National Philanthropy Day®

November 19, 2014
El Centro, CA
LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT
Jack & Joan Tyler

PHILANTHROPIST OF THE YEAR
Betty Young

SPIRIT OF PHILANTHROPY
(VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR)
Betty Jo McNeece

PHILANTHROPIC CORPORATION OF THE YEAR
First Imperial Credit Union

DISTINGUISHED PHILANTHROPISTS
Dr. Hope Davis
Employees of Pioneers Memorial Healthcare District
Friends of the Holtville Library
Sue Giller
Robert Perez
Rabobank
Les Rogers
Clyde Shields
Harry & Jo Ann Weissman

DISTINGUISHED VOLUNTEERS
Marcy Bingham
Chuck & Pat Bucher
Tom DuBose
Luis Estrada
Charles "Chuck" R. Fisher
Aide Fulton
Jeff Green
Emma Jones
Carla Kuhns
Kelly Lugenbeel-Barrios
Blake L. Miles
Gregory S. Smith
Dr. Ron Stillman
Terri Woelke
National Philanthropy Day®

WELCOME
Hon. John Moreno
Master of Ceremonies

INVOCATION
Major Jerry Esqueda
The Salvation Army

LUNCH

SPECIAL REMARKS & PRESENTATIONS

KEYNOTE SPEAKER
Mr. Gerald McFadden
President/CEO
Volunteers of America - Southwest

AWARD PRESENTATIONS
Distinguished Volunteer
Distinguished Philanthropist
Philanthropic Corporation of the Year
Spirit of Philanthropy (Volunteer of the Year)
Philanthropist of the Year
Lifetime Achievement

CLOSING
“Now More Than Ever”
(Official NPD® Song)
Thank you to our supporting organizations and sponsors

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Brawley Community Foundation
IMPERIAL VALLEY PRESS
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- First Imperial Credit Union
- Imperial Valley Desert Museum
- Imperial Valley Food Bank

**FRIENDS**

- Brawley Elks Lodge # 1420
- First Foundation Bank
- Imperial Valley College Foundation
- CASA of Imperial County
- Imperial County Free Library
- Rabobank

**NPD® HOST COMMITTEE**

- **Chairman:** Gerard Delaney, Imperial Valley Press/Associated Desert Newspapers, Group Publisher
- **Committee:**
  - Bobby Brock, Imperial Valley Community Foundation, President/CEO
  - Alex Cardenas, CASA of Imperial County, Executive Director
  - Marty Dineley, El Centro Regional Medical Center Foundation, Executive Director
  - Todd Evangelist, Imperial Valley College Foundation, Executive Director
  - Sara Griffen, Imperial Valley Food Bank, Executive Director
  - Derek Hartley, San Diego - Imperial Council, Boy Scouts of America, Field Director
  - Dr. Neal Hitch, Imperial Valley Desert Museum, Executive Director
  - Timothy E. Kelley, Imperial Valley Economic Development Corporation, President/CEO
  - Diana Peacher, Cancer Resource Center of the Desert, CEO
  - Sara Sanders, Boys & Girls Clubs of Imperial Valley, Executive Director
  - Connor Smith, Imperial Valley Community Foundation, Civic Engagement Coordinator
  - Nancy Thornburg, First Foundation Bank, Vice President/Private Banker
  - Ken Wuytens, United Way of Imperial County, Executive Director
At Volunteers of America (VOA), Gerald McFadden leads staff and volunteers who deliver services to the region’s most vulnerable populations in Imperial, Riverside, San Bernardino, and San Diego counties through the program areas of Veterans Services, Educational and Social Development for Youth, Treatment and Rehabilitation, Housing Services, and Aging and Caregiver Services. The mission of VOA is: “To inspire hope through our ministry of service by providing individuals and families with tools to improve their quality of life.”

Mr. McFadden’s dedicated career in community service started in 1971 as the Director of Rehabilitation and Treatment Services for People Coordinated Services (PCS) in Los Angeles. After eleven years with PCS, he became the Vice President of Marketing & Program Development with VOA - Greater Los Angeles. In May of 1992, he became the President/CEO for VOA - Oregon, and in July of 1998 he transitioned to his current position as the President/CEO of VOA - Southwest where he has served for the last sixteen years.

Under his leadership, VOA’s local programs have expanded to include the creation of Ballington Academy for the Arts & Sciences, a vibrant K-6 Charter School based in El Centro, serving the youth of Imperial Valley.

He has served on the national board of directors for Volunteers of America since 1999, chaired the National Pension Committee for VOA since 2003, and is the Co-Founder of the VOA Leadership Development Advisory Committee. He previously served as a member of the board of directors for the Oregon Local United Way, and as Executive Chairman of the San Diego Campaign for the United Negro College Fund.

Mr. McFadden holds Masters degrees in Business Administration and Urban & Regional Planning from Pepperdine University, and a Bachelors degree in Sociology from Syracuse University. He has been a Commissioned Minister through VOA since 1984, and received specialized training in Continuous Quality Improvement through the W. Edward Deming and Meta Quality Institute, Leadership Development at the American Leadership Forum, and served as an Adjunct Professor of Leadership & Organizational Development at Portland State University.

Mr. McFadden has been recognized by several national and regional organizations for his service and leadership with the Urban League Equal Opportunity Award, Alpha Kappa Alpha Emerald Award, Martin Luther King, Jr. Award, Ocie Trotter Community Service Award, and the Outstanding Young Men in America Award.

Mr. McFadden lives in San Diego with his wife of forty-four years, Shirley, and they have two grown sons: Micah and Brandon.

We are pleased to have Mr. McFadden as the keynote speaker at Imperial Valley’s 2014 National Philanthropy Day® celebration. As a champion of philanthropy with an extensive background in executive leadership, strategic management and planning, financial management, marketing, community relations, grant writing, mentoring, and as a builder of community partnerships and strategic alliances - today’s audience is in for a great message. Prepare to be inspired.
Marcy Bingham, Distinguished Volunteer

When it comes to helping others - the word “no” is not in Marcy Bingham’s vocabulary. She has a sincere love, determination, and desire to solve problems. She has reached out to hunger, cancer, grieving families, sports, youth organizations, school and scholarship programs.

