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LOS ANGELES BUSINESS JOURNAL

NONPROFIT

& Corporate Citizenship

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THE 2025 HONOREES & FINALISTS

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



ORGANIZATIONS



NONPROFIT OF THE YEAR (LARGE) HONOREE

CALIFORNIA CREDIT UNION

As a member-owned not-for-profit financial cooperative, a core aspect of California Credit Union’s mission is to strengthen its communities, positively impacting the lives of those working and living in the markets it serves across Southern California. Its community investment programs are comprehensive and wide ranging, thoughtfully designed to address specific needs in communities through meaningful initiatives. Over the past five years, the credit union has invested over \$2.5 million in community programs; in 2024, more than \$707,000 was donated to support local schools, educators, military families and community programs. These social impact programs work to ensure a strong financial future for local communities through youth programs, education grants, military personnel support programs, financial literacy and education initiatives, equal access to affordable financial services and Diversity, Equity & Inclusion.

California Credit Union amplified its community investment programs in 2024 through the creation of California Credit Union Foundation as the philanthropic arm of the credit union. The non-profit charitable foundation is focused on investing in the future of its Southern California communities through strategic partnerships with, and financial support to, local community-based organizations and educational institutions. The California Credit Union Foundation focuses its resources on grants and investment in four key pillars of long-term community empowerment: Investing in Community & Youth Programs; Supporting Educators & Schools; Promoting Financial Literacy; and Honoring Our Service Members.

As a commitment to supporting its communities, California Credit Union funds all administrative costs of the Foundation, enabling us to return 100% of donations back to the communities it serves.



CCU Foundation Student Scholarship presentation.



CCU employees volunteer at Operation Gratitude.



CHILDREN'S INSTITUTE FINALIST

In its ongoing commitment to revolutionize public health service delivery, Children’s Institute and the LA County Department of Public Health have partnered to unveil an innovative model: The Community Public Health Teams (CPHT). This approach represents a significant advancement in how public health services are coordinated and delivered within communities - particularly those with the highest rates of poverty and poor health outcomes - leveraging the strengths of trust, collaboration and grassroots engagement.

The CPHT initiative stands out for its strategic partnership framework. By teaming up community-based organizations and health care partners across ten high-priority, micro-service areas in Los Angeles County, the organization is an essential part of a multi-faceted model designed to address both immediate and long-term health needs.



EAH HOUSING FINALIST

EAH Housing is a nonprofit organization committed to serving the Los Angeles community and its surrounding areas by providing high-quality, affordable housing and fostering resilient neighborhoods. Demonstrating exceptional leadership and sound management practices, EAH Housing addresses critical housing needs with innovative, community-centered developments that uplift and empower residents.

In response to the devastating Altadena fires, EAH Housing has taken proactive steps to support recovery and resilience by introducing Agave, a new 58-unit affordable housing project designed to meet the needs of this affected community. This development reflects EAH Housing’s unwavering commitment to rebuilding and providing hope for a brighter future. Beyond Altadena, EAH Housing’s reach extends across Los Angeles County, with several impactful projects currently underway.



STARLIGHT CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION FINALIST

When kids are hospitalized, it can often be an emotional and stressful experience, even in the best possible care. Starlight’s innovative programs unleash the healing power of play, providing them with a positive distraction, alleviating stress and boredom and improving their emotional well-being. Starlight ensures its programs are inclusive and accessible, reaching children in underserved communities who otherwise might not have access to such experiences.

Founded in 1982 by filmmaker Peter Samuelson and his cousin, actress Emma Sams, Starlight Children’s Foundation has been delivering happiness to seriously ill kids and their families for over 40 years. Today, the Culver City nonprofit offers its innovative donor-funded programs free of charge to over 800 children’s hospitals and healthcare facilities nationwide, including over 35 in Los Angeles County.



YWCA GREATER LOS ANGELES FINALIST

YWCA USA is on a mission to eliminate racism, empower women, stand up for social justice, help families and strengthen communities. We are one of the oldest and largest women’s organizations in the nation, serving over one million women, girls, and their families.

YWCA has been at the forefront of the most pressing social movements for more than 160 years — from voting rights to civil rights, from affordable housing to pay equity, from violence prevention to health care reform. Today, we combine programming and advocacy in order to generate institutional change in three key areas: racial justice and civil rights, empowerment and economic advancement of women and girls, and health and safety of women and girls.



GOAT

(giver of all time)

RAMESH AND KALPANA
BHATIA
FAMILY FOUNDATION

Join the movement. Learn more.





ORGANIZATIONS

RAMESH AND KALPANA BHATIA FAMILY FOUNDATION



Anita Bhatia at the Bhatia Family Village groundbreaking.



Los Angeles Dodgers Foundation event.

NONPROFIT OF THE YEAR (MID-SIZE) HONOREE

RAMESH AND KALPANA BHATIA FAMILY FOUNDATION

The Ramesh and Kalpana Bhatia Family Foundation exemplifies excellence in philanthropic leadership and strategic giving. Under Anita Bhatia’s executive leadership since 2019, the foundation has demonstrated exceptional vision and impact, distributing nearly \$30 million across carefully selected focus areas that address critical societal needs.

The foundation’s commitment to supporting physical and intellectual disabilities stands out as particularly remarkable, with \$14.6 million dedicated to this cause alone. This represents not just the largest portion of their giving, but a deep understanding of an often-overlooked sector. Their strategic approach has expanded to invest an additional \$7.5 million in healthcare and medical research, creating a powerful synergy between disability support and medical advancement.

What sets the Bhatia Family Foundation apart is its comprehensive approach to social change. While maintaining substantial support for disability initiatives (\$18 million over five years), they’ve thoughtfully diversified their impact across interconnected areas including the South Asian diaspora (\$4.9 million), youth empowerment (\$1.2 million) and mental health support. This holistic strategy demonstrates an understanding that social challenges are interconnected and require multi-faceted solutions. The foundation’s efficiency in grant distribution is exemplary, supporting approximately 89 organizations and 22 programs while maintaining focused impact areas. Its agility in responding to emerging needs is evidenced by their \$342,000 emergency response fund, showing their ability to pivot and address urgent community needs while maintaining their core mission. Under Anita Bhatia’s leadership, the foundation has evolved from a family philanthropy to a strategic change-maker, implementing a more focused giving plan that maximizes impact through targeted, substantial investments.

EXCEPTIONAL MINDS

EXCEPTIONAL MINDS FINALIST

Exceptional Minds (EM) was founded in 2009 by parents, educators and entertainment professionals dedicated to addressing inequities that challenge people with autism. By 2011, EM had opened its Academy training program; shortly after, EM established summer workshops, after-school programs and part-time classes. 2014 marked a major milestone, with the opening of EM’s visual effects studio. Later that year, Marvel awarded EM its first major studio visual effects contract, creating paid work for its trainees. EM’s scholarship program launched in 2018, and from then through the end of FY 2024, EM has awarded \$1.8 million in tuition assistance.

All ethnic and socioeconomic groups are affected by autism, although minority groups tend to be diagnosed later and less often, making the efforts of EM all the more critical.



VILLAGE FOR VETS FINALIST

Village for Vets receives referrals for Veterans who are the most difficult to serve. In addition to receiving grants from the Federal Government, Village for Vets raises funds from the community. These are flexible funds which enable them to respond with immediate resolutions for homeless and at-risk Veterans. Village for Vets housed approximately 300 Veterans in 2024 and their incredible staff administered to 1,000 cases.

Village for Vets also responds quickly to move homeless and at-risk Veterans to the next level of care, and ultimately into housing. John Kuhn, deputy Medical Center director, VA Greater Los Angeles said that, “Village for Vets is a vital partner in the pursuit of ending Veteran homelessness here in Los Angeles.”

My heartfelt thanks to all the dedicated nonprofits and citizens who invest in our communities!

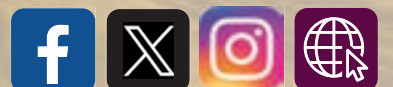


Congratulations to each of the Los Angeles Business Journal's honorees, including the Los Angeles County Animal Care Foundation!



Kathryn
BARGER

Chair • Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors • 5th District





ORGANIZATIONS



Boys & Girls Club of Pasadena provided all-day programming for nearly 400 children during school closures due to the Eaton fire.

NONPROFIT OF THE YEAR (EMERGING) HONOREE

BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF PASADENA

Boys & Girls Club of Pasadena embodies a commitment to serving the children and youth of the Pasadena/Altadena community, especially following the devastation of the Eaton Fire. The organization provides life-changing after-school and summer programs for over 1,500 Club kids annually, focusing on academic success, healthy lifestyles, and good character and leadership development. 100% of the organization's Club kids graduate on time from high school, and over 90% of Club kids pursue post-secondary schooling. The organization serves a highly diverse population, with 80% of the members identifying as non-white, and 75% of whom are from lower-income households.

Since the Eaton fire, Boys & Girls Club of Pasadena opened its doors wide to serve nearly 400 kids for all-day programming during school closures, creating a safe haven for the dozens of families during this time of crisis. The organization made the decision to accept all children in the community during this time, regardless of their ability to pay Club program fees. Fifty-four Club families have lost their homes, and the organization quickly raised funds and donations to support them.

The organization launched a wildfire relief fund to pass on 100% of donations to affected families, which has now surpassed \$35,000. It also took up a donation drive of clothing and essential items, and have invited families to "shop" at the Clubhouse. The organization has also brought in a mental health professional to meet with families in crisis who may need psychological supports.



EVERYCHILD FOUNDATION FINALIST

The Everychild Foundation was founded in 2000 for women who were looking for an effective way to give back to the Los Angeles community, who had tired of the charity-gala fundraising model and desired an impactful, innovative way of fundraising. Using the circle-giving model, where each member donates \$6,000 annually since 2000, Everychild has raised and given \$24 million to causes dedicated to easing the suffering of children in the Greater Los Angeles area, whether due to disease, disability, abuse, neglect or poverty.

Each year, a team of 20 members, trained by a professional consultant, performs an intense and thorough vetting of a group of roughly 20 grant candidates. They ultimately select two finalists, one of which is awarded the \$1 million gift by vote of the membership.



of Los Angeles

GIRLS INC. OF LOS ANGELES FINALIST

Girls Inc. of Los Angeles is a nonprofit organization that empowers girls to tap into their strengths and amplify their talents to transcend stereotypes and systemic barriers - becoming leaders of today and tomorrow. With consistent access to their programs in systemically under-resourced schools, Girls Inc. of Los Angeles has transformed the lives of girls of color throughout the school year.

Over the past year, the organization has strengthened its relationship with its closest partner, LAUSD. Now serving at eight LAUSD elementary and middle schools, with plans to pilot a high school program in early Spring 2025. Most notably, LAUSD continues to demonstrate the significant value the district sees in Girls Inc.'s programming for its students. In 2024-25, schools allocated \$100,000 to Girls Inc. to help pay for services.



STREETLIGHTS FINALIST

Streetlights' mission is to advocate for social and economic equality by providing viable career pathways for underserved men and women who may not have a solid education base or stable work history. The organization delivers free job training, guaranteed job placement and ongoing career advancement services to young adults who are Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC), many with barriers which may include a criminal record, homelessness, former gang affiliation, lack of education or gaps in work history, etc.

Streetlights is the only program of its kind providing viable pathways into well-paying careers behind-the-camera in Commercials, Television, Film and Streaming Media. Founded in the wake of the 1992 LA riots, Streetlights' goal is to create careers, not just jobs, for underrepresented young women and men from diverse backgrounds.



YOUTH WITH A PURPOSE FINALIST

Youth With a Purpose (YWAP) maintains its profound and sustained impact on community development and youth empowerment, led by founder Shameka Beaugard. The recent inauguration of a new community center in Lancaster underscores the organization's dedication to supporting young individuals. This facility has become a vital hub for enriching programs like "The Center" Youth Center and Arts 2 the Stage Performing Arts Program, creating a safe and nurturing environment that fosters both academic and creative growth.

