National Philanthropy Day®
Empowering communities

What helps make a strong community? Educational and professional opportunities, help for those in need, and the responsible use of technology.

Because empowering your community is what drives us, we proudly support the efforts of the Imperial Valley Community Foundation to develop creative solutions to meet critical community needs.

AT&T applauds today's honorees for their contributions to the Imperial Valley.
National Philanthropy Day®

2018 NPD® HONOREES

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT
Ed & Patty McGrew

PHILANTHROPISTS OF THE YEAR
Craig & Vicki Elmore

SPIRIT OF PHILANTHROPY
(VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR)
Donna Grizzle

PHILANTHROPIC CORPORATION OF THE YEAR
El Toro Export, LLC

DISTINGUISHED PHILANTHROPISTS
Shelvie & Ann Crittendon
John & Cathy Kennerson
Maria de Lourdes “Lulu” Castro

DISTINGUISHED VOLUNTEERS
Cliff Caldwell
Abraham Rubalcava
Barbara Deol
Sheriann Hess
Robert Trimm
Paul & Kim Hamby
Adrienne Dymond
Schedule of Events

WELCOME
Aaron Popejoy, Chairman
Imperial Valley Community Foundation
&
Anne Irigoyen, Master of Ceremonies

INVOCATION
Wayne Harvie, President
Congregation Beth Jacob

LUNCH

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

KEYNOTE SPEAKER
Nancy Jamison, President/CEO
San Diego Grantmakers

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

CLOSING

“If you want happiness for a year, inherit a fortune.
If you want happiness for a lifetime, help someone else.”
- Confucius
KEYNOTE SPEAKER

NANCY JAMISON
President & CEO
San Diego Grantmakers

Nancy has led San Diego Grantmakers since 2005, overseeing the organization’s growth in membership and service offerings, particularly around learning and networking opportunities and the facilitation of funder collaboration. This has increased the organization’s prominence in both local and national philanthropic communities, and Nancy often speaks to audiences about the power and practice of strategic philanthropy.

Prior to joining SDG, Nancy was a senior consultant for TrustWorks Group, a leading San Diego firm providing strategic planning, leadership and team development for nonprofits, associations and corporations. She was a co-creator of the TrustWorks training programs on how to build trust in the workplace, now marketed by the Ken Blanchard Companies and the basis for the book Trust Works! Four Keys to Building Lasting Relationships.

Nancy was a Vice President at Wells Fargo Bank, where she worked in a variety of positions over 10 years, including branch manager, marketing, advertising and employee training.

Nancy has past served as a board member for the Children’s Hospital Auxiliary, National Charity League, San Dieguito Academy Foundation, Canyon Crest Academy Foundation, and the National Forum of Regional Associations of Grantmakers. And, in 2015 she chaired the Association of Fundraising Professionals’ San Diego National Philanthropy Day Honorary Committee.

Nancy was a recipient of the 2014 San Diego Business Journal’s Women Who Mean Business award and recognized in 2016 as one of San Diego’s 500 Influential Business Leaders. She earned a B.A. with Honors in Psychology from Stanford University.

- Thank you to our supporting organizations and sponsors -

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD SPONSOR

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AWARD SPONSORS

The Paul & Debbie Cameron Family

BENEFACTORS

Boy Scouts of America  Brawley Rotary Club
CASA of Imperial County  Imperial Valley Economic Development Corporation
Pioneers Memorial Hospital Foundation  Soroptimist International of El Centro
Tenaska Imperial South/Tenaska Imperial West

PATRONS

First Foundation Bank  Imperial Valley Cancer Support Center
Styles & Smiles  United Way of Imperial County

FRIENDS
El Toro Export, LLC is an industry leader in the handling, processing, and marketing of various agricultural commodities produced in Southern California and Oregon. With operations in the Imperial and Willamette Valleys, El Toro Export is well positioned to meet the needs of expanding international export markets as well as the U.S. domestic market.