She was inspired in starting the club “Wings” after helping a woman who had no food. The woman’s husband’s hours at work had been cut drastically and they had no money. The woman was pregnant and had a five-year-old son. Marcy, within a few hours, made contact with so many people that she filled the back of her suburban with enough to feed the woman and her family for at least two weeks.

Marcy Bingham is well-known for her outstanding leadership in Holtville. Over the years, Marcy had been involved with Holtville Boy Scouts, Holtville Little League, Holtville Soccer, Holtville Parent Group (HOPE), Served as chair for the Halloween Carnival at Finley Elementary School, School Site Council For Holtville Elementary, Middle School and High School. She brought Pop Warner back to Holtville in 2007. She currently serves on the boards of the Holtville Education Foundation, Holtville Boys & Girls Club Advisory Committee, Green & Gold Hall of Fame, Holtville High School Touch Down Club, Imperial Valley Pop Warner League, Caelynn Andrea Iten Foundation, Cancer Resource Center of the Desert, the Holtville Chamber of Commerce, and Wings. And, in recognition for all of her various contributions and devoted service, she was named Holtville’s “Citizen of the Year” in 2008.

Honoring Organization: Holtville Chamber of Commerce

Chuck and Pat Butcher, Distinguished Volunteers

Chuck and Pat’s dedication and endurance were the reason the Imperial Valley Desert Museum building was finished. They waded through the government red tape to manage the grants and contracts necessary to finish the building that the Imperial Valley Desert Museum now operates in.

After the structure was completed, they took care of the many details that were necessary to open. Some of the projects that they completed were: pouring the cement on the outside of the building, redesigning the septic tank and grading the septic area, replacing the water tank that had blown onto the street and been destroyed. They not only did the paper work but also physical work, such as grading and metal work on the museum sign.

Honoring Organization: Imperial Valley Desert Museum

Tom DuBose, Distinguished Volunteer

Mr. Tom DuBose has been involved in economic development since 1984 in Imperial County. He is the president of Development Design and Engineering, Inc. (DD&E) in El Centro, CA. Land planning, civil engineering, surveying and project management are just some of the services offered by the company, whose specialty is managing the entitlement of projects. A lifelong Imperial Valley resident, DuBose is the immediate past chairman of Imperial Valley Economic Development Corporation (IVEDC). He served as a trustee of the Brawley Union High School District for twenty years, and has served on the Imperial County Air Pollution Board of Appeals for eighteen years. Tom is also the past president of the Desert Valley Builders Association, past president (chairman) and director emeritus of the Imperial Valley Community Foundation, and serves on the Board of Border Communities. He has also recently become involved as a member of the Eagle Scout Board of Review for the Boy Scouts of America.

Tom's dedication and commitment to growing the region's economy is unwavering. His proactive commitment to bold initiatives have led to the region being recognized for its tremendous potential for generating clean, renewable energy. He is a strong advocate in bringing new businesses and projects to the Imperial Valley and has been instrumental in building cross-border relations and attracting foreign direct investment by traveling to China and Mexico.

Tom was a key player in bringing the YK America projects, Chelsea Investment Housing and Imperial Valley Regional Detention Facility to fruition. He facilitates meetings with influential government and utility officials to see that projects are built in Imperial Valley and is committed to seeing them through from start to finish.

Honoring Organization: IVEDC

“It always seems impossible until it’s done.”
- Nelson Mandela

“Do what you can, with what you have, where you are.” - Theodore Roosevelt
**Luis Estrada, Distinguished Volunteer**

Luis Estrada was born in Mexicali, Baja California, Mexico as the youngest of ten children, and immigrated to the United States when he was 8 years old. He made Calexico his home, and worked for the City of Calexico for 38 years, retiring as the City’s Public Works Director. He is currently self-employed and continues to work as an entrepreneur in water technology.

He has been involved in several community benefits, causes and organizations. He was president of the Calexico Little League, a member of the board of the Calexico School’s Booster Club when his children were young. He formed the Calexico New River Committee, served as chairman for the Calexico Beautification Committee, and the Mariachi Festival Committee. He was the recipient of the Lava Lamp Award in 2002 from the Calexico Chamber of Commerce, and named “Man of the Year” in 2002 by the Center for Family Solutions.

Luis Estrada was one of the founders of the Calexico chapter of the American Cancer Society’s Relay for Life, and later was instrumental in the formation of the Cancer Resource Center of the Desert. He sits on the Board of Directors of the Cancer Resource Center of the Desert and is active in their fundraising activities. He has raised over $50,000 for CRCD.

Luis is married to Teresa Estrada, and together they have four children: Luis Miguel, Luis, Marco Antonio, and Virginia, and nine grandchildren.

*Honoring Organization: Cancer Resource Center of the Desert*

**Charles Fisher, Distinguished Volunteer**

Chuck Fisher began his voluntary career with the CASA board in 1997. Since his retirement in 2008, he has added other volunteer duties to his resume. He continues to support CASA by serving as the board president. As the president he has delivered Easter baskets to tribal foster youth in Winterhaven, participate in fundraisers for toys at Christmas, fill backpacks with school supplies, and various other service opportunities.

He is at the CASA office two to three times a week, and regularly spends at least ten hours a week with financial responsibilities. Recently he was assigned as an advocate to two young boys. This duty entails weekly visits to monitor their needs, well-being and progress in school, as well as the “extra-mile” activities he treats them to such as taking them to lunch, the library, the movies or bowling. CASA staff realize that if there is a need, one phone call to Chuck and the job will be completed with a smile.

In addition to serving on the CASA board, he has recently joined the board of the Imperial Valley Desert Museum. He mans the information desk on occasional Saturdays and has participated in various activities such as star-gazing events and fundraising/friend-raising dinners.

In 2011 he was elected to the El Centro Elementary School Board. His previous 38 years as an educator have given him keen insight into the school business. Monthly meetings and visiting school sites are priorities of his, and his volunteer activities usually center around children. Several times a year he serves as a docent at the Imperial Valley Pioneers Museum leading groups of school children through the museum.