YWAP's virtual mentorship programs and forthcoming scholarship fund address the evolving challenges faced by today's youth. These initiatives are pivotal in making higher education and professional development accessible to more young people, especially those that may have experienced hardships, looking for guidance, or that may live in remote areas.

HERE FOR EVERY STAGE OF THE JOURNEY.

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ORGANIZATIONS

COMMUNITY IMPACT OF THE YEAR **HONOREE**

LOS ANGELES FIRE DEPARTMENT FOUNDATION



**LOS ANGELES
FIRE
DEPARTMENT
FOUNDATION**

In January 2025, the Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) Foundation team’s mission to provide vital tools and equipment that help the Los Angeles Fire Department save lives and protect communities became more prevalent than ever. The team of five women that make up the Foundation staff underwent a crisis situation that started with the Palisades Fire on Tuesday, January 7 and beyond. But even before this, the Foundation has flown under the radar despite having such a significant impact on the firefighters who work around the clock to keep the residents of the City of Los Angeles safe.

The LAFD Foundation has existed for more than a decade and began as a way to address gaps in the City’s budget. Ninety-three percent of the City’s “fire” budget is allocated for personnel costs, while three percent is left for the tools and equipment that firefighters need to do their jobs. Many residents don’t realize just how many crucial needs fall outside of the scope of what the City funds.

Last year, the LAFD Foundation fulfilled over \$1,365,881 in LAFD fire station requests alone through its Adopt-A-Fire-Station program, funding everything from fitness equipment to refrigerators. Additionally, when the LAFD’s Swift Water Rescue team needed new, up-to-date dry suits and harnesses, the LAFD Foundation secured funding to replace their dated equipment. Most recently, the Foundation purchased urgently needed emergency fire shelters, hydration backpacks, wildland brush tools, generators, EZ-up tents, operations technology, and more for those fighting the devastating 2025 wildfires on the frontlines.

The Foundation continues to be responsive to the immediate needs of those working the hardest to keep our communities safe.



LAFD firefighters



LAFD Youth Program: Camp S.P.A.R.K.



Congratulations to Cathay Bank President and CEO, **Chang M. Liu** for being recognized as the **Business Angel of the Year** by the Los Angeles Business Journal Nonprofit & Corporate Citizenship Awards.

Nominated by the American Cancer Society.





LOS ANGELES CHARGERS
IMPACT FUND

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





ORGANIZATIONS



NONPROFIT TEAM OF THE YEAR HONOREE

ANNENBERG FOUNDATION

With Los Angeles' extremely dry conditions and 80 mile per hour winds forecast for January 7, the Annenberg Foundation – with its long history of rapid response and support for first responders – was on high alert for potentially fatal fires. Executive director Cinny Kennard, down with the flu at the time but in close touch with CEO Wallis Annenberg and the leadership team since wind advisories were issued a day earlier, watched the fire grow exponentially from home and called the team to discuss where the foundation might help as conditions worsened.

Over the next 24 hours and ensuing weeks, the Annenberg Foundation team under Wallis' guidance with the Foundation Board of Directors – Gregory Weingarten, Charles Weingarten and Lauren Bon – sprang into action to alleviate the impacts of the catastrophic fires – even with several of its own staff evacuated, and one ultimately losing her family home. Hours into the Palisades fire on Jan. 7, Annenberg first partnered with the Wasserman Foundation to execute a \$1 million grant enabling the acquisition of essential gear for first responders: emergency shelters, hydration backpacks, wildland brush tools and other critical supplies, as well as helping to pay overtime for the firefighters.

Within a week of the fires beginning, more than 35 organizations across Los Angeles were set up to receive \$15,000 to \$50,000 (and the LAFD Foundation receiving \$500,000 over multiple years), serving first responders, vulnerable evacuees and displaced workers. The first of these grants were paid Jan. 31. Since the fires began Jan. 7, the Annenberg Foundation has directed \$3.175 million in support to more than 50 nonprofit community partners.



GRID ALTERNATIVES GREATER LOS ANGELES FINALIST

The Workforce Development Team at GRID Alternatives Greater Los Angeles (GRID GLA) consists of hands-on solar installation trainers to folks working in the office managing finances, grants, scheduling, etc.

The GRID GLA team trains individuals from all walks of life to become solar installers with an eight to 13 week paid solar training program called IBT. 80% of trainees have experienced homelessness, incarceration or other employment barriers. Many of the former trainees join the staff at GRID GLA. The IBT program is one of hope and camaraderie. As many individuals are turning their lives around, a spirit of mutual support is critical to the success of each trainee. The training program focuses on groups who have historically been excluded from the construction industry, such as women and the LGBTQ community.



L.A. WORKS FINALIST

The MLK Volunteer Festival stands as a testament to L.A. Works' impact and the dedication of its team. Under the direction of executive director Deborah Brutchey and MLK Day of Service coordinator Metzti Amaya, L.A. Works' MLK Planning Team (also including Stephen Davalos, VP of external affairs; Gyasi Parker-Ross, VP of programs; Jessica Monnette, director of corporate engagement; and Samantha Wheeler, director of communications) invested months of time and energy into planning an event to honor Dr. King.

By January 2025, the team was on track to exceed 2024 attendance. But the unexpected wildfires brought new challenges. The team demonstrated extraordinary resilience, and despite the adversity, the Festival was a resounding success, serving as a powerful reminder of the strength and resilience of community-driven action.



STEM ADVANTAGE FINALIST

Jasmyrn Masters-Culpepper, Tania Velazquez, Beatriz Garcia and Stephanie Manaster, comprise STEM Advantage's direct service team, supporting over 600 college students, primarily first-generation college students from low-income families, to earn a bachelor's degree in a STEM field (science, technology, engineering, and math).

Since the pandemic, competing priorities (school, work, and family), mental health concerns, and a challenging job market for both paid internships and new graduate jobs have been challenging for the students we serve. As a result, STEM Advantage's direct service one-to-one program model – which, among other impactful achievements, helps strengthen skills while preparing and building confidence for the career path ahead -- has been stretched to meet student needs. STEM Advantage scholars have achieved a 100% graduation rate, earned a bachelor's degree and persisted in a STEM major.



UCLA HEALTH'S HOMELESS HEALTHCARE COLLABORATIVE FINALIST

UCLA Health has pioneered innovative approaches to health equity for patients through the implementation of several key initiatives, including The UCLA Health Homeless Healthcare Collaborative (HHC). Launched in January 2022, the HHC team provides care to unhoused people in shelters, camps, interim housing sites and on the streets. As one of the only street medicine teams that cares for homeless children and adults, the team is passionate about promoting health equity and expanding access to high-quality care. The HHC's unique care model enables them to address the needs of unhoused individuals, regardless of their insurance coverage, immigration status, or ability to pay.

The HHC team includes a diverse group of knowledgeable, compassionate doctors, nurses, medical assistants, social workers, and community health workers who provide culturally sensitive care.

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



LOS ANGELES REGIONAL



Fighting Hunger. Giving Hope.

Our vision is that
no one goes hungry
in LA County.

[LAFoodBank.org/labj](https://www.lafoodbank.org/labj)

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



ORGANIZATIONS



Hollywood Mobile Grooming provides services for dogs and cats.

"Miracle Makeovers" event.

BUSINESS ANGEL OF THE YEAR HONOREE

HOLLYWOOD MOBILE GROOMING

Hollywood Mobile Grooming, owned and operated for over 20 years by Chuck and Yael Rubin, has served as supportive angels to animal rescues, city shelters and the unhoused of the City of Los Angeles. The Rubins and their organization work tirelessly in the community to help make a difference in every pet and pet owner's life they come across.

Over the years Hollywood Mobile Grooming has changed the lives of thousands of dogs, cats and the people that love them. Throughout the year, Hollywood Mobile Grooming not only does community events with animal rescues, but also grooms animals at numerous city shelters, pets of the unhoused, low-income families and veterans. In 2024 Hollywood Mobile Grooming took their vans and spent the day grooming dogs at the Burbank Animal Shelter, Mission Hills Animal Shelter, and the East Valley Animal Shelter.

Having supported the Rescue Train's 'Shelter Intervention' events for more than a decade, Hollywood Mobile Grooming brings its vans and grooms every shelter dog and cat available to be groomed.

On December 14, 2024, the entire fleet of grooming vans, over 25 groomers, photographers, and staff including the Rubins, arrived at the East Valley Animal Shelter where they held their signature Christmas event Santa Paws "Miracle Makeovers." On that day 99 shelter dogs were given makeovers, the biggest shelter event to date!

Most recently Hollywood Mobile Grooming was asked by the Red Cross to partner in an effort to help dogs after the recent fires. Without hesitation, The Rubins and Hollywood Mobile Grooming sprung into action to help the pets who had survived the disaster.



O'MELVENY FINALIST

O'Melveny has continued its dedicated commitment to uplifting students who are the first in their families to attend college, as evidenced by O'Melveny's support of ScholarMatch. Since 2022, O'Melveny has offered approximately 100 hours of pro bono legal services to ScholarMatch, representing an in-kind contribution estimated at a value of \$50,000.

O'Melveny has supported ScholarMatch in everything from updating the organization's gift acceptance policy, to reviewing board governance bylaws, and more. For a small nonprofit, this pro bono support has been instrumental in ensuring smooth and efficient operations, but also in ensuring that the organization's resources and funding could go where they were needed most: to support low-income students in becoming the first in their family to go to college. Through its generous pro bono legal services, O'Melveny has ensured that ScholarMatch's resources are directed where they are needed most.



UMHOFER, MITCHELL & KING LLP FINALIST

Umhofer, Mitchell & King (UMK) has been representing the LA Alliance for Human Rights, a nonprofit coalition of unhoused individuals, community members, service providers and businesses, against the City and County of Los Angeles for the mismanagement of the homeless problem in Los Angeles.

UMK 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 the brink trial. Ultimately both the city and the county chose to avoid trial and settle, entering into landmark, court-supervised consent decrees, requiring a \$4 billion increase in funding for shelter, housing and services for those experiencing homelessness, including a total of 18,000 new shelter and housing beds.



UCLA Health Congratulates

**ALL HONOREES OF THE
LOS ANGELES BUSINESS JOURNAL
NONPROFIT AND CORPORATE
CITIZENSHIP AWARDS**



including

**The UCLA Health
Homeless Healthcare
Collaborative**

Finalist, Nonprofit Team of the Year



ORGANIZATIONS



OUTSTANDING COLLABORATION BETWEEN A BUSINESS AND A NONPROFIT HONOREES

LOS ANGELES CHARGERS IMPACT FUND / BROTHERHOOD CRUSADE / THE INGLEWOOD UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT



The Impact Fund provides life-changing opportunities to achieve its mission of empowering youth and to create access in under-resourced neighborhoods.

Driven by love of family, gratitude for community and a passion for giving back, the Chargers Impact Fund was founded in 1995 by the Chargers' late owners, Alex and Faye Spanos. Modeling this nonprofit after their belief that a solid family foundation and the ability to lean on each other is critical to future success, the Impact Fund brings fans, volunteers, donors, staff and players and coaches together to create supportive environments in which the next generation can thrive.

Today, the Impact Fund exemplifies excellence in its service to the Los Angeles community. By leveraging its platform and resources, the Impact Fund provides life-changing opportunities in two main areas of youth empowerment and community advancement to achieve its mission of empowering youth and to create access in under-resourced neighborhoods.

In 2024, the Impact Fund made significant strides in its mission, including the growth of Bolt Academy – a unique partnership between the Chargers Impact Fund, Inglewood Unified School District and Brotherhood Crusade. Since its inception in 2021, Bolt Academy has empowered 62 high school students through mentorship and education – following its fourth cohort that will graduate in 2025, there will be 77 students that have benefitted from this program. This past year, the program reached a monumental milestone by becoming the first NFL program that is an accredited A-G class, allowing this course to be noted as eligibility for admission to UC and CSU systems.



