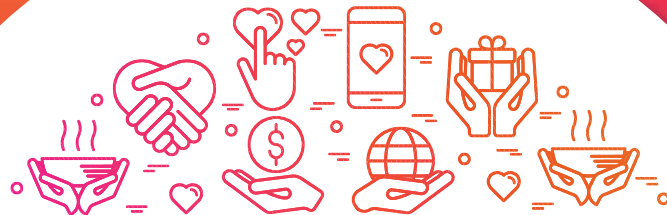


BRANDED CONTENT  
MARCH 17, 2025



LOS ANGELES BUSINESS JOURNAL

**NONPROFIT**

*& Corporate Citizenship*

**2025 AWARDS**

# THE 2025 NOMINEES

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Southern California Health & Rehabilitation Program | Southern California Opportunity Forum | Therapeutic Play Foundation | Think Together | Union Rescue Mission



# THE NONPROFIT & CORPORATE CITIZENSHIP AWARDS

Thursday, March 20 | The Biltmore Los Angeles

There are many important and meaningful organizations right here in Los Angeles County doing incredibly important work and we will be taking the opportunity to thank and celebrate some of the very best of them with our Nonprofit & Corporate Citizenship Awards for 2025.

On March 20th at the Biltmore Los Angeles, following insightful conversation from a panel of experts, the Los Angeles Business Journal will honor the nonprofit community's amazing work and the corporate citizens and businesses that support them. From the tireless efforts of nonprofit leaders, teams, and programs, to the impactful work of individuals and companies who donate their time, funds, and efforts to improve the communities they serve – this program with pay tribute to the Community of Business™.

These are the people and organizations that have made a difference and in many cases set new bars of excellence for corporate responsibility and impact.

### MORNING PANEL DISCUSSIONS

- 10:00AM CHECK-IN & NETWORKING
- 10:15AM WELCOME REMARKS + PANEL DISCUSSIONS
- 10:25AM MANAGING & FUNDRAISING THROUGH ECONOMIC TIMES
- 10:55AM CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY: SUPPORTING OUR NONPROFITS
- 11:25AM COLLABORATION IN ACTION: BUILDING STRONGER COMMUNITIES TOGETHER
- 11:55AM CLOSING REMARKS + NETWORKING

### AWARDS LUNCHEON TO FOLLOW

## MEET OUR PANELISTS



**DAVID AMBROZ**  
*Head of Public Policy & Community Engagement, Southern California Amazon*



**HEATHER BIRDSALL**  
*Vice President, Community Relations – Los Angeles Chargers  
Los Angeles Chargers Impact Fund*



**MANDI BLUE**  
*Chief Strategy Officer  
Ramesh and Kalpana Bhatia Family Foundation*



**MILTON DELLOSSIER**  
*Senior Vice President; Head of Community Relations  
City National Bank*



**NAKEYA FIELDS**  
*Founder / Executive Director  
Therapeutic Play Foundation*



**MICHAEL FLOOD**  
*President and CEO  
Los Angeles Regional Food Bank*



**MARCIA MAYEDA**  
*Director, Los Angeles County Department of Animal Care and Control  
Los Angeles County Animal Care Foundation*



**LAUREN PLICHTA**  
*President & Chief Executive Officer  
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Los Angeles*



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



**MOLLY ANN WOODS, CFRE**  
*Chief Development & Communications Officer  
Doheny Eye Institute*

To register, visit [labusinessjournal.com/events/npcca2025](https://labusinessjournal.com/events/npcca2025)





# Los Angeles County Animal Care Foundation

Supports the Los Angeles County Department of Animal Care and Control through fundraising for emergency rescue, spay and neuter programs, pet adoptions, animal care center enhancements, public education, and general animal welfare.

## OUR PROGRAMS:

- ✓ Grooming Gives Hope
- ✓ Dreams Come True
- ✓ Pets Are Family (PAF)
- ✓ Noah's Legacy Fund
- ✓ Spay and Neuter
- ✓ Animal Care Center Enhancements



**Los Angeles County  
Animal Care Foundation**  
5898 Cherry Avenue  
Long Beach, CA 90805  
(562) 728-4610  
[info@lacountyanimals.org](mailto:info@lacountyanimals.org)

[lacountyanimals.org](https://lacountyanimals.org)

The Los Angeles County Animal Care Foundation is a tax deductible, 501(c)(3) nonprofit.  
EIN: #95-3909782





# INDIVIDUAL NOMINEES



**BELVA ANAKWENZE**  
Entertainment Business Manager  
Abacus Financial Business Management



**ROSA AREVALO**  
Estimating / Outreach Manager  
Webcor



**RICHARD AYOUB**  
CEO  
Project Angel Food



**DR. JACK BARBOUR**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Southern California Health and  
Rehabilitation Program (SCHARP)