*Honoring Organization: CASA of Imperial County*

**Aide Fulton, Distinguished Volunteer**

Aide Munguia-Fulton, RN has been the Program Director for the Imperial Valley Child Asthma Program (IVCAP) for over a decade. Known for her commitment and dedication, Aide has worked diligently to help improve asthma awareness and education in the Imperial Valley. At IVCAP she passionately serves children ages 0-18 with a special emphasis on low-income Latino families with children ages 0-5 who suffer from asthma. She earned her Bachelors of Science in Nursing at the University of Phoenix, and is a Certified Asthma Educator by the National Asthma Educator Certification Board.

After piloting a three-year asthma study at the Integrative Medicine and Public Health Program at UC San Francisco, she became the first Imperial Valley Nurse to be trained in asthma education and in current best practices for asthma care. Her responsibilities include the facilitation of asthma educational workshops for medical providers, school nurses, and local community health workers. She works in partnership with community advocate groups, organizations and local leaders in finding solutions to help alleviate the asthma epidemic in Imperial County.

Aide’s passion for improving asthma awareness for the children in the Imperial Valley can be seen throughout the community. Aide and her team organize an annual Asthma Walk, a “Stop and Listen” forum with local high school students, and several community classes on asthma education. These important events are just a few of the activities held to help raise awareness of the prevalence of asthma while at the same time raising needed funds to help sustain the IVCAP grant-funded program.

*Honoring Organization: ECRMC Foundation*
Jeff Green, Distinguished Volunteer

Jeff Green has been the Brawley Community Foundation’s (BCF) construction superintendent on the Brawley Playhouse Theatre Project. Jeff has given unselfishly of his time and resources in helping cure a long-time eyesore in Brawley’s downtown. Jeff oversaw the renovation of the front exterior of the theater building, and on his own time and at his own expense, he has maintained the theatre. He has also worked tirelessly to get engineering drawings and plans for the rehabilitation of the structure.

In addition to his work with BCF, Jeff is a long-time member of De Anza Search & Rescue. As a volunteer for that organization, he has devoted thousands of hours towards search and rescue activities in Imperial County. When Jeff saw the opportunity to take on a major renovation project in Brawley’s blighted downtown area, he was immediately on board and planning for the rehabilitation of theatre. This project is expected to be part of the renaissance of Brawley’s downtown and the centerpiece of the arts district.

While Jeff is paid for construction activities, his gift of his expertise in developing building plans, renderings, and engineering drawings is done at no cost to the Brawley Community Foundation. Also, his time and his out-of-pocket expense in maintaining the theatre is done at no cost to BCF.

Honoring Organization: Brawley Community Foundation

Emma Jones, Distinguished Volunteer

Emma Jones was born in Inglewood, CA and raised in the Elsinore and Hemet area as the youngest of seven children. She graduated from Brigham Young University with a B.S. degree in Physical Education and commenced teaching at Central Union High School where she taught and coached for 31 years. She earned her M.S. degree in Physical Education also from BYU in 1972. After earning her Administrative Credential at University of Redlands, she became an Assistant Principal of Curriculum and Scheduling at Central Union High School (CUHS) and also served ten years as the ASB Director. In 1996, she was asked to move to Southwest High School and served as the Assistant Principal. After serving three years at SHS, she moved back to CUHS and ended the last ten years of her career as the Principal. Adding four years as a Trustee, she has a total of 47 years as a part of the Central Union High School District, and was recently re-elected to serve another term as a member of the CUHSD School Board.

She is a past president and active member of the El Centro Rotary Club. She currently serves on the scholarship committee, Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) committee, and as publisher and primary photographer of the club’s weekly “Round Up” newsletter. She has been a presenter at numerous conferences including the National Staff Development Conference, The Best Practices Conference, and webinar presenter for Closing The Achievement Gap. Over the years, she has received various awards and recognitions like the ACSA Region 18 (Imperial/San Diego County) Co-Administrator of the Year and the California Distinguished School Award. In 2010 following the Easter earthquakes, she was involved in the creation of the Imperial Valley Disaster Recovery Team and she has since served on the advisory committee for the Imperial Valley Community Foundation’s Imperial Valley Regional Disaster Fund. She also received the honor of having the CUHS softball field officially named The Emma Jones Field in 2008.

Honoring Organization: Rotary Club of El Centro

Carla Kuhns, Distinguished Volunteer

For over twenty years Carla Kuhns has graciously and unselfishly given her time, talent, and treasures to improve the quality of life of individuals and organizations in Imperial Valley. She currently serves on the Board of Directors and as treasurer for Ballington Academy for the Arts and Sciences, a K-6 Charter School in El Centro. She also serves on the board of the El Centro Chamber of Commerce and is chair of the Ambassadors Committee. She is a past president of Soroptimist International, volunteers with the Humane Society of Imperial County, and is a member of the Imperial Valley Breakfast Rotary Club. She also participates in the Imperial Valley Community Foundation’s Professional Advisors Network forums and roundtables on charitable giving.

She mentors and provides guidance for other young financial professionals, and volunteers her time to help strengthen the El Centro Chamber of Commerce and the Imperial Valley Small Business Development Center. Her generous financial contributions are done very quietly, but always with the intent to be meaningful and to have lasting impact. She has helped the Southwest Varsity Cheer to travel to their national competition, invested in several local scholarship funds that provide assistance to college-bound Imperial Valley students, underwritten special initiatives at Ballington Academy, and provided supplies and materials to the Humane Society.

She has more than twenty years in private industry in accounting positions covering various global industries, and is well-versed in U.S. and International financial practices. She is a partner with the financial services firm Hutchinson & Bloodgood, LLP. She is a member of the California Society of CPA’s, American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, and a graduate of San Diego State University.

Honoring Organization: Ballington Academy for the Arts & Sciences
Kelly Lugenbeel-Barrios, Distinguished Volunteer

A graduate of Imperial High and Imperial Valley College, Kelly Lugenbeel-Barrios is now attending San Diego State University’s main campus where she serves as a Student Ambassador.