BLANK ROME LLP / BLANK ROME'S ADOPT-A-CENTER PROGRAM FINALISTS

The Adopt-A-Center Program (AAC) was founded in 1999 by Stacy D. Phillips and her former law firm, Phillips Lerner, to support and raise the public profile of Los Angeles-based nonprofit organizations helping underserved children and families. When Phillips joined Blank Rome in 2016, firm leadership and colleagues embraced the program, and it became Blank Rome's Adopt-A-Center Program. With a one-year hiatus in 2020 due to COVID, this year marks the 25th anniversary of AAC.

The goal is to use the resources of AAC, its advisory board members, and Blank Rome to expose the nonprofit's members to new experiences, help the organization raise its profile in the community, and make valuable connections



BUILD.ORG / NBC4 & TELEMUNDO 52 FINALISTS

BUILD partnered with Comcast-NBCUniversal in 2021 to fully digitize its innovative entrepreneurship education program including dozens of short modules and three robust interactive digital offerings – BUILD's Design Challenge, BUILD's Class Business and BUILD's FamBiz CEO Simulation Game. Design Challenge and FamBiz have become models of innovation, distributed to hundreds.

Thanks to the Comcast NBCUniversal grant, BUILD increased the number of students in its Core Programs to 2,816 nationally, and added Los Angeles to the list of cities served while reducing regional cost per student by 66% to an average of \$2,000. This is particularly impactful in Los Angeles where BUILD currently serves six schools in LAUSD and close to 500 students.



FARMERS & MERCHANTS BANK / MENTAL HEALTH AMERICA OF LOS ANGELES FINALISTS

For nearly a decade, Farmers & Merchants Bank (F&M Bank) has been an extraordinary partner to Mental Health America of Los Angeles (MHALA), demonstrating an unwavering commitment to advancing the well-being of their customers and neighbors. What began as a banking relationship has evolved into a dynamic collaboration that exemplifies F&M Bank's innovative approach to community investment.

F&M Bank's support has been integral to MHALA's growth, helping it serve over 19,000 members annually – almost twice the number as before the pandemic. F&M Bank's commitment to enriching members' lives is further demonstrated through its funding of MHALA's arts program.



GARDEN SCHOOL FOUNDATION / SPROUTS HEALTHY COMMUNITIES FOUNDATION FINALISTS

Garden School Foundation (GSF) provides in-depth garden-based education to youth at Title I schools in Los Angeles, strengthening connections between food justice, environmental stewardship and community health. One of its core programs is Cafeteria to Compost, a food waste diversion and food redistribution program which reduces campus waste and teaches kids the ins and outs of composting.

In the spring of 2020, GSF entered a multi-year partnership with Sprouts Healthy Communities Foundation. Ongoing support from Sprouts has been instrumental to GSF's ability to sustain and expand the program as well as fine-tune lunchtime collection protocols.



STARLIGHT CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION / DISNEY FINALISTS

Starlight Children's Foundation has been delivering happiness to seriously ill kids and their families for over 40 years. Since 2001, The Walt Disney Company and Starlight Children's Foundation have collaborated to bring moments of happiness to hospitalized children. Aligned with Disney's commitment to reimagining the patient experience in children's hospitals, Starlight provides Disney toys, books, care packages, and Disney-themed Starlight Hospital Gowns and Pants.

These one-of-a-kind garments offer comfort and a sense of empowerment, allowing children to dress up as their favorite characters. With Disney's help, Starlight's impactful celebrity and fandom advocacy has significantly amplified its mission to transform hospital experiences for millions of kids.



MENTORING MAKES A BIG IMPACT

We know the value of a smart investment—one that yields measurable returns and drives long-term growth. Big Brothers Big Sisters mentoring programs are just that: an investment in the future of our economy.

MENTORSHIP PAYS BIG DIVIDENDS

Groundbreaking research from a longitudinal economic study titled, “The Long-Term Impacts of Mentors: Evidence from Experimental & Administrative Data” confirms that being a “Little” through Big Brothers Big Sisters significantly improves lifetime economic outcomes.



HIGHER COLLEGE ENROLLMENT

BBBS Littles are **20% more likely** to attend college, fueling a skilled workforce.



INCREASED EARNINGS

BBBS Littles **earn 15% more** over their lifetimes, strengthening financial independence and consumer spending.



ENHANCED ECONOMIC MOBILITY

Being a BBBS Little reduces the socioeconomic gap by **two-thirds**.

+ Every dollar invested in BBBS mentoring pays for itself within 7 years, creating sustained economic benefits.

CHANGE THE ODDS FOR A STRONGER ECONOMY

Investing in mentorship changes lives and fuels economic growth. Help us change the odds and create lasting impact for generations to come. To discuss how your company can get involved, contact james.nguyen@bbbsla.org.

Source: The Long-Term Impacts of Mentors: Evidence from Experimental & Administrative Data, Alex Bell and Neviana Petkova (2024)



PROUDLY SUPPORTS



**DONATE - VOLUNTEER
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ORGANIZATIONS



City National Bank, along with Royal Bank of Canada, donated a combined \$3 million to support victims of the LA wildfires. The bank has also donated to homeownership, entrepreneurship and education programs, including the Reading is The way up Fund.

OUTSTANDING SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY HONOREE

CITY NATIONAL BANK

City National Bank (CNB) and its parent, Royal Bank of Canada, recently announced a combined donation of \$3 million to support victims of the LA wildfires. That donation supports the American Red Cross, Community Build Inc., Entertainment Industry Foundation, International Medical Corps, Neighborhood Housing Services Los Angeles County, United Way of Greater Los Angeles, West Angeles Community Development Corporation, World Central Kitchen and YMCA of Metro Los Angeles. As part of this commitment, RBC is contributing \$250,000 to the American Red Cross (ARC) Disaster Responder Program, which helps the ARC have the critical systems and supplies in place to respond immediately to disasters.

Through CNB's annual Workplace Giving Campaign, colleagues are also encouraged to support the community by donating to organizations in LA County. The successful campaign raised almost \$727,000 in LA County in 2023, and \$1.3 million nationally. In addition, colleagues spent 15,000 hours volunteering in LA County in 2023. All eligible colleagues are given up to three hours every month to volunteer and CNB's "Dollars for Doers," volunteer grant program awards up to \$500 each fiscal year to qualified nonprofit organizations for every full-time colleague who volunteers with them.

In recent years, the bank has been directing large portions of its donations and support to the areas of education, homeownership and entrepreneurship. For example, the bank has reinvested millions of dollars in its signature Dollars + Sense financial education program and its Reading is The way up Fund literacy initiative.



AMAZON FINALIST

The partnership between Amazon and the Los Angeles Regional Food Bank exemplifies outstanding collaboration in the fight against hunger in Los Angeles County. Over the years, Amazon has supported the Food Bank's mission with significant contributions of financial resources, logistics expertise and volunteer time. Notably, in June 2024, Amazon donated \$75,000 as part of the ABC7 Feed SoCal campaign, which is just a fraction of their overall support, which is nearly a half-million dollars.

Amazon has contributed 1,800 volunteers since 2018 who have contributed roughly 5,500 volunteer hours packaging and gleaning food at Food Bank warehouses, and helping to distribute food out in the community. Amazon also provides critical support in meal delivery. Starting during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, emergency food kits were delivered directly to high-risk individuals.



HANSON BRIDGETT LLP FINALIST

Hanson Bridgett's approach to corporate responsibility, DEI, and social impact is holistic. The firm recognizes that no initiative can occur in a vacuum – such initiatives are interconnected and interdependent, and must be embedded into the DNA of the organization itself. It embraces this holistic approach at Hanson Bridgett, which ensures we have fewer blind spots and that its initiatives are truly making an impact.

Hanson Bridgett's holistic approach to corporate responsibility, DEI and social impact work is not just internal – it reaches out beyond the bounds of the firm to create change in the communities where we live and work. An important component of these external efforts is the firm's B Corp status and its commitment to expanding the movement of business as a force for good.



MONTAGE INSURANCE SOLUTIONS FINALIST

Montage's mission is to serve with dedication, service and integrity while protecting assets and giving back to the community. The company strives to understand its clients and the missions of local organizations to see how they can best be served.

Montage kicked off the year with a Walk-a-Thon to benefit Valley Village, an organization dedicated to serving individuals with special needs in the San Fernando Valley. This event supported numerous non-profits throughout the Los Angeles region. Financial support has also been a cornerstone of Montage's community engagement. Montage contributed to Hope of the Valley by sponsoring its bike ride to the capital. Montage also continued its support for TLC for the Blind this past year, among many other philanthropic and community-supporting initiatives and activities.



POPPY BANK FINALIST

Poppy Bank is deeply involved in charitable giving and community service, partnering with more than 80 nonprofits annually. The bank believes that investing time to address the local needs within the community is essential to empowering individuals and the community. Poppy Bank supports volunteerism through its Poppy Cares Volunteer Program which incentivizes employees to volunteer their time with local nonprofits and allows them paid time off during working hours to assist organizations with their missions.

Poppy Bank is also keenly aware that creating impactful programs to equip nonprofits with essential resources is crucial for a thriving community. The Poppy Cares Program allows nonprofits to take advantage of a full suite of products and services with waived maintenance fees, unlimited transactions, and bill pay at no charge.

Our goal is to make sure kids keep chasing theirs

LuskinOIC's team of physicians and staff are 100% focused on the highest level of specialized care in pediatric orthopaedics. More than 85% of our patients are underinsured. More than 70% are patients of color. The International Children's Program provides pro-bono care to children in Calexico, Mexicali, and other cities abroad. We provide exceptional care to patients and their families, putting children in the best hands for successful diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation.

As the largest pediatric orthopaedic provider on the west coast focused solely on musculoskeletal conditions in children, we are determined to advance health equity for every child in LA and beyond.

——— Mauricio Silva, MD,
LuskinOIC Chief Medical Officer

At LuskinOIC, we specialize in:



Urgent Care



Fractures



Sports Medicine



Cerebral Palsy



Scoliosis



Clubfoot



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ORGANIZATIONS

MOST IMPACTFUL FUNDRAISING EVENT OF THE YEAR **HONOREE**

LUSKIN ORTHOPEDIC INSTITUTE FOR CHILDREN

On June 8, 2024, The Luskin Orthopaedic Institute for Children received a \$50 million dollar donation from Meyer and Renee Luskin at the annual Stand For Kids Gala. Mario Lopez hosted the Gala, and legendary classic rockers performed. Additionally, iconic announcer, Michael Buffer announced the historic donation. The Luskin Orthopaedic Institute for Children (LuskinOIC) celebrated a spectacular night at the Stand for Kids Gala, supporting its mission to advance health equity for every child in Los Angeles and beyond, ensuring no child is turned away for lack of insurance. Supporters enjoyed an exclusive night of excitement and goodwill on the 50-yard line of SoFi Stadium. The state-of-the-art facility, which holds over 70,000 people, was transformed into an incredible evening of family fun for nearly 1,000 guests and supporters of LuskinOIC.

The gala kicked off in the ultra-exclusive SoFi Social Club, where supporters like Chris and Anel Lopez Gorham, AnnaLynne McCord, J. August Richards and Joshua Gbor, Miss India Pooja Batra, and Mario Lopez, who hosted the gala, walked the blue carpet with LuskinOIC donors, community partners and patient ambassadors. DJ Asha kept the crowd dancing until the Parade of Champions, led by LuskinOIC Ambassador and 2024 Paralympian, Ezra Frech, and LuskinOIC Ambassador and archery champion, Aria Easter, who lit Olympic torches. Dignitaries, including Congresswoman Sydney Kamlager-Dove (CD 37) and Councilmember Curren D. Price Jr. (CD 9), highlighted LuskinOIC's exceptional work over its 114-year history. The gala theme, "Sports Medicine: Heal Champions, Fuel Athletes," raised funds to help children while honoring the champions of the LuskinOIC community.



Meyer and Renee Luskin.



LuskinOIC's mission is to advance health equity for every child in Los Angeles.