**CARLOS M. BERMUDEZ**  
Partner  
Akin



**SONYA KAY BLAKE**  
President & CEO  
The Valley Economic Alliance



**JOHN CALKINS**  
SVP, Chief Corporate Development Officer  
NCM



**MARC CARREL**  
President & CEO  
Breathe Southern California



**SHAHI CHOWDHURY**  
General Manager  
MC Pacific Inn & Suites



**MEGAN COLLIGAN**  
Board Chair  
Big Brothers Big Sisters of  
Greater Los Angeles



**JAMES DO**  
President, Community First Financial  
Resources; Head, Non Profit Banking  
First Bank



**DEBORAH FERRINGTON**  
Chief Scientific Officer  
Doheny Eye Institute



**BOB FISHER**  
Former Esteemed Owner  
Ice House



**MICHAEL FLOOD**  
President & CEO  
Los Angeles Regional Food Bank



**MARK GALE**  
Criminal Justice Chair  
The Lowe Group at Morgan Stanley,  
Morgan Stanley Wealth Management



**JIMMIE HERRICK**  
Vice President  
Stewart Title



**RYAN HICKS**  
Program Director  
The New Social Workers /  
Ballin' for Peace



**CATHY J. HOOD**  
President & CEO  
Pristine Initiative



**DOUGLAS KANNER**  
Board Chair  
2Degrees



**GREG KEARNS**  
COO  
Project Cloud



**DANISH F. KHAN**  
Head of Product Management,  
Integrations & Innovation  
InvestCloud



**CHANG LIU**  
President & Chief Executive Officer  
Cathay Bank



**LAURA LULL**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Rainbow Services Ltd.



**SAMANTHA LUU**  
Co-Founder & COO  
Every Day Action



**LAURA McHOLM**  
Co-Founder & Marketing Director  
NorthStar Moving Company



**AMANDA MEJIA**  
Vice President, Government Affairs  
Athens Services



**DR. CHRISTINA MILLER**  
President & CEO  
Mental Health America of Los Angeles



**ANTHONY MILLS**  
CEO & Founder  
Men's Health Foundation



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



**KAYOKO MITSUMATSU**  
Founder  
Yoga Gives Back



**IFUNANYA NWEKE**  
Executive Director  
Jazz Hands For Autism



**STEVE O'CONNELL**  
President & CEO  
California Credit Union



**YVONNE ORJI**  
Actress; Author; Comedian; Advocate



**BRITTNEY PARKINSON**  
Community and Citizenship Director  
Turner Construction Company



**HOLLY PERRY**  
Vice President, Talent Acquisition and  
Organizational Development  
Think Together



**KEVIN PETERSON**  
Co-Founder & CEO  
P2S

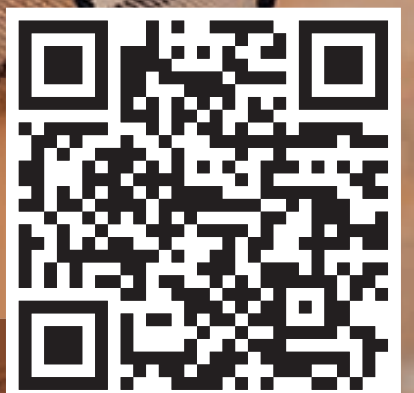


# she is giving.

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**BHATIA**  
FAMILY FOUNDATION

Join the movement. Learn more.







# INDIVIDUAL NOMINEES



**CIRIACO PINEDO**  
CEO & President  
Mexican American Opportunity Foundation



**LAUREN PLICHTA**  
CEO  
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Los Angeles



**STACEY POLITI**  
Founder & CEO  
Accomplice Inc.



**GARY L. POLK**  
CEO & Founder  
Polk Institute Foundation



**SALVADOR RAMIREZ**  
Director of Corporate Affairs  
Kroger (Ralphs/Food4Less)



**ELLEN ROBBINS**  
Partner, Litigation  
Akerman LLP



**DANIELLE ROY**  
Founder  
Morale Matters



**KARLA SALAZAR**  
Executive Director  
ScholarMatch



**MAXINE SEALEY**  
CEO  
Sharing Love With Others



**ROSIE SHAWVER**  
Executive Director  
Catholic Campus Ministry Association



**SHAWN SHEFFIELD**  
Chief Strategy Officer  
Keck Medicine of USC



**RENEE SIKAND**  
President  
Los Angeles County Animal Care Foundation



**MAURICIO SILVA, MD**  
Chief Medical Officer  
Luskin Orthopaedic Institute for Children



**RENATA SIMRIL**  
President & CEO  
LA84 Foundation



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



**DAVE SMITH**  
CEO  
California Volunteers Fund



**SHERM TELLEEN**  
Philanthropist  
Los Angeles Regional Food Bank



**CHRISTOPHER TIAMZON**  
Community and Citizenship Program Specialist  
Turner Construction Company



**SARAH TOUTANT**  
Director, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion  
Child Care Resource Center



**ADAM UMHOEFER**  
Executive  
CAA Foundation



**ROWAN VANSLEVE**  
President  
Hope the Mission



**NICHOL WHITEMAN**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Los Angeles Dodgers Foundation



**KIMBERLY WYARD**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Northeast Valley Health Corporation



**MELISSA YEAGER**  
Executive Director  
Claire's Place Foundation



**JOHN YERESSION**  
CFO  
TDT Group



**LISA YOUNG**  
Executive Director  
The Rescue Train



**JAMES YUKEVICH**  
Partner  
Yukevich | Cavanaugh

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR  
2025 NONPROFIT INDIVIDUAL NOMINEES



# WHEN YOU BELIEVE IN THEIR POTENTIAL

# THEY BELIEVE IN THEIR FUTURE.



## MENTORSHIP MATTERS!

Youth enrolled in Big Brothers Big Sisters one-to-one mentorship programs show higher aspirations, greater confidence, stronger mental health, better relationships, and increased academic performance.



- **100%** avoided or ceased substance use
- **97%** described their mentor as a very important adult in their life
- **95%** graduated high school
- **92%** maintained or reduced depressive symptoms
- **91%** maintained or improved social competence levels
- **89%** improved grades and academic performance
- **87%** maintained or improved emotional regulation



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 **Big Brothers Big Sisters**  
OF GREATER LOS ANGELES



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# ORGANIZATION NOMINEES



2DEGREES



ABACUS FINANCIAL  
BUSINESS MANAGEMENT



ACCOMPLICE INC.



AFROANIMATION



THE AGENCY



AKERMAN LLP



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AMAZON



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AT&T



ATHENS SERVICES



AUTISM SPEAKS



BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS  
OF GREATER LOS ANGELES



BLANK ROME LLP



BLANK ROME'S ADOPT-  
A-CENTER PROGRAM



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF  
PASADENA



BREATHE SOUTHERN  
CALIFORNIA



BROTHERHOOD CRUSADE



BUILD.ORG



CAA FOUNDATION



CALIFORNIA BANK &  
TRUST



CALIFORNIA CREDIT  
UNION



CALIFORNIA  
VOLUNTEERS FUND



CANCER SUPPORT  
COMMUNITY GREATER SAN  
GABRIEL VALLEY



CATHAY BANK



CATHOLIC CAMPUS  
MINISTRY ASSOCIATION



CHILD CARE RESOURCE  
CENTER



CHILDREN'S INSTITUTE



CITADEL OUTLETS



CITY NATIONAL BANK



CLAIRE'S PLACE  
FOUNDATION



COMCAST-NBCUNIVERSAL





UCLA Health Congratulates

# ALL NOMINEES OF THE LOS ANGELES BUSINESS JOURNAL NONPROFIT AND CORPORATE CITIZENSHIP AWARDS



including

**The UCLA Health  
Homeless Healthcare  
Collaborative**

**Nonprofit Team of the Year**





# ORGANIZATION NOMINEES

DISNEY	DOHENY EYE INSTITUTE	EAH HOUSING	EL PROYECTO DEL BARRIO	ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY FOUNDATION	ENVIRONMENTAL CONTRACTING CORPORATION
EVERY DAY ACTION	EVERYCHILD FOUNDATION	EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION	EXCEPTIONAL MINDS	FARMERS & MERCHANTS BANK	FAT BRANDS FOUNDATION
FIRST BANK	FP MOVEMENT	FREE PEOPLE	FUTURE COMMUNITIES INSTITUTE	GARDEN SCHOOL FOUNDATION	GIRLS INC. OF LOS ANGELES

# LET'S HEAL L.A.

therapeuticplayfoundation.org

therapeuticplayfoundation

therapeuticplayfoundation



OUR PROGRAMS

## HEALTHCARE ACCESS

Our Healthcare Access Program connects individuals to medical care, crisis counseling, wellness assessments, and goal-based planning for better health.



## CALAIM

Our CalAIM program connects individuals to essential services like Community Health Work, Enhanced Care Management, and Community Supports to promote health and stability.

## ARTGARD

Artgard fosters wellness through art and gardening workshops at partner sites like schools and churches. We collaborate to reduce self-care stigma and promote restorative practices. Open to partners.





Support our collective impact!  
Join our donor collaborative.