Kelly served as a Student Ambassador at Imperial Valley College for her two years there, and was a key influence in the program’s growth these past few years. As a Student Ambassador, Kelly took the initiative to develop a student coordinator position which organized all of IVC’s elementary tours on campus. Over 2,000 students participated in the tour program this past year that was led by Kelly on behalf of the college. As a Student Ambassador for IVC, Kelly also volunteered over 200 hours helping the college and specifically the IVC Foundation. While coordinating the elementary tours was a major focus, Kelly also volunteered to assist at every reception for the IVC Foundation. Additionally, Kelly was the top volunteer during the college’s “Annual Fund” campaign.

Kelly graduated this past spring from IVC with honors, but not before she organized a fundraiser for the Humane Society of Imperial County. An avid animal lover, Kelly organized an art-sale with all of the proceeds going to assist the local shelter. Recently married, Kelly lives in San Diego and is majoring in Business Administration at SDSU. and plans to work in the health care industry upon graduation.

Honoring Organization: Imperial Valley College Foundation

Blake Lindon Miles, Distinguished Volunteer

Blake Miles has been a Scouter all of his life. He earned the Eagle Scout Award as a youth, and has since served as scoutmaster, troop committee chairman, merit badge counselor, unit commissioner, district commissioner, district chairman - all volunteer positions, as well as a professional tenure for the organization as the district executive. He has volunteered at the unit level (cub scout pack, boy scout troop, etc.), district level (serving the communities of Imperial Valley), and on the council level (serving Imperial and San Diego counties) as a member of the board of directors.

He has been to countless summer camps and attended hundreds of weekend campouts with the scouts. He has worn out more than a few personal vehicles hauling scouts and equipment all over Southern California. And, without fail, he devotes his vacation time year after year to assist with scouting events and trips.

He has spent his entire adult life encouraging, supporting and developing scouts into young men of character driven for a life of good citizenship, community, leadership and service - prepared for the life and opportunities ahead of them. His enthusiasm and mentoring have not only made impacts on the lives of the youth he has served, but also on their families and friends. For his volunteer service to Scouting, Blake Miles has been awarded the District Award of Merit and the Silver Beaver Award, the highest awards that districts and councils can present to volunteers.

In addition to Scouting, he has always given to the Imperial Valley. He volunteers in his Church, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, working with adults and youth. He currently serves as chairman of the Imperial County Republican Central Committee, and is heavily involved with efforts to save the Salton Sea.

He and his sweetheart Alma have raised five children in the Imperial Valley. Both of his boys, of course, are Eagle Scouts.

Honoring Organization: Desert Trails District, San Diego - Imperial Council, Boy Scouts of America

Gregory S. Smith, Distinguished Volunteer

Greg Smith, together with his wife Michele and their family, has been active in supporting many of the community’s important organizations. Born and raised in Brawley, CA, Greg Smith joined the family business, Smith-Kandal Insurance & Real Estate, in 1983, of which he is a partner and owner.

He has been an active member in several civic organizations, and he has either chaired or served as president of the Brawley Chamber of Commerce, Brawley Economic Development Commission, Brawley Rotary Club, Pioneers Memorial Hospital Foundation, Brawley Community Foundation, Imperial County Historical Society, Imperial Valley Joint Chambers of Commerce, Imperial County Board of Realtors, First Foundation Bank Advisory Board, and the Brawley & El Centro Chambers of Commerce Regional Governmental Affairs Committee. Additionally, he is a member of the Brawley Elks Lodge, Stockmen’s Club of Imperial Valley, and board member of the Desert Valley Builders Association.

Greg was recognized as a “Man of Distinction” by Valley Women Magazine in 2008, and was given the Branding Iron Award by the Brawley Chamber of Commerce this past June.

Greg served as chairman of the Imperial Valley Community Foundation from 2007-2010 during the organization’s revitalization, and he continues to serve on the foundation’s executive, finance and governance committees. He has been instrumental in the emergence and growth of the foundation. And, his leadership and generous personal support of the foundation’s mission and development are greatly appreciated.

Honoring Organization: Imperial Valley Community Foundation
Dr. Ron Stillman, Distinguished Volunteer

Brawley Elks Lodge #1420 is proud to honor Dr. Ron Stillman as a Distinguished Volunteer. The professional and caring manner in which he conducts himself in all aspects of his selfless dedication exemplifies the cardinal principles of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks: Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love, and Fidelity.

Ron has held many positions at the local level including Exalted Ruler, the highest position at the local level. Over the years Ron has led the scholarship committee for more than ten years. His work has helped many local students with needed funds to further their college and higher education goals.

Dr. Ron Stillman has been recognized for his great works and leadership as State Vice President of the California-Hawaii Elks Association, and as District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler of the district spanning Riverside and Imperial counties. He has been a strong advocate to recognize and thank our US veterans, and to help ensure that our youth are healthy, drug-free and given every opportunity to succeed in life. He has also been a member of the Brawley Library Commission.

Honoring Organization: Benevolent & Protective Order of Elks (BPOE) Brawley Lodge #1420

Teri Woelke, Distinguished Volunteer

Teri Woelke gives tirelessly of herself to benefit both the Calipatria Meyer Memorial Library branch and the City of Calipatria. She spends many hours helping physically, runs the “Friends” group, always has a can-do, “what can we do to help” attitude, and remains cheerful - even when things go awry. She is also part of the group that creates floats for local city events, assists with St. Patrick’s Church, and provides a helping hand when needed in the community.

Under her leadership, the Friends provide a gift “book subscription” for the branch and fund items like repairs that neither the library nor the city can afford. Her efforts to fundraise allow the library to offer activities for children that they might not otherwise be able to do. She has participated off and on in the Calipatria Chamber of Commerce, and she sees that the children are productively engaged.

Through the library she has assisted the children of the community in ways that are beyond measure, but will certainly have positive lasting impacts on the children who benefit from her thoughtful kindness. She creates Christmas trees for raffles, catalogs materials for the branch as a volunteer, helps with children’s programs, and sells popcorn to benefit the library.