KIPP SOCAL PUBLIC SCHOOLS FINALIST

KIPP SoCal was founded with a mission to provide equitable access to a joyful and academically excellent education for all students. Serving over 10,000 elementary and middle school students across communities from East LA and Compton to San Diego, KIPP SoCal also supports more than 8,000 alumni in high school, college and early career stages through its unique personalized counseling approach. This commitment has yielded remarkable outcomes, with KIPP SoCal alumni graduating college at three times the rate of their national peers.

On October 10, 2024, KIPP SoCal celebrated two decades of transformative impact with its 20th Anniversary Gala, themed "20 Years of Educational Excellence," at the Skirball Cultural Center. The Gala exceeded all expectations, raising over \$3.5 million, with over 500 people in attendance.



LOS ANGELES DODGERS FOUNDATION FINALIST

The Los Angeles Dodgers Foundation (LADF) addresses critical issues with education, healthcare, homelessness and social justice for Angelenos. LADF transforms lives by leveling the playing field for underserved communities.

With a new strategic plan to create 'Lasting Impact for Los Angeles' in tow, LADF hosted the 2024 Blue Diamond Gala at Dodger Stadium, its eighth, to boost awareness of its mission and secure donations for its initiatives to: 1) support and amplify its partners to scale community impact; 2) convene to raise the visibility of its collective impact; and 3) build infrastructure for sustained impact. Known as the "Party for LA," the Blue Diamond Gala brought together community leaders, philanthropists, athletes and star-studded guests to raise an impressive \$54 million – a record-breaking sum to support LADF's programs and grants.



STEP UP WOMEN'S NETWORK FINALIST

Step Up Women's Network believes girls deserve to define and pursue success on their terms. By bringing girls together in inspired spaces – on and offline – the organization sparks exploration and discussion of what's possible. With structured support and access to a strong community, Step Up guides girls towards their unique goals – first by identifying those goals, and then building the roadmap to get there.

The Inspiration Awards was an event that connected influential guests, mission moments and activations with sponsors and their guests. Inspiration Awards amplified the voices of Step Up teens and young adults by creating space for inspiring, impactful conversations during the program. The event raised over \$850,000. The event also celebrated community leaders including Yvonne Orji, Isabela Merced, Valeisha Butterfield and Ashlee Margolis.



UNION RESCUE MISSION FINALIST

On September 27th and 28th, 2024 at the Universal Hilton Hotel, Union Rescue Mission rallied hundreds of people to the "Over the Edge - Just Help 1 Challenge" event. This peer-to-peer fundraising event at the Universal Hilton Hotel, where participants raise funds to fight homelessness by repelling off the 25th floor of the Universal City Hilton Hotel.

Union Rescue Mission put up over 168 billboards around LA County for the Just Help 1 Campaign, which includes this event. Union Rescue Mission also collaborated with iHeart media and purchased over 400 spots on their top eight radio stations in Southern California. The net result from the Over the Edge - Just Help 1 Challenge event was \$1.8 million raised in two days.

We would like to congratulate all
the *Los Angeles Business Journal*
Nonprofit and Corporate Citizenship
Award honorees and finalists

CONGRATS



At IMA, we are proud to support nonprofits with tailored risk management and employee benefits solutions that protect their missions and empower their teams.

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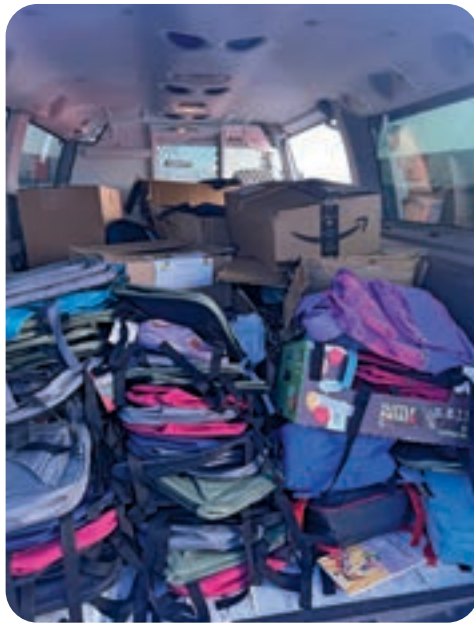


ORGANIZATIONS

school on wheels



School on Wheels tutors children experiencing homelessness in California.



A donation of backpacks and school supplies.

MOST INNOVATIVE AWARENESS CAMPAIGN HONOREE

SCHOOL ON WHEELS, INC.

After months of planning and collaborating with corporations, dozens of nonprofits, and service providers, School on Wheels hosted its most innovative awareness campaign to date. On Saturday, July 27th, 2024, it kicked off the new school year with not one but two world record attempts. The attempts were successful, and the team broke the Guinness Book of World Records mark for the longest line of backpacks (7,000) and the most backpacks filled with school supplies in one hour. School on Wheels' leading partner for this event was Basic Products (backpack and school supply distributor).

All 7,000 backpacks and school supplies were then distributed to students experiencing homelessness. Total sponsorship exceeded \$150,000.00, and other sponsors included Sage Publications, Blue Shields Promise, Neiman Group of Architects, Wilson Sonsini, Property Management Associates, Century Housing, and First Student. The event was not just a world record attempt. It was a fun-filled back-to-school celebration for over 200 students and their families.

School on Wheels collaborated with other nonprofit organizations, and students received everything from new shoes, haircuts, books, vision and medical checkups, arts and crafts, sports, entertainment and a free lunch. Partners and volunteers included LA Galaxy, LA Rams, LA Lakers, LA Works, Soles4Souls, Twoheys Burger, Cal State LA, Jbez Barbershop, Mother's Nutritional Center, One Legacy, LA County Library, LA County Office of Education, El Monte Police Department, Blow Brass Band, LA County Department of Children and Family Services, Union Rescue Mission, South Central Family Health Center, You Run This Town Foundation, and many more schools, shelters and other service providers.



AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY FINALIST

The "I Love You, Get Screened" campaign is an initiative designed to raise awareness about the importance of cancer screenings and early detection. Through this campaign, the American Cancer Society aims to inspire open conversations surrounding the often-taboo elements of cancer, focusing on the idea that taking proactive steps for health is an act of love for yourself and your loved ones. By framing cancer screening as a form of self-care and self-love, American Cancer Society hopes to shift the perception that screenings are just medical procedures; they are essential steps in protecting one's life and future.

The "I Love You, Get Screened" campaign encourages conversation about cancer screening by urging all of us to tell someone we love to get screened.



HOPE THE MISSION FINALIST

Hope the Mission, the nation's largest rescue mission, is dedicated to preventing, reducing and eliminating poverty, hunger and homelessness.

Hope raises money through innovative, creative and disruptive tactics, often involving the CEO & founder Ken Craft and president Rowan Vansleve. In 2024, they embarked on their most ambitious awareness campaign yet, when they decided to cycle from Los Angeles to Washington D.C. The 3,500-mile bicycle ride from Los Angeles to the nation's Capital was nearly eight weeks long and culminated in a final meeting with Congressman Brad Sherman who presented them with a check of \$850,000, to help the nonprofit acquire new property and to construct housing units for seniors experiencing homelessness. Hope also raised an additional \$480,000 in donations in support of the campaign.



STREET RACING KILLS FINALIST

Street Racing Kills (SRK) has consistently demonstrated exceptional innovation and impact through its multifaceted campaigns addressing the dangers of speeding and street racing. The organization's key initiatives, including Val's Respect the Road Summit, Reckless Driving Intervention Programs, and the Fast and Fatal Presentations at schools and community events, have reached thousands of individuals and transformed attitudes toward safe driving.

For example, the organization's "Val's Respect the Road Summit" is an annual event that serves as a platform to engage youth, families and community leaders in an immersive learning experience. Featuring survivor testimonies, expert panels, interactive workshops and VR crash simulations, the summit is a powerful call to action. Thousands of participants have taken the pledge to drive responsibly.



UNITED STATES VETERANS INITIATIVE (U.S.VETS) FINALIST

Through the Make Camo Your Cause to #HONORUSVETS campaign, U.S.VETS seeks to bring visibility and awareness to its mission to prevent and end veteran homelessness in the United States while transforming what it means to wear camo here at home.

Since its inception in 2021, the campaign has garnered over 300 million impressions across the nation through earned media and in-kind advertising support from FOX, CBS, Lamar Advertising, Outfront Media, ABC, Los Angeles Business Journal, and more. It has also actively engaged countless individuals, businesses, organizations and community groups, raising over \$1.5 million to support our nation's most vulnerable veterans. U.S.VETS developed the campaign strategy after studying cause marketing campaigns that have successfully connected a cause to a color or print.

Making a Difference, One Life at a Time.

Dignity Health - St. Mary Medical Center in Long Beach celebrates Mental Health America of Los Angeles on their well-deserved nominations for the 2025 Nonprofit & Corporate Citizenship Awards. We admire MHALA's unwavering commitment to mental health and are honored to partner with them in serving our community.

Congratulations to MHALA and the entire team on your nominations for Nonprofit of the Year, for Fundraiser of the Year, and to Dr. Christina Miller, CEO and President, for Nonprofit Executive of the Year.

Hello humankindness[®]



INDIVIDUALS



NONPROFIT EXECUTIVE OF THE YEAR (LARGE) HONOREE

DEBORAH FERRINGTON

Chief Scientific Officer
Doheny Eye Institute

As Doheny Eye Institute’s chief scientific officer (CSO) and Stephen J. Ryan - Arnold and Mabel Beckman Foundation endowed presidential chair, Deborah Ferrington, PhD, applies more than 20 years of experience in academic research and leadership to building a better future for vision research.

Among her many accomplishments, Ferrington is most recognized for groundbreaking research on age-related macular degeneration (AMD), the leading cause of blindness among the elderly. She is relentless in her pursuit of emerging strategies and research beyond current treatment options to better tackle AMD, a disease that affects more than 290 million individuals worldwide.

Ferrington was among the first scientists to identify defects in the mitochondria, which makes the energy required for cells to function, as an early pathological event in AMD. She has provided a wealth of knowledge and new approaches to AMD that are crucial to providing a brighter future for those who will be affected by this disease.

This past fall, Ferrington co-authored a paper published in the current issue of *Free Radical Biology and Medicine* that examined the effect of the Y402H polymorphism of Complement Factor H (CFH, rs1061170) and cigarette smoke, predominant genetic and environmental risk factors associated with age-related macular degeneration (AMD).

Ferrington works year-round to help Doheny secure much-needed funding for its life-changing research. Through speaking opportunities at local organizations – like the Rotary Club -- and hosting events to connect with supporters, she has assisted in fostering relationships with Doheny donors who are key to expanding research opportunities for the organization’s scientists.



MICHAEL FLOOD

FINALIST

President and CEO
Los Angeles Regional Food Bank

Michael Flood’s career is defined by an unwavering commitment to improving the health and well-being of those facing food and nutrition insecurity in Los Angeles County. Since becoming president and CEO of the Los Angeles Regional Food Bank in 2000, Flood has significantly expanded operations while prioritizing the nutritional value of the food resources distributed. Under his leadership, the organization has dramatically increased the accessibility of fresh produce, lean proteins, and other healthy options for families.

The COVID-19 pandemic marked a drastic surge in food insecurity, and the number of people turning to the Food Bank tripled within months. Through Flood’s leadership, the organization scaled up its operations to meet an unprecedented need, providing food to 900,000 people each month in 2021.



CHRISTINA MILLER

FINALIST

President and CEO
Mental Health America of Los Angeles

As president and CEO of Mental Health America of Los Angeles (MHALA), Dr. Christina Miller has helped transform mental healthcare delivery across Los Angeles County, improving the lives of thousands through innovative programs and compassionate leadership. Under her stewardship, MHALA has experienced remarkable growth, now employing nearly 400 dedicated professionals and serving over 19,000 individuals throughout the county.