**(323) 924-9084**  
hello@therapeuticplayfoundation.org



The **THERAPEUTIC PLAY FOUNDATION** is a catalyst for positive change, dedicated to Healing LA by building resilience and fostering healthier communities. We uplift individuals and families, guiding them toward healing and empowerment.

PLAY NOW. THRIVE LATER





# Fighting Hunger In Normal Times, and In Times Of Crisis.



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Fighting Hunger. Giving Hope.

Our vision is that  
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[LAFoodBank.org/labj](https://LAFoodBank.org/labj)

Los Angeles Regional Food Bank is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization





# ORGANIZATION NOMINEES

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THE INGLEWOOD UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT	INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED LASER DENTISTRY	INVESTCLOUD	JAZZ HANDS FOR AUTISM	JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA	KDC/ONE CHATSWORTH
KECK MEDICINE OF USC	KIPP SOCAL PUBLIC SCHOOLS	KROGER (RALPHS/FOOD4LESS)	L.A. WORKS	LA ALLIANCE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS	LA84 FOUNDATION



With the support of our partners, we touch the lives of more than 100,000 individuals each year.

### Early Education

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- Head Start
- CalWORKs
- Infant, Toddler, & Preschool
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- Educational Network
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### Community Development

- Immigration
- Taxes
- Financial Literacy
- Skill Building
- Career Prep and Counseling
- Health Promotion and Prevention

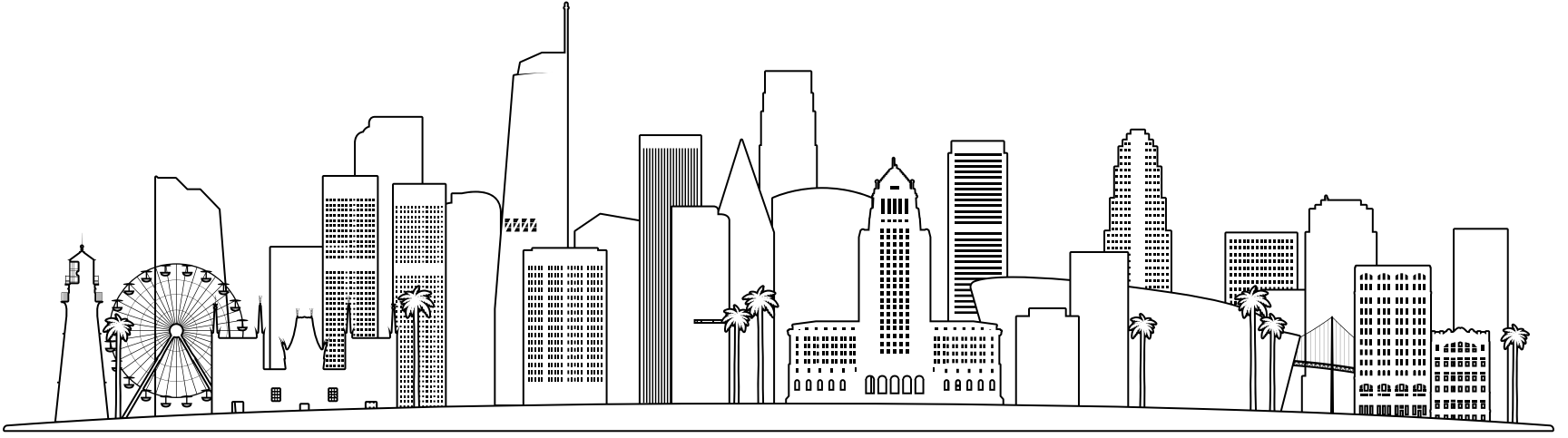
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- Transportation
- Benefits Enrollment
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To learn more: Visit us at [www.maof.org](http://www.maof.org) or use the QR code







# Congratulations 2025 Nominees

Los Angeles has been shaped by your outstanding contributions. We are deeply honored to be nominated for the **LABJ Nonprofit and Corporate Citizenship Awards** alongside such exceptional company.





# ORGANIZATION NOMINEES



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LIFE OF THE PARTY



LOS ANGELES CHARGERS  
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ANIMAL CARE FOUNDATION



LOS ANGELES DODGERS  
FOUNDATION



LOS ANGELES FIRE  
DEPARTMENT FOUNDATION



LOS ANGELES REGIONAL  
FOOD BANK



LOS ANGELES URBAN LEAGUE



THE LOWE GROUP AT MORGAN  
STANLEY, MORGAN STANLEY  
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LUSKIN ORTHOPAEDIC  
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MEN'S HEALTH  
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MENTAL HEALTH AMERICA OF  
LOS ANGELES



MEXICAN AMERICAN  
OPPORTUNITY FOUNDATION



MILLENNIUM DENTAL  
TECHNOLOGIES, INC.



MOMENTUM INNOVATIVE  
DISABILITY SERVICES



MONTAGE INSURANCE  
SOLUTIONS



MORALE MATTERS

3:00 p.m.

My song begins at the Club.

When school's out,  
Clubs are in.

GREAT FUTURES START HERE.

BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS

Find & Support Your Local Club Today!























The Chargers Impact Fund is proud to be nominated by the **LA Business Journal** for the **Nonprofit & Corporate Citizenship Awards** and congratulate all of our fellow honorees







# ORGANIZATION NOMINEES

					
MULTICULTURAL BUSINESS ALLIANCE	NBC4 AND TELEMUNDO 52	NCM	THE NEW SOCIAL WORKERS / BALLIN' FOR PEACE	NORTHEAST VALLEY HEALTH CORPORATION	NORTHSTAR MOVING COMPANY
					
O POSITIV HEALTH	O'MELVENY	ORI-GEN	OTIS COLLEGE OF ART AND DESIGN	OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE	P2S
					
PACIFIC CLINICS	POLK INSTITUTE FOUNDATION	POPPY BANK	POSITIVE RESULTS CENTER	PRISTINE INITIATIVE	PROJECT ANGEL FOOD





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IN THE CITY OF ANGELS  
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# ORGANIZATION NOMINEES



PROJECT CLOUD



RACE FOR THE RESCUES



RAINBOW SERVICES LTD.



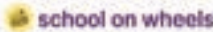
RAMESH AND KALPANA  
BHATIA FAMILY FOUNDATION



THE RESCUE TRAIN



SCHOLARMATCH



SCHOOL ON WHEELS, INC.



