per year, while unexpected giving has grown 24% per year.

"At World Central Kitchen, we cherish the invaluable contributions of both our expected and unexpected donors. Expected giving is the backbone to sustaining our ongoing operations and enables WCK to respond with the 'urgency of now' in the wake of a disaster," said Tunde Wackman, chief development officer, World Central Kitchen. "In times of crisis, such as natural disasters or humanitarian emergencies,

unexpected giving becomes a lifeline for our ability to scale activations, providing immediate relief and support where it is needed most. Together, these forms of giving form a dynamic synergy that fuels our mission, enabling us to deliver nourishment, comfort, and hope to communities facing hardships."

*Vanguard Charitable is a leading US nonprofit organization that fulfills its mission to increase philanthropic giving by administering a donor-advised fund—a tax-effective way to consolidate, accrue, and grant assets to charity. Since it was founded in 1997 as an independent 501(c)(3) organization, Vanguard Charitable has granted more than \$18 billion to charity. More information is available at [vanguardcharitable.org](http://vanguardcharitable.org).*

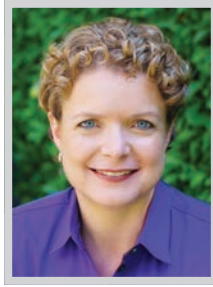
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**GARRETT UNDERWOOD**

Executive Director & Founder  
Seed House Project

Garrett Underwood serves as executive director and Founder of Seed House Project, a nonprofit organization with a passionate mission to aid and inspire transition-age youth who are experiencing homelessness by providing a success-driven live/work home, access to entrepreneurial education, supportive mentorship and leadership tools. Underwood and his team at Seed House Project believe their home starts with their why, their purpose and their reason for existence. They believe homelessness doesn't always start with the circumstances life presents, but rather homelessness starts in the mind.

Underwood has made tremendous impact leading Seed House project. As the founder and executive director of Seed House Project, Garrett is responsible for leading the day to day operations of the organization. Underwood has partnered with various shelters throughout the country, conducting career development workshops. Within a year, Seed House Project has help to employed over 98 young adults.

**DONELLA WILSON**

Partner  
GHJ

Donella Wilson, CPA, leads GHJ's Non-profit Practice and serves as president and chief philanthropy officer of GHJ Foundation. Wilson works alongside many leading nonprofits and uses her influence as a trusted advisor to strengthen the nonprofit community. Wilson has driven significant growth and innovation by working alongside leading charities and foundations in Southern California, helping countless nonprofits achieve their financial goals and maximize their impact.

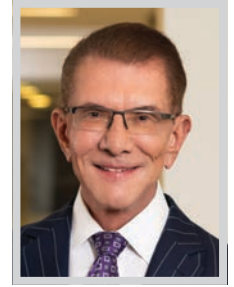
Wilson leverages her deep understanding of nonprofits to nurture GHJ's culture of giving back and helped establish GHJ Foundation in 2020. In this role, she regularly advises her colleagues on how to give back to their community through volunteerism or board membership, amplifying the firm's community impact. In 2023, GHJ Foundation began a partnership with Groundswell, a platform that replaces traditional employer-match programs and gives each GHJ employee access to firm-matching funds to donate directly to the causes they care about.

**MELISSA YEAGER**

Co-Founder and Executive Director  
Claire's Place Foundation

Melissa Yeager's daughter Claire Wine-land lived just 21 years, but her legacy will live on forever in the cystic fibrosis community, thanks to her mother. Yeager lost Claire to cystic fibrosis in 2018. Today, Yeager serves as co-founder and executive director of Claire's Place Foundation, where she never stops fighting for the CF community. She co-founded the foundation with her daughter Claire when she was just thirteen. Claire's Place Foundation, a nonprofit organization, provides heartfelt support to the families of children and to individuals diagnosed with CF. The foundation works to heighten awareness and provide education, skills, and financial and emotional support.

As the executive director and board member, Yeager works diligently with the board of directors. She is responsible She works each and every day to ensure no parent should have to decide between work and being by their child's side during hospital stays.