When Dr. Miller began her tenure, the organization generated approximately \$28.5 million, relying heavily on a single government source for 85% of its revenue. Over the past seven years, she has grown MHALA’s budget to \$55 million while significantly diversifying funding sources. Dr. Miller’s unique combination of clinical expertise and strategic business acumen stems from her distinguished career as a licensed psychologist.



ANTHONY MILLS

FINALIST

CEO and Founder
Men’s Health Foundation

Anthony Mills, MD, CEO and founder of Men’s Health Foundation (MHF) and SoCal Men’s Medical Group, exemplifies a rare combination of skilled clinician, innovative entrepreneur and zealous public health advocate.

Dr. Mills founded MHF to pioneer new funding models and help make quality care accessible to all. Its mission is to connect men at risk to comprehensive healthcare through education, collaboration, and advocacy. Through its multidisciplinary team of physicians, pharmacists, nurses, social workers, case managers and community outreach specialists, MHF has flourished under Dr. Mills’ leadership, growing to serve 12,700 active patients as of 2024. Dr. Mills additionally lends his knowledge, experience and expertise to the larger field of public health, and has published numerous articles, including in *The New England Medical Journal of Medicine*.



NICHOL WHITEMAN

FINALIST

Chief Executive Officer
Los Angeles Dodgers Foundation

Since the Los Angeles Dodgers Foundation (LADF) was reimagined in 2013 under new Dodgers ownership, Nichol Whiteman has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to her community, making her an exemplary candidate for this award. As chief executive officer, Whiteman has guided the foundation in addressing Los Angeles’ most pressing problems, including education, healthcare, homelessness and social justice, creating a lasting impact on the region. Under her leadership during the past decade, LADF has invested \$63.5 million in programs and grants, impacting over 10.6 million youth and supporting more than 280 unique nonprofit organizations.

Beyond her role at LADF, Whiteman serves on numerous boards and commissions, including California’s Commission on the Status of Women and Girls, furthering her commitment to equity and empowerment.



NONPROFIT EXECUTIVE OF THE YEAR (MID-SIZE) HONOREE

LAUREN PLICHTA

CEO

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Los Angeles

Lauren Plichta is the visionary leader behind Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Los Angeles (BBBSLA), a nearly 70-year-old institution that she has strategically positioned for long-term sustainability and impact. As CEO and president, Plichta is not only deeply involved in day-to-day operations but also plays a pivotal role in shaping the organization’s future through innovative partnerships, fundraising strategies and program growth. She is a seasoned fundraiser who excels at campaign, staff and volunteer development.

At a critical inflection point for BBBSLA, Plichta led the development and implementation of the agency’s 2023-2026 strategic plan, ensuring that mentorship opportunities for Los Angeles youth not only remain high quality and sustainable but also scale for exponential growth beyond 2026. Under her leadership, BBBSLA has streamlined core processes to improve mentor recruitment, matching efficiency and participant experience, ensuring that more youth receive high-impact mentorship faster. Plichta also launched an alumni engagement initiative, building a strong network of former “Bigs” and “Littles” to expand programmatic outcomes, create a lifelong BBBSLA community, and drive donor support.

BBBSLA has expanded its corporate and community partnerships, securing long-term funding and increasing brand awareness, including a groundbreaking mentorship initiative with Warner Bros. Plichta has worked to strengthen the organization’s financial sustainability, focusing on major gifts, corporate giving and future endowment planning to ensure continued service for generations to come. She also initiated increased board engagement and accountability, setting new recruitment strategies and performance expectations to drive mission-driven leadership at all levels.



SONYA KAY BLAKE

FINALIST

President and CEO

The Valley Economic Alliance

For Sonya Kay Blake, helping entrepreneurs and small businesses survive and succeed has been a lifelong passion. As president and CEO of the Valley Economic Alliance (The Alliance), her daily mission is to serve the business, workforce and community development needs of the San Fernando Valley. Founded in 1995 to help Valley communities recover from the devastating 1994 Northridge earthquake, The Alliance today engages and energizes private-public collaborations and resources to raise the standards of living and economic vitality across Burbank, Calabasas, Glendale, Los Angeles and San Fernando.

Before joining the Alliance, Blake was director of community business in Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti’s Office of Economic Development. She also served as chief executive of the National Association of Women Business Owners.



CYNTHIA MITCHELL-HEARD

FINALIST

President & CEO

Los Angeles Urban League

Cynthia Mitchell-Heard is the president and CEO of the Los Angeles Urban League (LAUL), and the first woman in nearly a century to lead the organization. Under her stewardship, LAUL has expanded its reach and impact, launching groundbreaking initiatives that tackle systemic inequities and foster economic empowerment.

Mitchell-Heard established the Intuit IDEAS (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Access and Sustainability) program, which equips aspiring entrepreneurs and small business owners in disinvested communities with financial tools, digital skills and mentorship to thrive in an increasingly digital economy. Additionally, she introduced the annual State of Black Los Angeles Conference and Panel Series, which elevates the dialogue on racial equity by convening policymakers, business leaders, activists and academics to address critical issues such as education, housing, health and economic development.



KARLA SALAZAR

FINALIST

Executive Director

ScholarMatch

Karla Salazar is the executive director of ScholarMatch, an innovative organization with a mission to support underserved, first-generation college students from low-income backgrounds to earn a bachelor’s degree within five years. ScholarMatch serves 1,300 students annually, with an emphasis on students in Los Angeles and the San Francisco Bay Area.

Since joining the nonprofit, Salazar has developed a vision to expand its programming to community college transfer students, and secured funding from Genentech to support this dream. Additionally, she launched a new initiative to provide 1:1 college coaching to first-generation students in Southeast LA. Salazar also brokered a new four-year partnership with the Frederick A. DeLuca Foundation through a \$2M grant to support 100 new students.



RENEE SIKAND

FINALIST

President

Los Angeles County Animal Care Foundation

Renee Sikand has seamlessly combined her deep-rooted love for animals with her legal expertise to profoundly impact the Los Angeles County Animal Care Foundation (ACF). While her professional career includes consulting for Sikand Engineering Associates and M G Enterprises, LLC, it is her volunteer role as ACF president where her dedication truly shines.

Sikand’s leadership over the past few years has been transformative, helping drive the ACF’s growth from \$1.5 million to over \$4 million in assets. She has managed investments to maximize donor contributions, ensuring every dollar is responsibly allocated to vital programs such as spay/neuter initiatives, veterinary care and adoptions. She dedicates her time to hosting and facilitating board meetings, fostering collaboration, and creating an inclusive environment where all voices are valued.



INDIVIDUALS



NONPROFIT EXECUTIVE OF THE YEAR (EMERGING) HONOREE

MELISSA YEAGER

Executive Director
 Claire's Place Foundation

Melissa Yeager, co-founder and executive director of Claire's Place Foundation, never stops fighting for the cystic fibrosis (CF) community. She co-founded the foundation with her daughter Claire Wineland, who at the time was just thirteen and coming out of a coma. Claire – an activist, speaker, philanthropist and author – lived with CF her entire life – a rare, chronic and life-limiting genetic disease. The nonprofit organization provides heartfelt support to the families of children and to individuals diagnosed with CF by working to heighten awareness and provide education, skills and financial and emotional support.

As executive director and board member, Yeager works diligently with the board of directors. She is responsible for the organization's consistent achievement of upholding its mission and financial objectives. However, the most rewarding function of her job, she says, is reaching out and making a difference in the lives of families and children living with CF. She works every day to ensure no parent should have to decide between work and being by their child's side during hospital stays.

Recently, Yeager founded the Claire's Place Foundation "Work Proudly Program." The program helps CF patients and caregivers navigate proudly through a fulfilling career by providing job identification, training and equipment needed for work-from-home employment to adults with CF and CF caregivers. The program helps participants gain the skills to be competitive in the job market and acquire flexible, remote employment or hospital employment.



Congratulations

to our Think Together honorees 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





SAMANTHA LUU
FINALIST
Co-Founder and COO
Every Day Action

Samantha Luu, co-founder and COO of Every Day Action (EDA), is a driving force for change in Los Angeles. With over a decade of experience as a Directors Guild of America assistant director, she witnessed countless instances of gourmet catering food being discarded on film sets. Frustrated by the waste and its impact, Luu co-founded EDA to tackle food waste and support the unhoused. During the pandemic, she spearheaded efforts to establish EDA as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, officially launching in 2020. Under Luu's leadership, EDA has built strategic partnerships across the entertainment industry and local communities, streamlining the process of redirecting surplus food to those in need. Her innovative vision and dedication have raised awareness of food waste and the unhoused while fostering tangible solutions.



ROSIE SHAWVER
FINALIST
Executive Director
Catholic Campus Ministry Association

Rosie Chinaea Shawver's career exemplifies leadership and dedication in Catholic campus ministry, with over 20 years of experience empowering both students and ministers. Her tenure at the Catholic Campus Ministry Association reflects innovation and collaboration and includes launching the professional mentorship program and increasing Catholic campus minister training attendance by 39%. Shawver has also made a meaningful impact through her collaborative efforts and strategic vision at the USC Caruso Catholic Center and UCLA's Catholic Center. At USC, she partnered with many groups on and off the campus to transform students' spiritual lives. While at UCLA, she focused on supporting ministers to expand their outreach, fostering faith groups that empower students to succeed academically and personally.



ADAM UMHOEFER
FINALIST
Executive
CAA Foundation

Adam Umhoefer serves as an executive of the CAA Foundation, the philanthropic arm of leading talent and sports agency Creative Artists Agency, which activates the power and reach of the entertainment, media and sports industries to create social change for a more equitable future. In response to the COVID-19 crisis, the CAA Foundation co-founded #FirstRespondersFirst, raising over \$10.5 million to support frontline healthcare workers, and the ALL IN campaign, which works to transform systems to reduce burnout and the increasing rates of suicide in the healthcare industry. Additionally, the foundation joined forces with MENTOR, VolunteerMatch, and AmeriCorps to create READY SET, a national tutor, mentor and service recruitment campaign that aims to support students.



LISA YOUNG
FINALIST
Executive Director
The Rescue Train

Lisa Young is the executive director at The Rescue Train, a unique, 501(c)(3) nonprofit, no-kill, animal-welfare organization based in Los Angeles, dedicated to making the world a kinder place for pets and the people who love them. Young is a compassionate, hardworking leader with deeply impactful and creative ideas, as her exemplified by her pioneering work in shelter intervention. In 2005, Young created Race For The Rescues, an annual fundraiser at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena. This lifesaving event serves both as a fundraising platform for Southern California nonprofit animal-welfare organizations and as a mobile adoption event for shelter animals. Many grassroots rescue nonprofit groups depend on Race For The Rescues to keep their doors open to animals in need.

VISIONARY RESEARCH

Leads our way to restoring human eyesight.

Every day, Doheny Eye Institute concentrates on important vision issues like these:

- Research into the causes of retinal diseases, such as age-related macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy, and glaucoma
- Oculomics, which uses the eye as a window into the health of the body and brain
- Developing new drugs for treating retinal diseases including proliferative vitreoretinopathy
- Use of AI (artificial intelligence) to diagnose and understand vision loss
- Imaging single retinal cells in living patients

Best in the West,
Top 5 in the Nation



We are proud that Doheny Eye Institute and our Chief Scientific Officer Deborah Ferrington, PhD, were named as finalists in the Los Angeles Business Journal 2025 Nonprofit & Corporate Citizenship Awards.



Donate now to continue our VISIONary RESEARCH to conserve, improve and restore human eyesight.



LEARN MORE & DONATE AT DOHENY.ORG

Affiliated with **UCLA** Stein Eye Institute



INDIVIDUALS



BUSINESS ANGEL OF THE YEAR HONOREE

CHANG LIU

President and Chief Executive Officer
Cathay Bank

As the chair of the CEOs Against Cancer Los Angeles Chapter (CEOs L.A.), Chang Liu has shown exceptional leadership in driving forward American Cancer Society's (ACS) mission. He is a true connector – actively opening doors, forging valuable relationships, and recruiting key individuals to join the cause.