Both the company and its principals are heavily committed to supporting local organizations and being engaged as advocates and industry leaders on various commissions, boards, and associations including the U.S. Forage Export Council, National Grain & Feeder Association, National Alfalfa & Forage Alliance, and the USDA Food & Ag Science summer program. El Toro Export has been a generous supporter to numbers organizations serving the Imperial Valley including, but not limited to: American Cancer Society, American Red Cross, Boy Scouts of America, Boys & Girls Clubs of Imperial Valley, Cancer Resource Center of the Desert, Imperial Valley Community Foundation, Imperial Valley Economic Development Corporation, Imperial Valley Food Bank, Imperial County Farm Bureau, Imperial County Office of Education, Imperial Valley Velo Club, and the Ronald McDonald House Charities.

El Toro Export’s corporate leadership regularly demonstrates a commitment to volunteerism and service through local service organizations, academic institutions, and trade associations.

Jeff Plourd, VP, is a past president of the Holtville Rotary Club, past president of the California Seed Association, past director of the California Crop Improvement Association, and vice president of the Imperial County Farm Bureau. He is an advisory committee member for the IVC Ag program, chairman of the National Hay Association’s International Market Development and Nominating committees, and a member of the IID’s Energy Consumers Advisory committee. And, his son Blake currently serves on the board of the California Grain & Feed Association.

Bill Plourd, President/CEO, is a past president of the El Centro Rotary Club, treasurer for the El Centro Rotary Foundation, board member of the El Centro Education Foundation, board director for the Coalition of Labor, Agriculture, and Business (COLAB), advisory board member for the SDSU Lavin Entrepreneurship Center, Fowler College of Business, and as a board member of the San Diego - Imperial District Export Council. He has also served as a director of the California Wheat Commission, director and president of the California Grain & Feed Association, and the co-founder, president, and co-chairman of the National Hay Association’s Export Processors Council.

We are proud to recognize El Toro Export, LLC as the 2018 Philanthropic Corporation of the Year.
SPIRIT OF PHILANTHROPY
(Volunteer of the Year)
Donna Grizzle

Donna has been a longtime volunteer of the Imperial County Historical Society and ICHS’s Pioneers Museum since 1989. She started as a member of the Building & Fundraising committee before the current museum was constructed. She served as the official hostess of the capital effort to help the various gallery groups raise money for their exhibits, including cultural events and dinners. She has organized, catered, and decorated countless dinners and auctions benefiting the museum over the years, as well as rolling up her sleeves on a regular basis to focus on her passion at the museum - the ag gallery. And, she even spent a year and a half as the office manager to handle the day to day operations, gardening, and curating while the museum recovered from its capital campaign and the museum’s construction to help the Historical Society replenish its coffers.

Donna also spent about 10 years on the board of the California Mid-Winter Fair & Fiesta, serving as its president for 3. During that time she volunteered building displays, cleaning buildings, doing landscaping and planting projects, coordinating youth and adult volunteer groups, and hosting appreciation events for the fairgrounds’ other volunteers.

Following her marriage to John Grizzle, another noteworthy local philanthropist, in 1984, Donna became involved as a board member and volunteer fundraiser for the Holtville United Methodist Church’s Wesley Day Care. She spent a decade organizing and cooking turkey dinner fundraisers to help raise money to subsidize the day care's operations and to help keep tuition low and affordable for families.

As a former sewing and foods teacher at Holtville High School, it was a natural fit for her to share her talents with the Holtville 4-H where she became the Community Leader and served in that capacity for about 15 years. She has made numerous deliveries and driven miles and miles to support the American Cancer Society’s daffodil fundraiser. She also volunteered with her children’s swim team as the chairman of the local club, and helped to schedule swim meets, concessions, and transporting swimmers everywhere around the Imperial Valley, Blythe, Mexicali, and San Diego.

Additionally, Donna is a volunteer with the American Sewing Guild and is a former board member of the Imperial Valley Community Foundation, helping to raise awareness for the foundation through her hosting talents and gracious hospitality.

It is our honor to celebrate and recognize Mrs. Donna Grizzle as the recipient of the 2018 Spirit of Philanthropy (Volunteer of the Year) award.
Craig & Vicki Elmore are a humble couple who find joy and satisfaction in their philanthropy because they believe that their gifts support and help meaningful organizations throughout the Imperial Valley.