Honoring Organization: Imperial County Free Library

“I will continue to distribute blankets, sleeping bags, warm clothing and food on a regular basis, in the hope that my modest efforts will give some comfort to those people we are able to help.”
- Mohamed Al-Fayed

“If you can't feed a hundred people, then feed just one.”
- Mother Teresa

“Not only must we be good, but we must also be good for something.”
- Henry David Thoreau

“If you think you are too small to be effective, you have never been in bed with a mosquito.”
- Betty Reese
“One of the great movements in my lifetime among educated people is the need to commit themselves to action. Most people are not satisfied with giving money; we also feel we need to work.”
  - Peter Drucker

“The first question which the priest and the Levite asked was: "If I stop to help this man, what will happen to me?" But... the good Samaritan reversed the question: "If I do not stop to help this man, what will happen to him?" - Martin Luther King, Jr.

“The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.”
  - Mahatma Gandhi

“Do not let what you cannot do interfere with what you can do.”
  - John Wooden

“If you want to touch the past, touch a rock. If you want to touch the present, touch a flower. If you want to touch the future, touch a life.” - Anonymous

"Only a life lived for others is a life worthwhile."
  - Albert Einstein
Dr. Hope Davis, Distinguished Philanthropist

Arriving to Imperial Valley in August of 2006 to teach music at Imperial Valley College, Dr. Hope Davis is the IVC Foundation’s Distinguished Philanthropist. Personally sponsoring now three different scholarships at IVC, Dr. Davis’ passion for education is matched only by her rich background and education. A native of Jamaica, Dr. Davis studied music at the University of Wyoming, the University of Southern Mississippi, L'Instut Catholoique de Musique de Paris (France) and Louisiana State University.

In addition to her teaching, Dr. Davis is also the director of the IVC Choir which presents several performances in the community each year. She is also the music director at the First United Methodist Church in El Centro.

When asked, Dr. Davis responded that her motivation for initiating the various scholarships at IVC was to “heighten the importance of performing arts, and to let the dedicated students in those disciplines know that we respect their passion, talent and discipline.”

Additionally, Dr. Davis expressed her desire to be able to take IVC students to top performances in larger metropolitan areas such as San Diego and Los Angeles. “Our students LOVE to travel, and when they are exposed to performances of great artists it makes my job easier. After those trips they believe me when I tell them about choral/vocal techniques that require practice and mastery” commented Davis.

Honoring Organization: Imperial Valley College Foundation

Employees of Pioneers Memorial Healthcare District, Distinguished Philanthropist

Pioneers Memorial Healthcare District has an optional employee payroll deduction plan that allows their employees to give every pay period to PMH Foundation. Approximately two hundred employees are enrolled in the program, and their giving represents one of the biggest sources of financial support for the foundation.

In addition to their financial support, the employees of PMHD are also one of their biggest sources for volunteers at the Fall Gala and the Golf Tournament. At each event they provide at least twenty volunteers to do all kinds of jobs.

Without the time and treasures of PMHD employees, PMH Foundation would be limited in its ability to raise funds for capital projects at the hospital. Because of their efforts, they have been able to provide fetal heart monitoring equipment for their OB department and C-arm X-Ray imaging equipment for their surgical department. The participation of PMHD employees is key to the success of PMH Foundation.

There are over two hundred participants in the payroll deduction plan out of seven hundred full-time equivalent employees. At fundraising events, there are consistently twenty to thirty volunteers.

Honoring Organization: Pioneers Memorial Hospital Foundation

Friends of the Holtville Library, Distinguished Philanthropist

The Holtville Friends both raise funds and promote library activities. Their donations made possible the crafts/activities/snacks and prizes for the branch summer reading program. They generously worked with the Imperial County Free Library and with the City of Holtville to improve the bathrooms and obtain better flooring for the branch. They donate books, staff activities such as the “Dia de los Ninos” program (150 in attendance), and open their hands and hearts to whatever is requested.

These are folks who also represent the library with the city, and participate in connecting the branch with other organizations, form the Boosters for the schools to the Girl Scouts.

In many ways, the library has acted as the community center for Holtville, providing activities and programming for all age groups, from newborns to those wishing adult literacy assistance or to learn crafts. In the summer, the library program is often one of the very limited opportunities for children in the area. Support from the Friends helps make much of this possible. They painted the children’s area in the branch, and see that it has age-appropriate toys. They bring the library out to community activities, such as the Carrot Festival. They have also helped with the special and successful “Citizenship Classes."

They have been honored by the City of Holtville because of how they contribute to the community, and they are now being recognized at Imperial Valley’s National Philanthropy Day®.

Honoring Organization: Imperial County Free Library

“THE TWO MOST IMPORTANT DAYS IN YOUR LIFE ARE THE DAY YOU ARE BORN AND THE DAY YOU FIND OUT WHY.”

- MARK TWAIN
Susan Giller, Distinguished Philanthropist

Sue Giller has demonstrated her commitment and dedication to Imperial Valley through her support, leadership and guidance of many local organizations including: the Brawley Chamber of Commerce, Rotary Club of El Centro, Imperial Valley Economic Development Corporation (IVEDC), Imperial Valley Community Foundation, and the Boys & Girls Clubs of Imperial Valley.

Beyond her civic-mindedness, she has a keen interest in promoting the prosperity and quality of life for Imperial Valley residents. She has served on the IVEDC’s planning committee for the Imperial Valley Renewable Energy Summit. Her marketing and communications expertise has been vital in the promotion of the far-reaching and important summit.

Sue Giller understands that the need in Imperial Valley is great, but does not shy away from a challenge. She works proactively with IVEDC to promote Imperial Valley’s existing and burgeoning opportunities through the development, writing and editing of the award-winning annual magazine “Abundant Opportunities.”

She is a past president and current board member of the Brawley Chamber of Commerce. She also is a member of the Rotary Club of El Centro. She was on the executive committee of the Imperial Valley United for the Joint Strike Fighter, which lobbied and campaigned to get the new Navy flight squadron stationed at Naval Air Facility - El Centro. And, she is a past president and board member of the Imperial Valley Joint Chambers of Commerce.

Honoring Organization: IVEDC

Robert Perez, Distinguished Philanthropist

Robert Perez has been a long-time advocate of improving the lives of individuals living within the Imperial County, especially at-risk children. His financial support to Court Appointed Special Advocates of Imperial County (CASA) for the past three years is well documented and demonstrated.