As the president and chief executive officer of Cathay Bank, Liu brokered a three-year, \$100,000 multi-year partnership with ACS, which has funded several key initiatives. This partnership has supported ACS' Lung Cancer Screening and Colorectal Cancer Screening Projects, as well as a cancer education series specifically targeting the Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) communities in Los Angeles. These projects address the unique barriers faced by these communities, such as cultural stigma, language differences and lack of accessibility to screening resources.

Additionally, Liu has enlisted Cathay Bank's senior vice president of Human Resources, Lori Burquez, to actively contribute to the CEOs Against Cancer LA chapter's HR leaders group. Through their collective efforts, they have helped facilitate discussions and initiatives focused on encouraging cancer screenings within the workplace.

Moreover, Liu has consistently lent his time and voice to ACS, hosting virtual and in-person events where he speaks passionately about the importance of volunteering, leadership and community engagement. He motivates others to take action and advocates for a cancer-free future for everyone, emphasizing the importance of education, nutrition and cultural sensitivity in cancer prevention efforts.



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HEALTH & REHABILITATION PROGRAM

MAXIMIZING WELLNESS IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

SCHARP was founded in 1994 by Dr. Jack Barbour to provide vital mental health and rehabilitation services to underserved communities in Southern California. We're dedicated to building personal and community potential through high-impact services, maximizing wellness one person at a time.

We offer a wide array of mental health and social services, including:

- CalWORKs • Children's Outpatient Services • SCHARP Care • Treatment of Individuals Experiencing Homelessness
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Our Mission:

"To build personal and community potential through high impact services and maximize wellness, one person at a time"

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JOHN CALKINS

FINALIST

*SVP, Chief Corporate Development Officer
NCM*

John Calkins is a Los Angeles-based media executive with over 30 years of global experience in film and television distribution and strategy, both in the theatrical and home entertainment markets. He has held senior and C-Suite roles at NCM, AMC, Row8, Sony Pictures, Warner Bros, IBM and McKinsey & Co.

Calkins has also served on the board of directors of Los Angeles Team Mentoring, a nonprofit organization that provides free afterschool mentoring and support services to youth in the underserved areas of Los Angeles. He is the longest serving member of the board's executive committee, where he has served as either the chairman or vice chairman for 13 years, guiding the vision and strategy behind the organization and its success.



DANISH F. KHAN

FINALIST

*Head of Product Management, Integrations & Innovation
InvestCloud*

Throughout his career, Danish F. Khan has seamlessly bridged his professional achievements in the for-profit sector with his unwavering dedication to the nonprofit community. As board president of the nonprofit Griffith Observatory Foundation, Khan modernized the foundation's operations, elevating its brand and digital presence. He has spearheaded special events and secured transformative grants, setting new records for the organization. This has helped enable experiential STEM education for over 25 million Southern Californians and 6 million global visitors, with a special focus on 100,000 Title I students annually.

Additionally, Khan helped to establish a first-of-its-kind employee resource group, inspiring colleagues to volunteer and serve on nonprofit boards.



BRITTNEY PARKINSON

FINALIST

*Community and Citizenship Director
Turner Construction Company*

Brittney Parkinson exemplifies leadership and transformative impact as the community & citizenship director for Turner Construction Company's Southern California region. Since joining Turner in 2007, she has championed initiatives that merge community engagement, diversity and workforce development, reflecting her passion for creating opportunities that empower underrepresented communities.

Parkinson's career trajectory, from field engineer to a leadership role, underscores her dedication to meaningful, systemic change. In 2024, she spearheaded Turner's community engagement and UBE (Underutilized Business Enterprise) outreach for the more than \$1 billion Intuit Dome project.



STACEY POLITI

FINALIST

*Founder and CEO
Accomplice Inc.*

Stacey Politi is a standout leader who seamlessly bridges the for-profit and nonprofit worlds, using her expertise to create real, measurable impact. Through her work with United Planet, she has leveraged her marketing, strategy and leadership skills to drive nonprofit success.

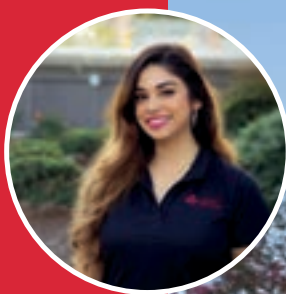
Politi provides hands-on guidance in website development, content strategy, and brand positioning, ensuring United Planet remains competitive and compelling in the crowded nonprofit space. Through her marketing agency, Accomplice, she has donated countless hours of pro-bono consulting, helping United Planet refine its brand story, improve its marketing funnels, and implement cost-effective digital marketing strategies that drive greater impact.



Athens Services

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR
VICE PRESIDENT OF GOVERNMENT
AFFAIRS AMANDA MEJIA**

**AND TO ALL NOMINEES,
HONOREES, AND FINALISTS, OF
THE 2025 NONPROFIT & CORPORATE
CITIZENSHIP AWARDS**



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- Community Investment
- Construction and Demolition Removal



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LEARN MORE**





INDIVIDUALS



FUNDRAISER OF THE YEAR HONOREE

DOUGLAS KANNER

Board Chair
2Degrees

Douglas Kanner exemplifies nonprofit corporate citizenship through his unwavering dedication to Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southern California (RMHCSC). Throughout more than 20 years of board service, he has held multiple leadership roles, always demonstrating a deep commitment to the mission.

The RMHC mission is expressed through its programs, which include seven Ronald McDonald Houses in Bakersfield, Inland Empire, Long Beach, Los Angeles, Orange County, Pasadena and Westside of Los Angeles. The organization operates two Ronald McDonald family rooms at CHOC Children’s Hospital in Orange and Mission Hospital and is developing a new family room at the Ventura County Medical Center. Additionally, it is developing a new house near the UCLA/Mattel Children’s Hospital. RMHCSC is one of the only Ronald McDonald House Charities chapters across the world that operates a cost-free, medically supervised camp for children with cancer and their families – Camp Ronald McDonald for Good Times.

When a child is sick, the entire family needs support. RMHCSC provides essential services that remove barriers, strengthen families and promote healing when children need healthcare. Each year, the organization provides comfort and care to over 10,000 families.

As board chair, Kanner has been instrumental in shaping strategic initiatives, fostering board engagement, and strengthening partnerships. His fundraising efforts have been exceptional, personally securing over \$1 million to support critically ill children and their families. Beyond financial contributions, Kanner actively mentors board members, engages corporate partners, and champions innovative solutions to expand RMHCSC’s impact.



Southern California Development Forum

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

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



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MEGAN COLLIGAN

FINALIST
Board Chair

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Los Angeles

Megan Colligan is an innovative and passionate leader who has played a transformative role as board chair of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Los Angeles (BBBSLA). A true thought partner, Colligan was instrumental in shaping BBBSLA's bold and dynamic strategic plan, ensuring the organization's position for long-term success. Over the last year, she was responsible for raising over \$150,000 for BBBSLA.

Colligan's relentless commitment keeps the board deeply engaged, fostering solution-focused discussions and ensuring every member has a clear plan of action. Through her advocacy, she secured a new program partnership that will directly benefit LA youth. She also played a key role in nominating an inspiring honoree for BBBSLA's 2024 Big Night Out Gala.



JIMMIE HERRICK

FINALIST
Vice President
Stewart Title

Jimmie Herrick is vice president at Stewart Title, one of the largest global title insurance companies and underwriters in the industry. A firm and passionate advocate for cancer awareness, Herrick has graciously dedicated nearly a decade of distinguished service to The American Cancer Society.

Herrick embodies the Spirit of Making Strides Against Breast Cancer movement, which unites communities to end breast cancer. A breast cancer survivor, she has dedicated herself to serving other patients survivors, and raising funds for Making Strides. Herrick has been one of the top 20 national fundraisers since 2015. In 2024 alone, she raised \$52,800. Since 2015, she has raised over \$368,000 for Making Strides Against Breast Cancer of Santa Monica.

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





INDIVIDUALS



VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR HONOREE

MARK GALE

Criminal Justice Chair

The Lowe Group at Morgan Stanley, Morgan Stanley Wealth Management

Mark Gale has served as the volunteer criminal justice chair for the National Alliance on Mental Illness Greater LA County (NAMI GLAC) for the last 21 years. His advocacy journey began when his son, who has a mental illness disorder, was arrested and jailed 21 years ago. Since 2002 he has volunteered an average of 30 hours a month advocating for the decriminalization of people with serious mental illness.

Gale oversees NAMI GLAC's mission, guided by the belief that persons who have committed offenses due to states of mind or behavior caused by a serious mental illness do not belong in penal or correctional institutions. Such persons require treatment, not punishment and should be transferred to a therapeutic setting as appropriate.

Gale leads a criminal justice committee that meets once a month and has grown to over 30 members strong. He motivates, educates and inspires others to advocate for families and diversion programs in LA County. Through his own education and advocacy, he has built expertise in the criminal justice mental health space and is recognized and.

Gale has represented NAMI GLAC on the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Criminal Justice Mental Health Advisory board, serves as a member of the permanent steering committee of the Office of Diversion and Reentry and is an original member of LA County Mental Health Commission's assisted outpatient treatment oversight committee. He has been an active participant in the Alternatives to Incarceration Initiative and the county's Care First, Jail Last strategy.

NOMINATE TODAY!

LOS ANGELES BUSINESS JOURNAL

WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP SYMPOSIUM & AWARDS 2025

The **Los Angeles Business Journal** is proud to host the **2025 Women's Leadership Symposium and Awards.**

Honor a associate, friend, co-worker or acquaintance today as we recognize these inspiring women leaders in our Community of Business™.

NOMINATION DEADLINE: FRIDAY, APRIL 11

To nominate, please visit labusinessjournal.com/events/wlsa2025



CATHY J. HOOD
FINALIST
President | CEO
Pristine Initiative

From providing solutions, to putting out complex PR fires, to leading grassroots advocacy work through her Community Clean Up Day initiative. Cathy J. Hood went from sleeping on friends' couches to becoming a self-made, highly respected industry entrepreneur. She is the founder of her own PR and communications agency, Pristine Initiative, LLC, and has a master's degree in public administration from California State University, Los Angeles.

As a long-time Angelino and resident of Hollywood, Hood created a monthly initiative focused on beautifying the streets of the city. She mobilizes volunteers monthly, corresponds directly with city officials, identifies and scouts out locations, and conducts door-knocking efforts, consistently working to bring out the community, all on her own volunteer time.



KEVIN PETERSON
FINALIST
Co-Founder and CEO
P2S

As president and CEO of P2S, Kevin Peterson sets the overall company strategy and gets the team invested in company goals. He has spent more than three decades in the electrical engineering field, where he's overseen waterfront, industrial, institutional, military and commercial power systems projects.

Peterson devotes himself to the community with his volunteer work, as chairman of the YMCA of Greater Long Beach board of directors, as a member of the board at the Memorial Medical Center Foundation and as a member of the board of trustees at Community Hospital Long Beach Foundation. He also serves as a Ronald McDonald House of Long Beach board of trustees member and a Creating Smiles Capital Campaign cabinet member at the Assistance League of Long Beach.



ELLEN ROBBINS
FINALIST
Partner, Litigation
Akerman LLP

Ellen Robbins, a litigation partner at Akerman, a top 100 law firm with 700 attorneys in 24 cities, 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.

When Robbins relocated to Los Angeles from Chicago in 2014, she left behind a vibrant social and professional network she had spent decades developing. By becoming invested in her new locale through community service and philanthropy, she was able to successfully integrate and form an even more robust network than she had in Chicago. Robbins actively supports the Los Angeles community as a volunteer and mentors fellow businesswomen.



CHRISTOPHER TIAMZON
FINALIST
Community and Citizenship Program Specialist
Turner Construction Company

Christopher Tiamzon began his career as a safety professional in the construction industry, but his true passion lies in uplifting others through service. He has volunteered with numerous organizations, serving as an ambassador for Build California to introduce students to construction careers, as well as participating in impactful initiatives with groups such as ACE Mentor Program, Allies for Every Child, Caterina's Club, and Union Station Homeless Services.