SHARING LOVE WITH OTHERS



SHAWMUT DESIGN AND  
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STEP UP WOMEN'S NETWORK



STEWART TITLE



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CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE  
**NOMINEES OF THE 2025  
NONPROFIT & CORPORATE  
CITIZENSHIP AWARDS**

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- Organics Diversion
- Solid Waste Collection
- Street Sweeping
- Community Investment
- Construction and Demolition Removal



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LEARN MORE







**Donate to Children's Institute to support  
LA's children and families thrive in school and life.  
Your gift shapes tomorrow's heroes.**

[www.childrensinstitute.org/donate](http://www.childrensinstitute.org/donate)



# ORGANIZATION NOMINEES

STREETLIGHTS	SWITZER LEARNING CENTER	TDT GROUP	TEACHAAPI	TEAM ONE	THERAPEUTIC PLAY FOUNDATION
THINK TOGETHER	TORRANCE POST MASTER PLUS	TURNER CONSTRUCTION	UCLA HEALTH'S HOMELESS HEALTHCARE COLLABORATIVE	UMHOFER, MITCHELL & KING LLP	UNION RESCUE MISSION
UNITED STATES VETERANS INITIATIVE (U.S.VETS)	USBC CALIFORNIA	THE VALLEY ECONOMIC ALLIANCE	VILLAGE FOR VETS	WAYFINDER FAMILY SERVICES	WE GROW LA

Congratulations to  
**Kevin Peterson**  
on being recognized for his  
decades of community  
and corporate leadership.





We would like to congratulate our community partners  
on their *Los Angeles Business Journal* Nonprofit and  
Corporate Citizenship Award nominations.

**2025 INDIVIDUAL NOMINEES:**

**Michael Flood**  
Los Angeles Regional Food Bank

**Renata Simril**  
LA84 Foundation

**Sherm Telleen**  
Los Angeles Regional Food Bank

**Sarah Toutant**  
Child Care Resource Center

**2025 ORGANIZATION NOMINEES:**

**Boys & Girls Club of Pasadena**

**Child Care Resource Center**

**El Proyecto del Barrio**

**Exceptional Children's Foundation**

**LA84 Foundation**

**Los Angeles Regional Food Bank**

CONGRATS



**Protecting assets.  
Making a difference.**

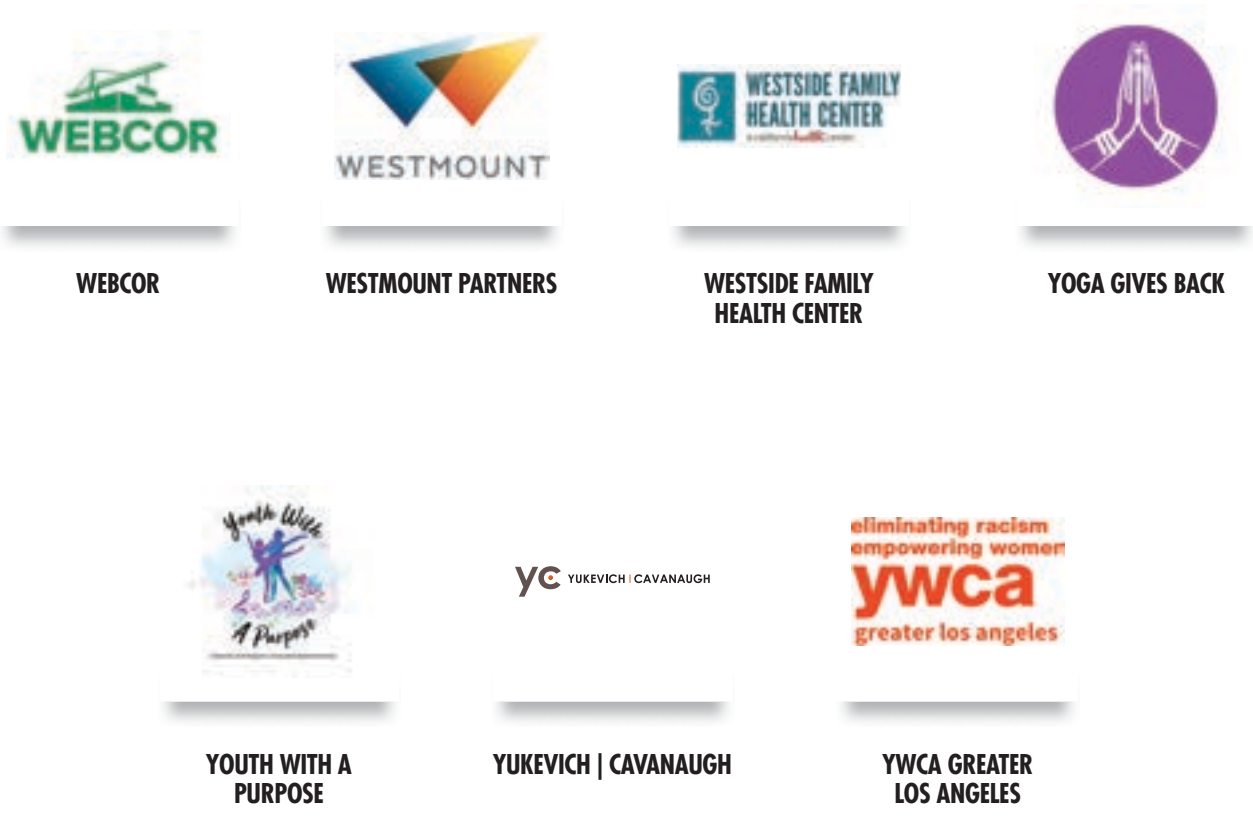
Our mission is to protect assets and make  
a difference, not only for clients, but also  
within the communities in which we operate.

Insurance | Employee Benefits | Surety | Retirement

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# ORGANIZATION NOMINEES



CONGRATULATIONS  
TO OUR  
2025  
NONPROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
NOMINEES



Southern California  
Development Forum

SCDF IS HONORED TO BE NOMINATED FOR THE  
**LABJ NONPROFIT & CORPORATE CITIZENSHIP AWARD!**

AS A NONPROFIT, SCDF UNITES LEADERS ACROSS ALL DEVELOPMENT SECTORS TO NETWORK, SHARE INSIGHTS, AND SHAPE THE FUTURE OF OUR CITIES. THROUGH EVENT TICKET SALES AND OUR ANNUAL DESIGN AWARDS, **WE’VE PROUDLY DONATED OVER \$600,000 TO LOCAL CHARITIES SUPPORTING THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT.**

THIS YEAR, WE CELEBRATE **ARCHITECTURE + ADVOCACY AS OUR CHOSEN PHILANTHROPY**, AN ORGANIZATION WORKING TO MAKE NEIGHBORHOOD INEQUALITY A RELIC OF THE PAST.



JOIN US | SUPPORT | ENGAGE AT **SCDF.ORG**





# Impactful Programs to Support Animals Throughout LA County

By MARCIA MAYEDA, CAWA

The Los Angeles County Animal Care Foundation (ACF) supports the Los Angeles County Department of Animal Care and Control (DACC) by fundraising to support vital programs to enhance the care of animals at DACC's animal care centers (ACC). The ACF also funds key programs to protect animals and keep pets and their families together.