Robert is relentless when it comes to helping foster children in our community. He has helped raise over forty thousand dollars within the last three years through the UPS Foundation and local fundraising events to improve the educational and health outcomes of foster children in the Imperial Valley.

Along with supporting CASA, Robert Perez has helped United Way of Imperial County with numerous fundraising events in support of improving the livelihoods of the underserved. Robert Perez is currently a board member with CASA and is employed by United Parcel Service Supply Chain Services as their Operations Manager.

Honoring Organization: CASA of Imperial County

Rabobank, Distinguished Philanthropist

Rabobank has been a major supporter of a number of causes and organizations in Imperial Valley, continuing the community culture and commitment of their predecessor, Valley Independent Bank. The bank has repeatedly exceeded the institution’s obligation to support the community through Community Reinvestment Act requirements, and altruistically gives direct financial support and leadership to a number of local organizations and events that altogether make the Imperial Valley a better place to live.

They have invested in the missions and given leadership to the following local organizations: Imperial Valley Joint Chambers of Commerce and the individual Chambers of Commerce, CASA, Imperial Valley Economic Development Corporation, California Mid-Winter Fair & Fiesta, El Centro Police Activities League, SCORE - Imperial Valley, PMH Foundation, MANA of Imperial Valley, Imperial Valley Vegetable Growers Association, Imperial Valley College, ICOE P-16 Council/College Going Initiative, DOVES, Boy Scouts of America, Center for Family Solutions, Jr. Livestock Foundation, Imperial County Farm Bureau, Imperial Valley Community Foundation, Imperial County Film Commission, City of El Centro Imagine Awards, the ECRMC Foundation - and many more.

Since 2008, the bank has been a tremendous benefactor of the Imperial Valley Community Foundation. Their significant and generous investments in the community foundation during its revitalization were crucial and especially meaningful to allow the foundation to develop its infrastructure, hire staff, secure long-term office-space and a visible presence at the Rabobank building in El Centro, obtain matching funds from private funders to grow the organization, develop grant-making programs, and to support IVCF’s engagement and work with families and businesses to establish charitable funds at the Imperial Valley Community Foundation benefiting local organizations and strengthening the capacity of Imperial Valley’s nonprofits.

The bank was also instrumental in the creation of a collaborative effort to bring together Imperial Valley’s deposit-holding financial institutions through the “Financial Institutions Fund” at IVCF under the leadership of then-Regional President Dave Takata, who also served as chairman of the Imperial Valley Community Foundation, and current Executive Vice President Keith Goff.

Honoring Organization: Imperial Valley Community Foundation
Les Rogers, Distinguished Philanthropist

Les Rogers was born and raised in El Centro. He is a third-generation automobile dealer and the president of Rogers & Rogers, Inc. Within his auto group, Les is a dealer for: Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep, Nissan, Toyota and Scion. He has earned several industry awards for excellence and tenure, and is very dedicated to the community and Valley he grew up in.

He is a longtime member of the El Centro Rotary Club, and a supporter of numerous business, educational and youth-related causes throughout the Imperial Valley including, but not limited to: Autism Support of Imperial County, Desert Cruisers Car Club, Imperial Market Days, Imperial Valley Community Foundation, American Cancer Society’s Relay for Life, CHARLEE Family Care, Southwest Academy for the Visual & Performing Arts (SAVAPA), Imperial Valley Desert Museum, and the Boys & Girls Clubs of Imperial Valley.

Les enjoys fast cars, golf, and making his community a better place. Since opening a club site in El Centro, he has been highly supportive of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Imperial Valley - allowing the program to reach and serve hundreds of local youth with a safe place to have fun, learn, make friends, and grow.

Honoring Organization: Boys & Girls Clubs of Imperial Valley

Clyde Shields, Distinguished Philanthropist

Clyde Shields is a graduate from the University of Arizona with a degree in agriculture and engineering, and is a veteran of the Korean War where he served as an Officer in the United States Air Force. He is an Entomological Society of America Board Certified Entomologist and a member of the local CAPCA organization, serving on the board several times and on the California Board as Vice President. He is involved in entomological service, farming and real estate in the Imperial Valley. After twelve years with Chevron Chemical and Stoker Co., he began his own entomological consulting business in Brawley, Clyde Shields Entomological Service, Inc. in 1967. He also operates Shields Ranches, a farming operation, with his son Jon.

He has previously served as the president of the Brawley Rotary Club, Imperial Valley School Board Association, Imperial Valley Arts Council, and as president (chairman) of the Imperial Valley Community Foundation during its early years. He is a charter member of the Calipatria Chamber of Commerce, multiple term president of the Sacred Heart Development Fund, and is a director emeritus of the Imperial Valley Community Foundation. He served for twelve years on the Brawley Union High School Board, was a charter member of the Brawly Economic Development Commission, founding president of Brawley Beautification, Inc., past chairman of the Brawley Airport Commission, past president of the Imperial County Arts Council, past “Century Club” member of the Boy Scouts of America, and has been a director and organizer of Community Valley Bank since its start in 2007.

He has been a pilot for over fifty years, is an accomplished skier - havingskied over one million vertical feet, and was named to the Arizona All-State football team while attending Yuma High School. He is a longtime season ticket holder and fan of the San Diego Padres, and he enjoys hunting, fishing, and Zumba - something he has enjoyed since participating as a celebrity dance contestant for IVROP’s Dancing with the Stars.

He was awarded the Branding Iron Award by the Brawley Chamber of Commerce, and the Outstanding Contribution to Agriculture Award from the Desert Valleys Chapter of the CAPCA. And, he has been acknowledged in industry magazines for his expertise and contributions to the field.

Clyde Shields has been a member of the Brawley Elks Lodge for 53 years. For his exceptionally generous community support, service, and leadership - the Brawley Elks are recognizing him as a Distinguished Philanthropist.

Honoring Organization: Benevolent & Protective Order of Elks (BPOE) Brawley Lodge #1420

Harry & Jo Ann Weissman, Distinguished Philanthropists

Harry and Jo Ann Weissman are a caring and philanthropic couple. They are consistent in their labor and gifts to institutions they feel most embody their shared belief in a strong and healthy community.