Craig is the owner of Desert Sky Farms and Vicki is a retired Brawley elementary school teacher. Both Craig & Vicki attended the University of Southern California, and Vicki later earned her Master’s degree in Cross-cultural Teaching from National University.

Carrying on a long family tradition of community-mindedness and generosity, the Elmores have supported a wide array of organizations including the Boys & Girls Clubs of Imperial Valley, Pioneers Memorial Hospital Foundation, the First Presbyterian Church of Brawley, City of Brawley youth sports and academic programs, Imperial County 4-H, Imperial County FFA, Imperial Valley Food Bank, American Cancer Society, youth scholarship programs, Brawley Chamber of Commerce, Imperial Valley Community Foundation, and the Imperial County Historical Society.

They have also twice welcomed guests into their home as hosts of the Boy Scouts’ Holiday Home Tour, allowing their home to be showcased and toured as part of the organization’s annual winter fundraiser.

Most recently, the Boys & Girls Clubs of Imperial Valley presented them with the Eunice Fleming Award for extraordinary support to BGCIV. During the same evening that they were recognized for their support, they purchased the Brawley Cattle Call statue at the BGCIV dinner auction with the intent of donating it to the Stockman’s Club of Imperial Valley.

Craig currently serves as the chairman of Imperial Valley H2O and on the board of Imperial Valley Vegetable Growers Association. And, both Craig and Vicki are on the board of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Imperial Valley.

It is our pleasure to recognize Mr. & Mrs. Craig Elmore as the 2018 Philanthropists of the Year.
Ed & Patty McGrew met while attending Cal Poly San Luis Obispo in 1958, and wed in 1960. Ed graduated from Cal Poly with a Bachelor’s degree in Farm Management, and Patty finished her degree and teaching credentials at San Diego State’s Calexico campus. Together, Ed & Patty McGrew raised their three daughters (Margo, Cindy, and Jennifer) in Holtville, while remaining active with their diverse business endeavors and civic activities.

Patty served as a community leader for Imperial County’s 4-H program for 15 years, foods & nutrition leader for 20 years, and 25 years as clothing leader. She is a past board member and vice-chair of the Imperial Valley Community Foundation, and was instrumental in the organization’s revitalization beginning in 2007. She also helped to establish and raise funds for the Mary Harmon Scholarship Fund at IVCF as a celebratory gesture upon Mary Harmon’s retirement as Imperial County’s 4-H coordinator.

She served on the board of the California Mid-Winter Fair & Fiesta for 18 years, including 3 years as president during which she was a regular fixture in Sacramento advocating for the local fairgrounds. She is also member of the California Mid-Winter Fair Heritage Foundation, serves as a clothing judge for youth and adult entries at the fair. Additionally, she is the co-founder of the Inspiration Gallery at the fairgrounds, and raised over $24,000 to renovate and improve the gallery’s facilities to help showcase the talents, trades, and works of local students during the fair.

She is the co-founder of the Desert Sew and Sews (Imperial Valley branch) of the San Diego Chapter of the American Sewing Guild, where she served 4 years as chairman. Through ASG, she has helped with the making and donation of blankets for veterans, and tote bags with supplies and care products for kids at schools and hospitals.

Prior to immersing herself into her kids’ activities and business ventures with Ed, Patty was a home economics teacher at Holtville High School and substitute teacher at Central Union High School.

Ed McGrew served honorably in the U.S. Army California National Guard, and has continued to be a dedicated public servant throughout his life.

Ed is a past president of the El Centro Rotary Club, founder and past president of the Imperial Valley Vegetable Growers Association, and director of the Imperial Valley Food Bank. He is a past president of the El Centro Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Bureau, during which he started the annual “Snowbird Breakfast” and the Chamber’s monthly networking mixers. And, in 2014 he was recognized by the El Centro Chamber of Commerce with the William Duflock Business Leader award, and served as the Grand Marshall of the City’s Christmas parade that same year.