Major programs of the ACF include:

- **Noah's Legacy** supports DACC's rescue, care and sheltering of animals during emergencies. The ACF has purchased emergency animal rescue vehicles, trailers and specialized animal rescue equipment. The frequent wildfires that occur in DACC's jurisdiction cause hundreds of animal evacuations each time, and the need for ongoing emergency care until the incident ends and the animals can be returned to their families.
- **Dreams Come True** provides specialized medical care and surgeries for animals at the ACCs. Many animals arrive in need of advanced medical care that is beyond what can be provided at an ACC. The Dreams Come True fund pays for advanced surgeries and medical treatments at private veterinary hospitals to

save the lives of these animals.

- **Grooming Gives Hope** provides grooming to improve pet health and adoptability. Often, animals who arrive at the ACCs are severely matted with excruciating skin ailments and underlying medical conditions. Grooming Gives Hope provides professional groomers to relieve the animals of their painful conditions, who become healthier and more appealing to potential adopters.
- **Pets Are Family** provides financial support to reduce owner surrender of pets for economic reasons. Many pet owners approach DACC to surrender their pets because they cannot afford the cost for a medical treatment. The ACF provides Care Vouchers that can be redeemed at private veterinarians to offset the cost of treatment, helping the family afford the treatment and allow the pets to stay with the families they know and love.
- **Vet@ThePark** provides free vaccinations, microchips and medical exams for pets in underserved communities. More than 300 pets receive services at each clinic, which are held one to two times/month in neighborhood parks. In 2024 DACC provided services to over 5,900 pets through Vet@thePark clinics.

- **Community Spay/Neuter** services to reduce the number of unwanted and homeless animals. In FY23-24, the ACF supported 1,670 spay/neuter surgeries.
- **Animal Cruelty Response** provides training and equipment for response to animal cruelty and neglect investigations. In FY 23-24, DACC responded to more than 3,400 complaints of animal cruelty and neglect.
- **Animal Foster Program** provides milk replacement and supplies to raise orphaned kittens and care for animals recovering from medical or behavioral issues. More than 1,200 animals benefited from this program in FY 23-24.
- **Animal Behavioral Enrichment** in the animal care centers to reduce stress for the animals and allow staff to observe their behavioral needs for optimum placement into new homes.

The ACF has also paid for many enhancements at the animal care centers. These include play yards for dogs, commercial dishwashers to properly clean and sanitize pet food bowls to reduce the transmission of disease, commercial washers and dryers to ensure all pets have clean blankets in their quarters, horse barns and exercise areas, and catios for ACC cats to enjoy safe access to the outdoors.

DACC is the largest animal care and control agency in the nation, operating seven animal care centers and serving more than 3.5 million residents across 3,300 square miles. In 2024, DACC admitted more than 34,000 animals into its animal care centers. DACC is a national leader in animal welfare and has won many awards for its innovative programs from local, state and national organizations.

Most of these are financially supported by the ACF. The ACF is funded exclusively by private donations and grants from philanthropic organizations. The rising cost of pet care, housing shortage for rentals that allow pets, County budgetary difficulties, and other challenges make the ACF's support more important than ever. The ACF and DACC are extremely grateful for the generous donors who join them in enhancing the well-being of animals in Los Angeles County.

The ACF has received the Platinum Transparency rating from Candid and a four-star rating from Charity Navigator.

Marcia Mayeda, CAWA is director, Los Angeles County Department of Animal Care and Control; and department liaison to the ACF. Learn more at [lacountyanimals.org](http://lacountyanimals.org) and follow on Facebook.



## Congratulations

to our Think Together nominees at the 2025 Nonprofit & Corporate Citizenship Awards!

Think Together Vice President of Talent Acquisition and Organizational Development  
**HOLLY PERRY**

Think Together Corporate Partner  
**AT&T**

Learn more about Think Together's impact with students in Los Angeles County and across California at [thinktogether.org](http://thinktogether.org)







# Building a More Equitable Future

By ANITA BHATIA & FALGUNI LAKHANI ADAMS

In an era of growing social and economic disparities, the urgency to uplift marginalized communities has never been greater. As the world grapples with systemic inequities, economic instability and health crises, organizations that champion the underserved play an essential role in fostering meaningful change. For nearly two decades, the Ramesh and Kalpana Bhatia Family Foundation has been a beacon of hope, paving the way for sustainable solutions and inspiring others to take action. Founded in 2006 by Ramesh and Kalpana Bhatia, the Foundation remains steadfast in its mission to fund innovative programs that enrich communities and serve the common good. Beyond financial support, it fosters a ripple effect—encouraging individuals and organizations to contribute to addressing the urgent needs of vulnerable populations. By working together, we can build on this vision to ensure that no one is left behind.

A LEGACY OF IMPACT

The Bhatia Family Foundation is more than a grant-giving organization—it is a partner in creating change. Its mission extends beyond donations, providing organizations with the

resources and tools needed for long-term success. The Foundation’s grants span a broad spectrum of societal needs, including intellectual and developmental disabilities, medical research, human rights, social justice and education. In Los Angeles, it has spearheaded two transformative projects: The Bhatia Family Village and The Friendship Campus. The Bhatia Family Village, located in the Pico-Robertson neighborhood, is a 64-unit housing development designed for neurodiverse adults. This pioneering model fosters independent living while promoting community engagement. With ground-floor retail and shared amenities, the Village will serve as a central hub for residents, neighbors and local businesses. The Friendship Campus, an expansion of the Friendship Foundation, is dedicated to creating an inclusive space for individuals with developmental disabilities. Through the Bhatia College for Professional Development, the campus will offer education, job training and community engagement programs, equipping individuals with the skills needed to thrive. Beyond these initiatives, the Foundation supports various organizations that provide essential services, including Mychal’s Learning Place, Mychal’s Café, NEXT for Autism, The Ed Asner Family Center, Straight Up Abili-

ties, and Free 2 B Me Dance. Through these partnerships, the Foundation actively promotes inclusivity and strengthens the fabric of the Los Angeles community. ADVANCING MEDICAL RESEARCH AND HEALTHCARE A key aspect of the Foundation’s work is its commitment to advancing medical research and improving healthcare outcomes. One of its most personal partnerships is with the TSC Alliance, an organization dedicated to finding a cure for tuberous sclerosis complex (TSC), a rare genetic disorder that causes tumors to grow in vital organs. The Foundation’s involvement with TSC is deeply personal—Executive Director Anita Bhatia’s daughter was diagnosed with the condition as an infant. Their contributions have fueled critical research, leading to improved treatments and renewed hope for affected families. Beyond TSC, the Foundation supports broader medical research efforts, particularly those focused on neurological disorders and genetic conditions. It has also funded groundbreaking initiatives at UT Southwestern Medical Center, driving medical advancements and expanding essential healthcare services in the Dallas area. By investing in cutting-edge research, the Foundation aims to enhance

patient care, develop new treatments, and ultimately find cures for complex diseases. CHAMPIONING SOCIAL JUSTICE Through partnerships with organizations such as South Asian SOAR and Sakhi for South Asian Survivors, the Foundation provides critical resources, advocacy and support services for survivors of domestic and gender-based violence, particularly within the South Asian community. In addition to direct aid, the Foundation invests in raising awareness through storytelling and media. It backed the Academy Award-nominated documentary *To Kill a Tiger*, a powerful film highlighting the fight for justice in a gender-based violence case. Building on this momentum, the Foundation now supports the #StandWithHer campaign, amplifying the film’s message and calling for global action against gender-based violence. The Bhatia Family Foundation has demonstrated that when compassion meets action, real change is possible. However, their work cannot succeed in isolation. It is up to all of us — as individuals, businesses and communities — to carry forward their mission and ensure that no one is left behind.