The Weissmans continue to be true advocates for the well-being of Imperial Valley and its families. Their commitment to a wide range of social welfare causes, besides the Imperial Valley Food Bank include the Humane Society, Cancer Resource Center of the Desert, Wounded Warriors Project, Rady’s Children’s Hospital, the Salvation Army, and many others.

The Weissmans were instrumental in bringing the work of the Ronald McDonald House to the conscience of the Imperial Valley. Many organizations are better because of their care.

Harry and Jo Ann Weissman have been consistent and generous donors to the Imperial Valley Food Bank and its programs, and their investments in aiding the food insecure families of Imperial Valley are deeply appreciated.

Honoring Organization: Imperial Valley Food Bank
2013 HONOREES

Lifetime Achievement Award
Norman A. Lassey

Distinguished Philanthropist Award
Don Brock
Debbie Cameron
Phil & Elise Heald
Gordon & Jeannie Jongeward
Charlene Marriner
James Roach, MD
Ron & Linda Rubin
Joe Montenegro &
Southern California Gas Company
Jack & Joan Tyler

Distinguished Volunteer Award
Bob Barros
Marselle Cooke
Jose Cuellar
Cynthia Delvalle
Stephen Fairbanks
Erik Freeman
John Glaser
Patty McGrew
Nancie Rhodes
Tom Topuzes
Lori Young
Evelyn Zinn

"Think of giving not only as a duty but as a privilege."
- John D. Rockefeller
First Imperial Credit Union,  
Philanthropic Corporation of the Year

First Imperial Credit Union believes in giving back to the community. They feel it is their duty to do what they can to support organizations in need and especially those that directly help the residents of Imperial Valley. FICU donates to charities and events of all sizes. They ask for nothing in return from the organizations they are donating to and in most cases, the charities selected have had a direct impact on the lives of some of their employees. Their staff also participates in community events to raise money such as the Cancer Resource Center of the Desert Walk and Red Shoe Day. Donating and participating in community events has become a culture at FICU and something their employees take pride in.

FICU believes that by selecting a different charity each month, they are able to extend their impact and relationships to new organizations, and ultimately serve more communities. They select organizations that serve the entire Imperial Valley, and those that might be under the radar and/or emerging. By donating to organizations in need, they know that the funds will help these organizations continue to do the great work they do. Staff is involved with selecting the charity and in fundraising. The credit union then matches the amount collected for the total donation. In addition, FICU also invests in the community events through sponsorships and direct financial support.

Some of the organizations they have contributed to include: the Burn Institute, Imperial Valley Food Bank, El Centro Kiwanis, MANA, El Centro Police Activities League, Cancer Resource Center of the Desert, Sure Helpline, Imperial Valley College Foundation, Autism Support of Imperial County, San Diego State University Foundation, Court Appointed Special Advocates of Imperial County, Womanhaven, Betty Jo McNeece Receiving Home, Calexico Neighborhood House, the Salvation Army, Imperial Valley Community Foundation, and many more.

The staff at FICU takes pride in the fact that a large portion of the donations they collect come directly from the employees and their members. Their staff also uses social media to promote the “Charity of the Month” and any events they are sponsoring and/or participating in. In addition, they have recently begun offering free seminars designed to improve the financial well-being of the community on topics such as credit-repair and financial literacy.

Their leadership team is on the board and/or volunteers for the following organizations: Imperial County Office of Education P-16 Council/College Going Initiative, Imperial Valley Breakfast Rotary Club, El Centro Police Activities League, Imperial Valley College Foundation, Imperial Valley Community Foundation, El Centro Kiwanis Club, Dogwood 4-H Club, Los Vigilantes, Calexico Chamber of Commerce, Imperial Chamber of Commerce, and the Imperial Valley Young Professionals Organization.

Please join us in expressing our thanks and congratulations to First Imperial Credit Union as the 2014 NPD® Philanthropic Corporation of the Year Award recipient.

“Those who are happiest, are those who do the most for others.”
- Booker T. Washington

“Nothing, in my opinion, is more deserving of our attention than the intellectual and moral associations of America.” - Alexis de Tocqueville

“No person was ever honored for what he received. Honor has been the reward for what he gave.”
- Calvin Coolidge
Betty Jo McNeece, Spirit of Philanthropy (Volunteer of the Year)

Betty Jo McNeece is a true Imperial Valley native. She attended elementary school in Calexico, middle school in Imperial, and she graduated from Central Union High School in El Centro.

Having grown up driving tractors and no stranger to hard work, it is no surprise - although not generally known - that she would later become a “woman farmer,” with farming interests consisting of alfalfa, sugar beets, wheat, and a small cow calf operation. She shared her agriculture knowledge and experience as a 4-H leader for the lamb and steer programs, as well as her talents as a leader for sewing and cooking. And, she also volunteered as a judge at the fair for about ten years.

It was while volunteering with a self-esteem program for young ladies at juvenile hall that she entered into volunteer work at the facility which would later be named in her honor. With the support of her family, her good friend Betty Young, then-Chief Probation Officer Gilbert Otero, and the support of the community - she renovated and transformed a dreary 15 bed facility into a 30 bed home, where vulnerable youth felt accepted, encouraged and able to thrive in a safe environment, learned compassion, values, and life skills to help them lead normal lives, and to overcome the challenges that they had been dealt so early in life. Her time spent working with youth and the receiving home was always done in a volunteer capacity, and she feels blessed and fortunate to have been in a position to serve, and is grateful for the community’s support.

She volunteered at her children’s school, sang in the choir at St. Mary’s Church, and was a charter member of Donors of Valley Endeavors (DOVES). The family was involved with Lion’s Club service projects of which Mr. McNeece is a member, and their children learned strong work ethics on the family’s ranch. In recent years, she helped the Imperial Valley Community Foundation launch a four-year youth grants program as a member of the grants committee. And, just a couple of years ago she indulged her youngest grandson on his 18th birthday when he asked her to go skydiving with him.