Tiamzon has volunteered with the Los Angeles Veteran Affairs' Marine Day in addition to environmental initiatives. He dedicates his weekends and evenings to projects such as preparing meals with Feeding America Riverside, assembling hygiene kits for the Los Angeles Mission, and organizing STEM activities for underserved schools and community groups.

JUST HELP 1 FAMILY FIND THEIR WAY HOME

CHANGE A LIFE, CHANGE A FAMILY'S FUTURE

Homeless families are the only group still on the rise in Los Angeles County. Ending the cycle of homelessness is critical for our community's most vulnerable—children.

With just 1 act of kindness, you can change a life. Change a future.

At Union Rescue Mission, we are committed to never turning away any woman, child, or family that needs help. When you support our work, 86 cents of every dollar donated goes to helping the people we serve. Together, we can make a difference for homeless families in L.A.



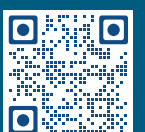
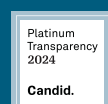
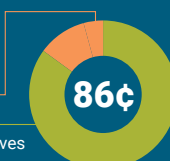
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INDIVIDUALS



IN-KIND SUPPORTER OF THE YEAR **HONOREE**

JAMES DO

President of Community First Financial Resources; Head of Non Profit Banking First Bank

President of Community First Financial Resources and head of nonprofit banking at First Bank, James Do is an action-oriented leader. Do has devoted his financial expertise towards strengthened the long-term sustainability of the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Los Angeles (BBBSLA), a youth empowerment organization with a mission to create and support one-to-one mentoring relationships.

As board treasurer of BBBSLA, Do has led transformative initiatives to ensure the organization’s financial health and future growth. He played a pivotal role in refreshing investment policies, opening BBBSLA’s first investment account, and drafting a strategic endowment policy, laying the foundation for long-term financial stability. He also led the finance committee through the selection process of a new investment advisor, personally interviewing candidates to ensure the organization’s assets were managed effectively.

In addition, Do has helped approve and budget for the hiring of an executive leader for philanthropy, individuals and foundations, a key position that will drive donor engagement and major gift fundraising. Under his leadership, BBBSLA is developing a comprehensive endowment and stewardship strategy, which includes the launch of a matching gift endowment campaign to secure funding for future generations of mentorship.

Do’s knowledge, dedication and willingness to share his time and expertise have been invaluable to BBBSLA’s success. His commitment to financial stewardship and long-term sustainability makes him a standout leader in the nonprofit sector.



Claire's Place

FOUNDATION FOR CYSTIC FIBROSIS SUPPORT®

A Place for Hope, Strength and Joy.

Claire’s Place Foundation is dedicated to supporting families affected by cystic fibrosis (CF). Founded by the inspiring Claire Wineland at just 13 years old, our mission is to bring hope, strength and joy to those living with CF. Through emotional and financial support, we help lighten the burden—because no one should face CF alone.



How can you get involved? Visit:
clairesplacefoundation.org

“Live a Life You Can Be Proud Of”

– Claire Wineland



Melissa Nordquist Yeager
 Executive Director

Finalist for Nonprofit Leader of the Year by LA Business Journal



Congratulations!

Blank Rome LLP proudly celebrates Adopt-A-Center’s recognition as a Nonprofit & Corporate Citizenship Award finalist by the *Los Angeles Business Journal*.

Our Adopt-A-Center Program annually partners with a Los Angeles nonprofit serving children and families on an event that serves their members and raises awareness of the organization.

Companies are encouraged to host their own Adopt-A-Center initiatives. Blank Rome is available to offer assistance to help facilitate these efforts.

To learn more, visit
blankrome.com/adopt-center-program.



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CARLOS M. BERMUDEZ
FINALIST
Partner
Akin

Akin corporate partner Carlos M. Bermudez is a respected leader in his field, regularly leading or playing critical roles in significant corporate transactions on behalf of some of the firm's largest clients, including Kingston Technology Corporation, one of the world's largest independent manufacturers of memory products, and clients in the media, entertainment and sports space. Beyond his fee-based work, Bermudez's leadership shines through his unwavering support for nonprofit organizations. Since June 2018, he has served on the board of directors for Knowledge is Power Program (KIPP) SoCal Public Schools, a nonprofit network of college-preparatory charter schools. Beyond his work on the board, his active pro bono practice directly supports KIPP SoCal's mission.



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

Laura McHolm has dedicated over a decade of her life to advancing the mission of Claire's Place Foundation, a nonprofit providing support to individuals, children and families affected by cystic fibrosis. She joined Claire's Place as a founding board member and now serves as chairman of the board of directors. Through countless hours donated by McHolm and her marketing team, the foundation has garnered national media attention, including features in Glamour Magazine and on CNN. McHolm and her company, NorthStar Moving, have recently stepped up to support victims of the devastating LA wildfires. In the past few weeks, the company has donated trucks and drivers to assist nonprofits in transporting large donations of essential supplies to those impacted by the fires.



AMANDA MEJIA
FINALIST
Vice President of Government Affairs
Athens Services

Amanda Mejia has been instrumental in supporting nonprofit initiatives that focus on environmental sustainability, workforce development and community empowerment. Through her company, Athens Services, she has facilitated funding, in-kind support and volunteer engagement for numerous local organizations, enabling them to expand their outreach and effectiveness. Through the Recycle LA initiative, Mejia was most recently able to establish community-based programming with local nonprofits including CultivaLA to share information with customers in a culturally competent manner. She has promoted responsible waste management, recycling education, and environmental stewardship, ensuring that businesses and residents alike contribute to a cleaner and more sustainable LA.



SHAWN SHEFFIELD
FINALIST
Chief Strategy Officer
Keck Medicine of USC

Shawn Sheffield served as corporate chair for the American Cancer Society's 2024 California Spirit Gourmet Food and Wine event, bringing in Keck Medicine of USC as a presenting sponsor. Sheffield worked with her team at Keck Medicine in addition to staff partners at the American Cancer Society to secure additional sponsors and individual donors. Nine new sponsors were brought in, driving additional funds and new partnerships, contributing to the event doubling in revenue from previous year. Sheffield was the Los Angeles chair of the American Heart Association's Go Red for Women in 2019-2020, and currently co-chairs the Chief Strategy Officers Network for the Vizient University Health System Consortium.

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!



Delivering Hope Beyond Packages

By DAVID AMBROZ

As a child, I experienced hunger and educational scarcity firsthand. While other kids focused on learning, my siblings and I prioritized finding our next meal and a safe place to sleep. Libraries became my sanctuary—providing both warmth and access to educational resources. The holidays were particularly difficult, with joy often feeling just out of reach. These early experiences mirror challenges many Los Angeles families continue to face today—challenges Amazon deliberately addresses through strategic partnerships with local nonprofits. Amazon combines financial support, its vast logistics network, and passionate employee volunteers to bring food, educational resources, and holiday joy directly to the communities where our employees live and work.

Today, as Head of Public Policy and Community Engagement for Amazon in Southern California, I apply this lived experience to my work. Amazon's commitment extends beyond business operations to create meaningful community impact. We recognize that hunger isn't simply about missing meals—it's about missing opportunities, potential, and hope. This understanding drives our partnerships with nonprofits like the Los Angeles Regional Food Bank, whose commitment to fighting food insecurity aligns with Amazon's commitment to being a good community partner.

Summer 2024 marked our third annual collaboration with ABC7's Feed SoCal campaign, a powerful collaboration between Amazon and local food banks. Our partnership with the Los Angeles Regional Food Bank has been outstanding—they share our commitment to operational excellence and innovation. They don't just distribute food; they've built sophisticated systems to maximize impact—identifying needs, optimizing distribution channels, and ensuring dignity for those they serve.

During the campaign, Amazon presented the Los Angeles Regional Food Bank with a \$75,000 donation—enough to help provide over 300,000 meals throughout Los Angeles County. Amazon's Los Angeles operations facilities also led donation collection efforts, with our transportation network providing crucial support. This exemplifies what Amazon does best: applying our operational expertise to solve complex challenges.

The results were remarkable. Across California, Amazon's contributions as part of Feed SoCal helped provide hundreds of thousands of meals, with a significant portion serving Los Angeles communities. But numbers only tell part of the story. The real impact lies in the dignity restored and hope provided to families struggling with food insecurity.

Through Amazon's Community Delivery program, we partner year-round with local food banks such as the Los Angeles Regional Food Bank to provide free home delivery of food to those facing food insecurity. This program has already provided over 2.3 million meals to California households in 2024 alone—a perfect example of how we overcome transportation barriers that often separate families from available resources.

The impact of Amazon's partnership is especially significant when considering that a study completed by USC Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences shows that between April and May 2024, more than 1 in 4 (28.9%) Los Angeles residents dealt with an instance of



food insecurity—equivalent to about 955,466 households. By combining direct financial support with our distribution systems, Amazon creates a holistic solution that not only increases food availability but ensures it reaches those who need it most, regardless of their mobility or transportation limitations. Each delivery represents more than just essential fuel for the body—it provides stability that allows parents to focus on work and children to concentrate on learning rather than hunger.

Our commitment extends beyond addressing immediate hunger. This past September, Amazon launched a \$200,000 back-to-school campaign; including a \$25,000 matching gift campaign through DonorsChoose to support teacher projects in South Gate. This campaign was complemented by a grassroots effort from our DAX7 delivery station employees and independent delivery service partners, who gathered essential school supplies for LAUSD's San Miguel Elementary School.

Watching Amazon delivery vans arrive at the school filled with backpacks and notebooks brought me back to my own childhood. I remember what it meant to have the right tools for learning—how something as simple as a notebook could make a child feel worthy of education, worthy of a future.

The Amazon-funded projects provided South Gate classrooms with flexible seating, art supplies, classroom libraries, and HEPA air filters—resources that directly enhance students' learning experience. Teachers now have critical tools to create engaging environments where students can focus on developing skills rather than worrying about basic necessities.

Amazon's dedication to bringing joy to children extends to the holiday season as well. Last December, we partnered with ABC7, SoFi Stadium, the LA Rams, and the LA County Fire Department for the annual Spark of Love Toy Drive. More than 550 local children toured SoFi Stadium and received toys donated through a community-wide effort. Amazon contributed two vans filled with toys and a \$100,000 donation to the drive, with employees at SBD6, Amazon's AR Sortable Fulfillment Center in Ontario, CA, leading the toy collection efforts.



The excitement in children's eyes as they received their gifts reminded me of how transformative simple moments of joy can be for young people facing challenges. Amazon volunteers from sites across Southern California helped distribute these toys, demonstrating our employees' dedication to giving back.

These educational and community efforts reflect Amazon's understanding that today's children are tomorrow's innovators, entrepreneurs, and community leaders. By supporting LAUSD schools and participating in campaigns like Spark of Love, we're investing in the future of our Los Angeles and creating pathways to opportunity for students who might otherwise face significant barriers to achievement.

What makes Amazon's approach to community engagement different is how we leverage our unique strengths. Financial contributions matter, but another one of our greatest impacts comes from encouraging employees to leverage Amazon resources to support organizations they care about. Through Amazon's Global Month of Volunteering and our internal volunteering portal, employees can discover local opportunities that fit their schedules, interests, and

skills—whether they have a few hours or want to commit to ongoing engagement.

My journey from childhood homelessness to my role at Amazon has taught me that sustainable change requires both addressing immediate needs and building systems that create opportunity. Amazon is committed to doing both.

The challenges facing Los Angeles are complex. But when Amazon combines resources with non-profits that bring deep community knowledge, we create powerful solutions. My mission is to ensure these partnerships continue to grow, remain authentic to community needs, and create lasting change for Los Angeles families who need it most.

Sometimes a meal, a backpack filled with school supplies, or a holiday gift isn't just addressing an immediate need—it's offering hope. And in communities across this City of Angels, hope is one of the most valuable packages we can deliver.