Learn more at [rkbhatiafoundation.org](http://rkbhatiafoundation.org).



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# What to Know About Colorectal Cancer

UCLA Health’s Dr. Folasade May discusses prevention, diagnosis and when to get screened

Colorectal cancer starts as a growth, called a polyp, on the inner lining of the colon or rectum. Polyps are common, especially as we age, and most are noncancerous. Some polyps, however, can form cancer cells in the wall of the colon or rectum, where they can grow into blood vessels that can spread.

Here, UCLA Health’s Folasade May, MD, PhD, addresses frequently asked questions about the disease. Dr. May is an associate professor of medicine at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and associate director of the UCLA Kaiser Permanente Center for Health Equity. She is also a member of the UCLA Health Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center.

**How common is colorectal cancer?**  
**DR. MAY:** Most people are pretty surprised to learn that It’s the third most common cancer in men, and it’s the third most common cancer in women. And when you look at deaths from cancer, it is the number two cause of cancer deaths when numbers for men and women

are combined.

**What causes colorectal cancer?**  
**DR. MAY:** Colorectal cancer always originates in colorectal polyps. Polyps are like bumps or little pimples that grow along the lining of the colon and rectum. More than 50% of people will develop polyps in their colon or rectum in a lifetime. But only a small percentage of these polyps have the chance of progressing into a cancer. And what we’ve noticed is that as we get older, the number of polyps goes up.

**Is colorectal cancer hereditary?**  
**DR. MAY:** It can be hereditary. So that’s why I always remind people I want to know your family history.

**What are the symptoms of colorectal cancer?**  
**DR. MAY:** Unfortunately, most colorectal cancer is asymptomatic, meaning it doesn’t cause symptoms. That’s why screening is so important. A large majority of people will walk around with this cancer, sometimes for years, and not know that they have it. But if they do develop symptoms, the most common is blood in the stool. People can also have a change in their stool pattern, meaning that they can move toward being constipated all the time or having diarrhea all the time. And then we

also think about the change in the shape of your stool: people who had normal caliber stools and then, all of a sudden, have thin, ribbon-like or pencil-shaped stools. And when colorectal cancer becomes very advanced, we also can see weight loss and abdominal pain.

**How is colorectal cancer diagnosed?**  
**DR. MAY:** Colorectal cancer is diagnosed primarily in two ways. One, someone is getting screened. Usually it’s going to be someone who’s asymptomatic, thought they were completely healthy, went in for that routine colonoscopy at age 45, and we find colorectal cancer. The other way it is diagnosed is when someone develops symptoms and a gastroenterologist does the colonoscopy.

**Is colorectal cancer treatable?**  
**DR. MAY:** Absolutely. But it’s important to understand that the cure rate depends on the stage when you are diagnosed. For people who have stage one disease, the cure rate is over 90%. If the cancer has progressed to stage four, the cure rate drops to less than 15%.

**How can I prevent colorectal cancer or lower my risks?**  
**DR. MAY:** The number one way is to get screened as recommended by our national

guidelines. And that guidance is that unless you have a family history, you should start screening at age 45. If you do have a family history, you start screening at age 40.

**What is a colorectal screening?**  
**DR. MAY:** You can screen with a colonoscopy, which is a procedure that is performed by a gastroenterologist. It requires the individual to take a colon prep to clear out the colon the night before the procedure. It also requires the individual to be put asleep for the procedure and have someone drive them home after the procedure.

The second most common are stool-based screening tests that you can do in the comfort of your own home.

Learn more about colorectal cancer screening and treatment at [uclahealth.org/cancer](https://uclahealth.org/cancer).



Dr. May

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# The Power of Mentorship: A Necessity for LA’s Future

Mentoring has long been regarded as a meaningful way to support young people, providing guidance, encouragement, and access to a trusted adult role model. However, in today’s rapidly evolving social and economic landscape, mentoring is more than a “nice to have”—it is an essential tool for youth development, educational attainment, and workforce readiness. Recent national research underscores the profound impact mentoring programs, such as those offered by Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Los Angeles (BBBSLA), have on the lives of young people, especially those facing adversity.

### THE IMPACT OF MENTORING

Big Brothers Big Sisters data was analyzed in a groundbreaking, longitudinal study on how mentorship programs shape young people’s educational, economic, and social trajectories. Conducted by researchers at Harvard University and in partnership with the US Department of Treasury, the study reveals how mentorship programs reduce socioeconomic disparities over time.

This research, rooted in three decades of data, provides compelling evidence that mentorship delivers long-lasting benefits:

- Mentored youth saw a 15% boost in earnings between ages 20 and 25.
- Mentored youth are 20% more likely to attend college.

- Income of mentored youth as adults more closely aligned with their mentor’s income, helping reduce the socioeconomic gap by two-thirds.
- Within 18 months, mentored youth had lower absenteeism and fewer school suspensions.
- Mentored youth developed stronger social bonds and better long-term relationships.

With only 79% of LA County students graduating high school and declining college enrollment, talent shortages in key industries threaten the region’s economic future. Simultaneously, youth mental health challenges are rising, leaving many young people without support.

### A COST-EFFECTIVE SOLUTION

Many believe that breaking the cycle of poverty requires a complete change in a young person’s environment, but this new research shows that mentorship alone can create life-changing economic opportunities. BBBSLA provides this critical support at a cost of around \$2500 per youth annually—an investment that pays for itself within seven years through increased tax revenue from higher lifetime earnings. According to researchers Alex Bell and Neviana Petkova, “the program’s relatively low costs and substantial benefits place it among the most cost-effective interventions of its type to be evaluated.”

Beyond the direct impact on mentees, men-

torship also benefits the broader community. Mentors experience personal growth, enhanced leadership skills and a deeper sense of purpose. These benefits extend into their workplaces and social circles, leading to a more engaged and compassionate community.

### MENTORING’S ROLE IN LA COUNTY

Los Angeles County faces unique challenges that make mentoring even more crucial:

- 200,000 youth live in poverty.
- 60,000 students experience homelessness.
- 22% of households are headed by single parents.
- From 2022-2023, 36% Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) students were chronically absent.

For young people, having a consistent mentor can be life-changing. An LAUSD study found that students with mentors had higher attendance rates, better academic performance, and stronger likelihood of graduating high school compared to their non-mentored peers. A report by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health highlighted the correlation between mentorship and improved mental health outcomes, particularly for youth from marginalized communities who face systemic barriers to success.