In a 2012 Valley Women magazine article featuring Betty Jo McNeece and Betty Young, she was quoted as saying “There is nothing more important than volunteerism. I wish more young people would do it.” Please join us in thanking and honoring Mrs. Betty Jo McNeece as the recipient of the “Spirit of Philanthropy” (Volunteer of the Year) Award.

Betty Young, Philanthropist of the Year

Betty Young is a living legacy of philanthropy. Over the years, she and her husband, the late W.E. “Bill” Young, Jr., made charitable giving a priority for them and their family. Together they put Calipatria high on the list, but always continued to extend their generosity to so many of the Imperial Valley’s deserving and special nonprofits and organizations.

Betty Young has been a tremendous supporter of Calipatria’s youth since 1946, and an auction buyer of Calipatria FFA and 4-H Livestock at the California Mid-Winter Fair for over fifty years. In 2001, she was honored by the Fair Board for her continued and extensive support. She has consistently invested in education including Bill E. Young, Jr. Middle School, which was dedicated to her husband in 1999. She restored and donated a 1930 Ford Model A car to Calipatria High School which is used at games and parades to symbolize “Hornet Pride!” She was involved in helping to raise funds for the “tallest flagpole in the western hemisphere” in Calipatria, as well as being extremely generous through the donation of books and direct support for building additions at the Calipatria Library. She has been a longtime supporter of the Calipatria Fire Department, and proudly volunteered at the Calipatria polling precinct for many years.

She has donated many hours as well as funds for the betterment and welfare of our Valley’s less fortunate families and children. She was a significant driving force in making the Betty Jo McNeece Receiving Home a reality, and it was only appropriate that the educational facility at the Betty Jo McNeece Receiving Home be dedicated in her honor – the Betty Young School. She has also volunteered extensively with Las Vecinas in Calexico, and helped to start Volunteers in Probation (VIP), a nonprofit in El Centro. She served on the board of the Pioneers Memorial Healthcare District, and helped approve the establishment of the PMH Foundation, which started the process to raise funds for a much needed Intensive Care Unit at PMH. She served as a Cub Scout Den Mother, as an officer and member of P.E.O., was involved with California Women for Agriculture and Republican Women. She is a supporter of Children’s Home Society, DOVES, Ebells (Educational Club), and a member of the Episcopal Church.

Please join us in celebrating and recognizing Mrs. Betty Young as the 2014 NPD® Philanthropist of the Year Award recipient.
Jack & Joan Tyler have always believed in the importance of giving back to the community. As longtime residents of the Imperial Valley, both Mr. & Mrs. Tyler have enjoyed success in their professional lives and personal rewards through their volunteer service and philanthropic work, which they still take part in today.

After graduating from San Jose State University with a BA in Insurance and Real Estate, Jack Tyler returned home to El Centro in 1957 and joined the family insurance brokerage firm started by his father in 1921. Mr. Tyler retired as owner and president of Tyler Insurance Agency, which is now run by his sons, Allen and David Tyler. He is a past president of the El Centro Chamber of Commerce, the El Centro Rotary Club, and ARC of Imperial Valley. He also wrote a book about the history of Imperial Valley’s schools, which the former Imperial County Superintendent of Schools, John Anderson, had published for all of the County’s school libraries, and is now available at the Pioneers Museum gift shop for local historians and visitors to enjoy. While his sons were growing up, he also served as Scoutmaster for Boy Scout Troop 76 in El Centro, CA, which his youngest son David and grandson Ben are both members of today.

Joan Tyler moved to the Imperial Valley from Escondido, CA in 1965. Mrs. Tyler was the first female CPA in Imperial Valley, a distinction she held for ten years before other women entered the field with advanced designations locally. She was a founder of the accountancy firm Swain & Kennerson, which she has recently retired from after an esteemed and fulfilling career. She is a past president of the El Centro Soroptimist Club, and she served on the board of directors of the United Way of Imperial County for more than twenty years. While on the board of the United Way, her tenure included terms as president and as treasurer, respectively.

The Tylers have been involved with the Imperial Valley Community Foundation since its revitalization in 2007, and their generous support has provided the foundation with important resources to grow lasting assets and services that will benefit the Imperial Valley for generations to come. Mr. Tyler has been on the Board of Directors of the Imperial Valley Community Foundation since 2008, and he served as its treasurer from 2009 to 2012. He also served on the grants committee for the foundation’s youth grants program for four years, three as chairman, during which he was instrumental in the strategic awarding of $70,000 in grants benefitting local youth-serving organizations, and continues to serve on the grants committee for the foundation in its most recent and current grant cycles. Mr. Tyler also cheerfully helped to renovate IVCF’s current office when operations moved there in 2010. Mrs. Tyler has helped promote the foundation’s Professional Advisors Network gatherings and roundtables to financial, legal and real estate professionals.

The Tylers are a very gracious family, who seek no recognition for their good deeds and thoughtful gestures. Both Jack and Joan Tyler made it priorities of their businesses and in their personal lives to give back to the community that has meant so much to each of them. And, in 2009 they established the Tyler Family Charitable Trust, a charitable donor advised fund held at the Imperial Valley Community Foundation as a way to fulfill their philanthropic goals and to engage their family in philanthropy to benefit the Imperial Valley and the causes dear to them.

Please join us in congratulating and paying tribute to Mr. & Mrs. Jack Tyler as the recipients of the 2014 NPD® Lifetime Achievement Award.
The Imperial Valley Community Foundation makes giving easy.

Whether you are a family that wants to set up a donor advised fund to benefit your favorite charities, or you are a nonprofit that wants to start an endowment to increase your donors’ confidence and help sustain your organization well into the future - we can help.

For more information on the ways we can partner together to improve the quality of life in Imperial Valley, and to preserve your legacy, please call us at (760) 336-0055, or visit www.ivcommunityfoundation.org.

Bobby Brock
President/CEO
bobby@ivcommunityfoundation.org

Connor Smith
Civic Engagement Coordinator
connor@ivcommunityfoundation.org

A GREAT PLACE TO LEAVE A LEGACY

Congratulations to all of the National Philanthropy Day® honorees. Thank you for making a difference, and for doing your part to make our communities happier, healthier, safer and stronger.