**JAMES YUKEVICH**

Founding Partner  
Yukevich | Cavanaugh

Widely considered to be one of the preeminent litigators in the country, James Yukevich spends much of his time outside of the courtroom working to raise funds for the Los Angeles Regional Food Bank. In the last 20 years, he has served on the Food Bank's Advisory Board and raised over \$2 million to help feed Angelenos suffering from food insecurity.

In part due to Yukevich's fundraising efforts, in 2022 and 2023, the equivalent of 2.8 million meals were provided to hungry men, women, children, seniors, the disabled, veterans and others in need. This past December, he set a goal of \$250,000 and raised \$342,500, enlisting the help of the plaintiff's bar, the defense bar, and his family, colleagues and friends. Yukevich remains resolute in his goal to help end hunger in the community and provide LA County families with the sufficient food for healthy, active lives.

## Trust in Nonprofits and Philanthropy Increases

Earlier this summer, Independent Sector released the results of its fifth annual Trust in Nonprofits and Philanthropy report, which found that after four years of decline, trust in nonprofits has rebounded in 2024.

While trust in nonprofits increased by five points to 57%, trust in other sectors — like government, business, and media — declined, leaving nonprofits the most trusted sector in the 2024 survey. Trust in philanthropy held steady at 33%, lower than trust in nonprofits.

Independent Sector's 2024 report, *Trust in Nonprofits and Philanthropy: Strengths and Challenges in a Time of Division*, was conducted in partnership with Edelman Data X Intelligence. It contains exclusive research findings exploring the nuances of trust in American nonprofits, philanthropic organizations, and other institutions. It also provides insights into how nonprofits and foundations can manage and enhance trust in an environment of social division, political polarization, and low trust in advocacy and civic engagement.

"Nonprofits consistently rank among the most trusted institutions in America, and we're pleased to see a boost in nonprofit trust this year. However, the broader national environment is concerning: trust in many sectors of American society declined this year. Trust in philanthropy also remains lower than trust in nonprofits, even though donors directly support nonprofits' charitable and community work," Independent Sector president and CEO Dr. Akilah Watkins said.

"I'm also concerned that while Americans believe nonprofits can positively impact social divisions and pressing issues, they are unsure whether they trust nonprofits to engage in non-partisan advocacy and civic engagement. Advocating for the people we serve is essential for



our sector to fulfill our many missions and drive positive change," Dr. Watkins added.

Key findings from the 2024 Trust in Nonprofits and Philanthropy report include:

- After four years of decline, trust in nonprofits has rebounded by five points to 57%. Trust in other sectors — like government, business, and media — has declined, leaving nonprofits the most trusted sector in the 2024 survey.
- Trust in philanthropy remains steady at 33%, lower than trust in nonprofits. Trust in private foundations and high-net-worth individuals remains much lower than in 2020, the first year for which we have data.
- Americans trust nonprofits to reduce national divisions more than they trust corpo-

rations, government, or media. This matters because 74% are worried about the direction of the country, and 94% are worried about growing division and a lack of national unity.

- Americans have less trust in nonprofits to advocate for public policies and conduct non-partisan voter engagement. Many have low trust in the ability of nonprofits to avoid partisan politics and to assist in writing or revising laws and regulations.

There are clear pathways for nonprofits to increase public trust. Four-fifths of Americans who volunteer say their experience made them view nonprofits more favorably. A majority of Americans say their trust in a nonprofit would increase if it committed to third-party standards

for ethical operations and good governance practices.

For this fifth annual report, Edelman Data X Intelligence conducted a nationally representative online survey of 3,000 US adults from March 21 to April 7, 2024. The survey had a margin of error of plus or minus 2%. In addition to a national survey, this report incorporates qualitative research to gain further insights into trust in nonprofits and philanthropy.

*Independent Sector is a national membership organization that brings together a diverse community of changemakers at nonprofits, foundations, and corporate giving programs to ensure all people in the United States thrive. Learn more at [independentsector.org](https://independentsector.org).*