### THE BBBSLA DIFFERENCE

BBBSLA has been at the forefront of mentoring for 70 years, bridging opportunity gaps and empowering young people. Impact studies confirm its effectiveness:

- 95% graduate high school.
- 94% enroll in college.
- 92% maintain or reduce depressive symptoms.
- 91% maintain or improve social competence levels.

### EMPOWER THE FUTURE

Widening disparities, a mental health crisis, and limited access to social capital hinder development in young people. Without intervention, these challenges lead to unrealized dreams and inequitable futures. The benefits of mentoring are clear, but ensuring access requires investment from businesses, philanthropists, and community leaders.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Los Angeles has transformed lives through mentorship for decades. Now, we must scale these efforts with your support. Our city must step up to ensure mentorship reaches every child in need. When we invest in mentorship, we invest in a stronger, more equitable Los Angeles.

Learn more at [bbbsla.org](https://bbbsla.org).

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# Answering the Call in the Wake of the Wildfires

By MICHAEL FLOOD

In the aftermath of the devastating Greater Los Angeles wildfires, our community is facing an urgent crisis. These fires displaced tens of thousands of people and affected far more as we consider evacuations, power outages, and air and water quality. With an already high rate of food insecurity in Los Angeles County, the fires have only exacerbated matters, leaving individuals and families in need of assistance.

The economic toll of the Greater Los Angeles wildfires is staggering. A recent UCLA Anderson Forecast study estimates damages between \$76 billion and \$131 billion, with an estimated wage loss of \$297 million in 2025 alone. Entire neighborhoods have been wiped out, businesses have closed, and workers who were already living paycheck to paycheck now find themselves without income. As housing stock is reduced, rental prices have surged, further deepening the hardship for families who were already struggling to afford the cost of living.

At the Los Angeles Regional Food Bank, we have seen firsthand how disasters disproportionately affect vulnerable communities. During the COVID-19 pandemic, we ramped up operations to meet the unprecedented

demand for food assistance, distributing millions of meals to families, seniors and individuals who suddenly found themselves in need. That experience strengthened our capacity to respond to large-scale crises, and when the wildfires erupted, we immediately mobilized our resources to provide vital support to those affected.

**OUR RESPONSE TO THE WILDFIRES**

Since the fires began, the Food Bank has increased its food acquisition by 36% compared to the previous year, bringing in 27 million pounds of food, water, and essential supplies. Thanks to the generosity of donors from across California and the nation, we have been able to distribute 24.5 million pounds of food and non-food items, valued at more than \$39 million, through our vast network of partner agencies, drive-through distributions, mobile food pantries and wild-fire resource hubs.

Our expanded distribution center in the City of Industry, acquired in 2020, has played a crucial role in our ability to meet this increased demand. This facility has allowed us to store and distribute massive amounts of food efficiently, ensuring that we can continue to provide for families and individuals in need in the weeks and months ahead.

**BEYOND DISASTER RELIEF: A LIFELINE FOR LOS ANGELES**

The work of the LA Regional Food Bank does not stop when disasters are over. Food insecurity is a year-round issue in Los Angeles County, where one in four residents faces food insecurity. Every day, we work with more than 600 partner agencies to provide nutritious meals to children, seniors, families and individuals who rely on us for support.

Through our partner agencies and programs, including the Mobile Food Pantry, Children’s Nutrition Program and senior meal initiatives, we strive to address food and nutrition insecurity in a dignified and efficient manner.

**WHY A STRONG FOOD BANK MATTERS**

Having a trusted and effective food bank is essential for any community, but it is particularly vital in a region as large as Los Angeles County. Natural disasters, economic downturns and personal crises can strike at any moment, and when they do, families should not have to worry about where their next meal will come from.

We encourage those who can support the Food Bank by donating, volunteering or spreading awareness about food insecurity in

A recent UCLA Anderson Forecast study estimates damages between \$76 billion and \$131 billion, with an estimated wage loss of \$297 million in 2025 alone.

our region. Monthly donations are especially impactful, as they allow us to plan ahead and ensure that we are ready to respond to emergencies whenever they arise.

The road to recovery from the wildfires will be long, but the Los Angeles Regional Food Bank remains committed to standing with our community. Together, we can achieve our vision that no one goes hungry in Los Angeles County.

*Michael Flood is president and CEO of the Los Angeles Regional Food Bank. Learn more at [LAFoodBank.org](http://LAFoodBank.org).*

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# Philanthropy Trends Through a Gender Lens

Women Give 2024 from the Women’s Philanthropy Institute explores resilience and vulnerabilities in women’s giving

The Women’s Philanthropy Institute (WPI) at the Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy recently released Women Give 2024: 20 Years of Gender & Giving Trends, a comprehensive study exploring how women’s philanthropy has evolved in response to societal and economic changes — including the COVID-19 pandemic. While the report highlights women’s resilience in giving, it also reveals how the pandemic reversed long-standing trends in philanthropy, presenting new challenges for women donors and the organizations they support.

Based on data from the Philanthropy Panel Study — the largest longitudinal study of philanthropy in the US — Women Give 2024 analyzes giving patterns among women and men from 2000 to 2020, including the “declining donors” phenomenon, a steady decrease since the Great Recession in the share of US households that participate in charitable giving. The Women Give 2024 findings under-

score the importance of understanding how societal shifts and economic instability impact men’s and women’s giving differently, providing nonprofit leaders with actionable insights to re-engage donors in a rapidly changing landscape. Key findings include:

- **Resilience in Giving:** While the “declining donors” phenomenon is true for both men and women from 2000 to 2020, the decline started later and was less pronounced for single women compared to single men.
- **Adaptability During Crisis:** While the average dollar amount given by donor households has been relatively steady between 2000 and 2020, single women’s giving increased overall and to secular causes during the COVID-19 period, compared to single men.
- **Pandemic-Era Shifts:** Single women’s giving participation declined during COVID-19, but their average giving amounts increased. This indicates that women’s giving rates were more resilient prior to COVID-19, and that their giving during 2020 reversed a long trend of single women’s giving declining at a less severe rate compared to single men.
- **Economic Challenges:** Women who lost earnings during the COVID-19 pandemic were less likely to give to charity, appearing less resilient in their giving than single men or married couples who lost earnings during the pandemic.

‘Women donors demonstrate extraordinary resilience and adaptability, even in the face of unprecedented challenges.’

## A CHANGING PHILANTHROPIC LANDSCAPE

The study situates its findings within the broader context of societal shifts, including delayed marriage, declining birth rates and the growing importance of women’s incomes to family economic stability. These trends, coupled with the pandemic’s disproportionate impact on women, have reshaped how women engage in philanthropy.

“Women donors demonstrate extraordinary resilience and adaptability, even in the face of unprecedented challenges,” said Jacqueline Ackerman, interim director of WPI and lead author of the report. “Women’s giving not only supports immediate needs but also addresses systemic issues, making them key drivers of the future of philanthropy.”