David Ambroz is Amazon's head of public policy and community engagement for Southern California.



A Boost to Digital Learning in Los Angeles Schools

When Noemi first stepped into the Think Together after school program classroom at Compton High School her freshman year, she never imagined she'd one day be leading digital learning among her peers. But today as a junior, Noemi has found endless opportunities to leverage the power of technology to shape her future — leading her to play a key role in bringing The Achievery, a free digital education platform created by AT&T, to her school.

For Noemi, The Achievery is more than just a digital resource; it's a gateway to student-led learning and a nurturing environment. As the co-founder of the Think Together Drone Club and co-captain of Compton High School's robotics team, she has seen firsthand how technology can spark curiosity, fuel creativity and open doors to new opportunities.

"Having somewhere where we let our education grow and just have a lot of resources where we can continue to grow, I think that's amazing," shared Noemi. "We're all supportive of each other and the things that we do."

Through interactive lessons on digital citizenship, cyber safety and coding, students are learning how to navigate the digital world safely while developing the skills to pursue their passions. Noemi is already putting these lessons into action — whether piloting a drone, engineering a robotics project, or inspiring

her classmates to explore STEM careers, she's proving that access to opportunity can change everything.

Think Together, in partnership with AT&T, launched The Achievery last school year to expand digital learning opportunities for students across California. With a \$525,000 contribution from AT&T, Think Together has integrated the platform into its afterschool programs.

"Launching The Achievery was a natural choice for Think Together," said Lesley Martin, executive director for Think Together's Southeast Los Angeles region. "Our focus has always been on student agency and engagement, and this program aligns perfectly with our mission to prepare students for future success."

Looking ahead, Think Together aims to expand the reach of The Achievery even further. By continuing to build partnerships with corporate and foundation leaders, the organization seeks to bring more innovative learning tools to students who need them most.

"Through opportunities like the one Think Together has with AT&T, we're able to collaborate to create experiences that help ensure all students are receiving a high-quality education," said senior director of corporate and foundation relations Lawrence Gustafson.

Programs like The Achievery demonstrate



the power of partnerships between the business and nonprofit sectors in advancing STEM literacy and access to career pathways. With continued support, students — regardless of background — can gain access to the resources necessary for success.

To learn more about how your organization can partner with Think Together to expand learning opportunities for K-12 students in Los Angeles and across California, visit thinktogether.org or follow us on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, and X at [@thinktogether](https://www.instagram.com/thinktogether) across all channels.

HONORED TO BE RECOGNIZED

MAOF is proud to be nominated in these categories:

- **Nonprofit Organization of the Year (Large)**
- **Nonprofit Executive of the Year (Large)**, President & CEO, Dr. Ciriaco Pinedo.

For over 60 years, we have been dedicated to empowering communities through education, economic development, and social services. This recognition is a testament to the impact of our mission and the dedication of our team.

Thank you to the Los Angeles Business Journal for celebrating the organizations and leaders who strengthen our communities. Mexican American Opportunity Foundation Empowering families from Child to Senior.



MAOF

Mexican American Opportunity Foundation
Empowering Families from Child to Senior





Advancing Vision Science for a Healthier World

For nearly 80 years, Doheny Eye Institute has been a pioneering leader in vision research, dedicated to the conservation, improvement and restoration of human eyesight. Through groundbreaking studies and innovative technological advancements, Doheny continues to make significant contributions to the field of ophthalmology in its effort to work toward the eradication of preventable blindness.

A LEGACY OF EXCELLENCE IN VISION SCIENCE

Doheny is recognized worldwide for its cutting-edge research in retinal diseases, glaucoma, corneal disorders, uveitis, diabetic retinopathy, and neuro-ophthalmology. While focusing on vision-threatening conditions, Doheny scientists are working to better identify and understand the early symptoms and mechanisms of eye disease, with the goal of developing more effective therapies and treatments. Doheny scientists also continue to pioneer new applications of artificial intelligence to improve the diagnosis of ocular diseases.

Doheny's affiliation with UCLA enhances opportunities for cross-collaboration, real-time application of scientific breakthroughs, and expanded research-sharing within the scientific community. Together, Doheny and UCLA Stein Eye Institutes are ranked in the Top 5

vision centers in the country by U.S. News & World Report.

COMMUNITY IMPACT AND OUTREACH

Based in Pasadena, Doheny has brought advanced vision research and innovation to its local and scientific communities. Through research papers, symposiums, conference sessions and more, Doheny has positioned itself as a trusted source of knowledge by sharing insights on breakthrough discoveries and advancements in understanding eye disease.

Beyond research, Doheny supports the education of the next generation of ophthalmologists, connecting scientists and vision specialists through alumni networking events, lectures and continuing medical education programs. These efforts ensure that local and global vision care providers have access to cutting-edge research and innovative techniques, advancing the future of eye disease diagnosis and treatment.

BECOME A PARTNER IN VISION SCIENCE

As a nonprofit organization, Doheny relies on the support of donors, partners and community advocates to drive its mission forward. Philanthropy plays a crucial role in funding breakthrough research, state-of-the-art tech-



nology, and education programs that empower future generations of eye care professionals and vision scientists.

Doheny remains a pillar of the Greater Los Angeles nonprofit and medical community, making a tangible difference in public health and well-being. Through its commitment to scientific discovery, education and outreach, Doheny con-

tinues to push the boundaries of vision science, ensuring that the future of eye care remains bright for patients in Los Angeles and beyond.

To learn more about how you can become a partner in vision science, visit Doheny.org or contact Molly Ann Woods, chief development & communications officer, at mwoods@doheny.org.



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Mentoring Moments Matter.

www.LATM.org



Next Generation Charitable Donors Focus on Social Issues and Technology

Generation Z and Millennial donors are approaching charitable giving differently than the generations that came before them, according to a new report from the Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy.

Dynamic social, economic and political shifts, globalization, and technological advancements over the last 20 years have reshaped how next-generation donors engage with the philanthropic sector. The Next Generation of Philanthropy study analyzes the interests and needs of younger donors, their evolving patterns of giving, and the opportunities and challenges those present. The report also examines younger donors' motivations, their attitudes toward giving, the causes they support and their preferred methods for making donations and evaluating the impact. The research was completed with funding from DAFgiving360.

"Younger generations of donors are impacting philanthropy in positive ways by seeking long-term, hands-on involvement with the issues that are important to them. They rely heavily on technology to inform their giving decisions, and invest time into looking for trustworthy and transparent nonprofits to support,"

said Amir Pasic, Ph.D., the Eugene R. Tempel dean of the Lilly Family School of Philanthropy. "The generational differences reflected in our new research underscore the need for nonprofits to adapt to Next Gen views, preferences and practices in order to advance their missions and build the long-term relationships that sustain them."

The new report highlights that Generation Z (born 1997-2012) and Millennial (born 1981-1996) donors focus their giving on supporting issues rather than specific organizations and consider themselves to be active social change agents. Next generation donors bring a decidedly tech-forward approach to all aspects of their philanthropy, including learning about and advocating for causes on social media and making donations online. They participate in crowdfunding at higher rates than older generations, and growing numbers of younger donors are giving through social media-based charity streaming events hosted by influencers.

"A significant wealth transfer is currently underway, and some estimates indicate that \$18 trillion will go to charity by 2048, creating the opportunity for next gen donors to have a significant charitable impact in the future," said

'Younger generations of donors are impacting philanthropy in positive ways by seeking long-term, hands-on involvement with the issues that are important to them.'

Fred Kaynor, managing director, relationship management, marketing & partnerships at DAFgiving360. "Generation Z and Millennials are passionate about and deeply connected to the causes they support. It's incredibly important for charities to engage with their philanthropic spirit. In addition, the financial advisors who are guiding this next generation of donors should also recognize their distinct needs and priorities to better support them and to help maximize their giving potential."

Key findings include:

- Basic needs and religion are top causes for philanthropic giving across all generations from 2003 to 2021, while giving to education is less

common for younger donors.

- Generation Z giving to secular causes is similar to what Millennials gave at the same stage of life, despite an overall drop in secular giving.
- Compared to Millennials who gave to religious causes, Generation Z donors who gave to religion were significantly less likely to also support secular causes. This finding challenges the historical trend of religious donors being more inclined to also contribute to secular causes.
- Giving across all generations has declined since 2008. In each stage of life, individuals are less likely to give than they were in 2003.

Many of the report's key findings were derived using the Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy's Philanthropy Panel Study, a module of the University of Michigan's Panel Study of Income Dynamics, which has been tracking thousands of US households since 2000. By following the same households over time, this longitudinal approach provides unique insights into changes in giving behavior within individuals, households and families.

Visit dafgiving360.org to learn more.

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Amid New Policy Landscape, Corporate America Changes Philanthropic Priorities

Seismic shifts in the US policy landscape are prompting corporate philanthropy leaders to make big changes to their companies' philanthropic priorities for the year ahead.

According to a new survey by The Conference Board, more corporate philanthropy leaders plan to ramp up their companies' efforts around economic opportunity and education. At the same time, they anticipate dialing back their initiatives around racial and gender equality.

"These findings signal a shift, not a retreat, in advancing gender and racial equality. Companies are incorporating these goals into broader frameworks — like workforce development, technical trainings and financial empowerment — that better align with their core business priorities," said Andrew Jones, author of the report and senior ESG researcher at The Conference Board.

When it comes to geographic areas of focus, philanthropy executives are also shaking things up. They anticipate putting more support into initiatives based in the US, followed by Mexico and Canada. But they plan to scale back their philanthropic efforts in China.

This report is based on a survey of over 120 philanthropy executives from leading US and multinational companies. Respondents shared

their challenges and opportunities for the year ahead in light of the 2024 election outcomes. Additional findings include:

AREAS OF FOCUS

Corporate philanthropy strategies are increasingly focusing on economic opportunity and education.

Question asked: How do you anticipate the results of the 2024 US elections will influence the thematic focus of your citizenship/philanthropy strategy in 2025?

- **More focus on economic opportunity and education:** They are the top two themes philanthropy executives are increasing their emphasis on in 2025.

- **Less focus on racial and gender equality:** They are the top two themes philanthropy executives are decreasing their emphasis on in 2025.

GEOGRAPHIC FOCUS

Companies are turning more attention to US initiatives, while dialing back their activities in China.

Question asked: How do you anticipate the results of the 2024 US elections will influence the

geographic focus of your citizenship/philanthropy strategy in 2025?

- Increasing attention to US- and North America-based activities: Executives say their companies will increase their emphasis on initiatives in the US, followed by Canada and Mexico.

- Decreasing attention to China- and Latin America-based activities: Executives say they will decrease their emphasis on China, followed by Latin America (a distant second).

CHALLENGES

The top challenge facing philanthropy executives is demonstrating their programs' ROI.

Question asked: What are the biggest obstacles you expect to face in achieving your citizenship/philanthropy goals in 2025?

- Proving the ROI of philanthropic efforts is the top pain point: 43% of executives say demonstrating the ROI of their efforts is their biggest obstacle in 2025.

- Other challenges include measuring, verifying, or attributing societal impact (31%) and navigating political uncertainty and polarization in the US (29%).

"Executives who measure the ROI of phil-

anthropic initiatives ensure their programs add value. Quantifying their value is an important task. Practical steps leaders can take include refining data collection on key business indicators, such as the link between employee engagement and CSR programs, as well as contributions to brand equity," said Jeff Hoffman, institute leader, corporate citizenship & philanthropy, The Conference Board.

COMMUNICATIONS & TERMINOLOGY

The language describing philanthropic initiatives is changing, driven by the new policy landscape.

Question asked: How do you expect to adjust the communications and messaging of your company's citizenship/philanthropy initiatives in 2025?

- More than a third of executives are revising language: 37% of executives say they are revising the language and terminology used to describe their initiatives, both internally and externally.

- The top-cited reasons for making these changes are companies responding to political, social, and legal developments (44%) and minimizing backlash (41%).

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