He was appointed by Gov. Pete Wilson to serve on the Board of the California Department of Food & Agriculture as the Southern Representative from 1992 - 1996, and was recognized by the USDA in its yearbook of Americans in Agriculture: Portraits of Diversity. As a young farmer he participated in the Outstanding Young Farmer of the Year program, served two terms on the Meadows Union and Holtville Unified School District boards, and was a member of the Centinela State Prison Citizens Advisory Committee. And, he served on the board of Valley Independent Bank for 25 years, and continues to serve on the local advisory committee for Rabobank.

The McGrews have pursued and enjoyed a number of successful business ventures including various farming and cattle feeding operations, the development and management of Rio Bend RV & Golf Resort for 25 years, and a wellness center complex in Calexico. Ed McGrew also spent some time as community relations director for U.S. Filter Corporation. Currently the couple both stay busy with their own projects including Patty running Heart & Hand Assisted Living Facility along with their youngest daughter, Jennifer, and Ed is the owner of RVMGMT, LLC and manages the Sunbeam Lake RV Resort.

The McGrews have previously been recognized by the City of Holtville as Holtville’s “Citizens of the Year,” but it is our pleasure to recognize and celebrate Mr. & Mrs. Ed McGrew as the recipients of the 2018 Lifetime Achievement Award for their lifetime of thoughtful and dedicated service to humanity and the betterment of Imperial Valley.
2017

Lifetime Achievement Award
George & Audrey McFaddin

Philanthropists of the Year
Jimmy Abatti & Deborah Owen

Spirit of Philanthropy
(Volunteer of the Year)
Bill Gates

Philanthropic Corporation of the Year
Rabobank

Distinguished Philanthropists
Jim Abatti & Deborah Owen
Alliance Healthcare Foundation
Elms Equipment Rentals
Hon. Judge Ruth Montenegro
Nancy Sasaki

Distinguished Volunteers
Gene Bumbera
Marselle Cooke
Jesus Escobar
Lucy Hendry
Jaime Hanold
Judith Lowe
Ed Snively
Tom Topuzes

2016

Lifetime Achievement Award
Ben & Loretta Abatti

Philanthropists of the Year
Bob & Carol Wilson

Spirit of Philanthropy
(Volunteer of the Year)
Jessica Solorio

Philanthropic Corporation of the Year
Rogers & Rogers

Distinguished Philanthropists
Larry Fleming
Miyoko Oshima
Tenaska

Distinguished Volunteers
Marie Barrett
Ramona “Rae” Cazares
Lillian Finnell
Mike Gilbert
Leigh Humphrey
Carla Kuhns
Andrew Loventhal
Veronica “Ronnie” Avila-Platero
Isidoro Romero
Jennifer Thomason

2015

Lifetime Achievement Award
Dennis Kern

Philanthropist of the Year
Edward “Jiggs” Johnson

Spirit of Philanthropy
(Volunteer of the Year)
Mary Sue Shank

Philanthropic Corporation of the Year
Alford Distributing Co.

Distinguished Philanthropists
Paul & Debbie Cameron
Bill Gates
Kevin & Kim Grizzle
George Martin
Sadie Rubin
AI & Alma Vinson

Distinguished Volunteers
James & Stacy Arthur
Bob Barros
Silvestre Benitez
Stacie Chandler
Rosa Caro
Martin Fitzurka
Richard Fragale
Timothy E. Kelley
Molly Johnson
Pam Littrell
Martha Luna
Betty Predmore
Roland Pritchard

2014

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

Distinguished Volunteers
Carla Kuhns
Jeff Green
Ron Stillman, DDS
Blake Miles
Charles “Chuck” R. Fisher
Luis Estrada
Emma Jones
Aide Fulton
Marcy Bingham
Tari Woelke
Chuck Bucher
Kelly Lugenbeel-Barrios
Gregory “Greg” S. Smith
Tom DuBose

2013

Lifetime Achievement
Norman A. Lassey

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

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WITH A GIVING HEART

National Philanthropy Day®
Rabobank is proud to sponsor the Imperial Valley’s Annual National Philanthropy Day Celebration

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