## IMPLICATIONS FOR NONPROFITS AND POLICYMAKERS

The report identifies practical strategies for nonprofits to both strengthen connections and re-engage women donors post-pandemic, such as creating opportunities for meaningful involvement, emphasizing transparency and recognizing nontraditional forms of giving like mutual aid. It also underscores the importance of addressing systemic barriers — such as economic instability and childcare challenges — that prevent women from fully participating in philanthropy.

“By studying women’s philanthropy over time, we gain important insights into how economic shifts and external pressures can impact giving behavior. This knowledge enables organizations to build deeper relationships with women donors,” said Una Osili, Ph.D., associate dean for research and international programs at the Lilly Family School of Philanthropy.

By understanding and leveraging the unique behaviors and preferences of women donors, nonprofits and other stakeholders can build a more inclusive and resilient charitable giving environment.

Learn more about the WPI at [philanthropy.indianapolis.iu.edu](http://philanthropy.indianapolis.iu.edu).



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# Baby Boomers’ Unique Relationship with Charitable Giving

While many retirees work with a financial advisor, only half have had a charitable planning conversation

Fidelity Charitable, an independent public charity and the nation’s largest grantmaker, last year released findings from its “Charitable living and the new retirement” study, highlighting how donors age 50+ plan for and engage in charitable giving during retirement. With an estimated 4 million Baby Boomers turning 65 this year, the study shows that more than half of pre-retirees and retirees ages 50-80 are committed to giving, with 78% saying that charitable giving plays a significant role in their lives.

“Retirement is an exciting new chapter in life that creates opportunities for retirees to spend more time and resources in support of the meaningful causes they care about, but it also has implications for charities and financial advisors. While the intent and desire to make a difference are strong with retiring donors,

there is a knowledge gap around tax-smart strategies,” said Amy Pirozzolo, head of donor engagement at Fidelity Charitable. “That is where we can help them make charitable dollars go further and ensure they achieve their goal of doing well while doing good throughout this next stage of their lives.”

**A DEMONSTRATED COMMITMENT TO GIVING**

Beyond providing financial support for charities, pre-retirees and retirees are also actively giving back through volunteerism. In the past year, over two-thirds of pre-retirees (71%) and over half of retirees (55%) volunteered. This could indicate that the trend toward volunteerism may continue to grow as the current group of pre-retirees transitions into retirement.

- Of those retirees who volunteer, more than 1 in 4 (27%) report doing so for over 13 hours a month, indicating commitment to their causes.
- Nearly 9 in 10 retired respondents who currently volunteer agree that volunteering is a way to remain active (88%) and connected (91%).

**AN OPPORTUNITY FOR ADVISORS**

Additionally, the research reveals that many retirees rely on advisors for financial planning, but only half (51%) have discussed charitable giving with an advisor. With their knowledge of tax-smart charitable planning methods low, this audience is ripe for additional guidance.

*‘While the intent and desire to make a difference are strong with retiring donors, there is a knowledge gap around tax-smart strategies.’*

- **Tax-smart giving awareness:** While most pre-retirees and retirees are familiar with at least one vehicle or method used to support

charities financially, 21% are unaware of any.

- **Giving method awareness:** Awareness of what can be donated is also low. For example, just 1 in 3 pre-retirees and retirees (32%) are aware that they can donate appreciated assets, like stocks.
- **Professional charitable advice:** While about two-thirds of pre-retirees (69%) and retirees (65%) work with an advisor (financial advisor, certified public accountant, or attorney), 61% of pre-retirees and 51% of retirees report ever having had a conversation with a professional advisor about charitable planning or giving.

The 2024 Charitable living and the new retirement study surveyed more than 2,500 people, ages 50-80, including 844 givers with investable assets of at least \$1 million. To qualify for the survey, respondents had to contribute at least \$500 or more per year to charitable organizations. The study asked pre-retirees and retirees how they plan for and participate in charitable activities.

For more information, visit [fidelitycharitable.org](https://fidelitycharitable.org).

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# National Philanthropic Trust Grants to Charities Exceeded \$5.87 Billion in 2024

Year-over-year, NPT donor-advised fund grant value and volume to charitable organizations increased 19% and 22% respectively

National Philanthropic Trust (NPT), the largest national, independent public charity that manages donor-advised funds (DAF), granted \$5.87 billion to qualified charitable organizations in the US and 61 other countries on behalf of its donors in 2024. NPT DAF philanthropy grew in all key benchmarks year-over-year.

“2024 showcased the unwavering generosity, reliability and philanthropic engagement of NPT DAF donors,” said Holly Welch Stubbing, CEO of National Philanthropic Trust. “Both the value of NPT donor-recommended grants and the number of charitable organizations receiving NPT grants grew to new heights, surpassing the historic donor grantmaking benchmarks previously set in 2021. Since 2019, NPT donor-recommended grantmaking value has also grown 251%.”

Continued Welch Stubbing, “Our donors are some of the most philanthropic in the world and helping them support the causes they care deeply about is extremely fulfilling to everyone at NPT. We anticipate this generosity of grantmaking to charitable organizations to continue in 2025.”

NPT’s calendar year 2024 featured:

- \$5.87 billion in donor-recommended grants, representing a 19% increase from 2023, and a 251% increase over the five-year benchmark (2019)
- 146,449 grants were awarded to charitable organizations in every state, the District of Columbia and 61 other countries, representing a 22% increase from 2023 and a 133% increase from 2019
- 45,206 charitable organizations received donor-recommended grants, a 16% increase from 2023 and a 92% increase from 2019

Over the past five years (2019 to 2024), the total value of NPT grants to charitable organizations increased 251% from \$1.67 billion to \$5.87 billion, the number of grants increased 133% from 62,858 to 146,449, and the number of charities that received grants

**'Both the value of NPT donor-recommended grants and the number of charitable organizations receiving NPT grants grew to new heights, surpassing the historic donor grantmaking benchmarks previously set in 2021.'**

increased 92% from 23,595 to 45,206.

Year-over-year donor grantmaking in 2024 saw growth in both value and volume across all eight charitable fields of interest: Arts and Culture, Education, Environment and Animals, Health, Human Services, International, Religion, Public and Societal Benefit.


“We could not do the work that we do without our DAF donors,” said Bailey DeRoest, co-director of the Sojourner Center in Arizona. “By having the flexibility and reliability of DAF donor grants, we can do things like provide immediate shelter and support to adults and children affected by violence. I have seen this immediate support make all the difference to people who need help and to

know they are not alone.”

NPT affiliates NPT UK and NPT Transatlantic saw year-over-year increases in volume of grantmaking in 2024.

Founded in 1996, National Philanthropic Trust (NPT) is the largest national, independent public charity that manages donor-advised funds and one of the leading grantmaking institutions in the US. Since its founding, NPT has raised more than \$73.4 billion in charitable funding and has made more than 870,000 grants exceeding \$34.6 billion to nonprofits around the world.



Learn more at [NPTTrust.org](https://NPTTrust.org) and [NPTGivingPoint.org](https://NPTGivingPoint.org).



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