

Imperial Valley's 11th Annual National Philanthropy Day Awards Celebration

11.15.23

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- Schedule of Events -

WELCOME

Cindy Elmore

Chairwoman, Imperial Valley Community Foundation

&

Anne Irigoyen, Master of Ceremonies

Chairwoman, National Philanthropy Day - Imperial Valley

Immediate Past Chairwoman, Imperial Valley Community Foundation

INVOCATION

LUNCH

**SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS
& SPONSOR RECOGNITION**

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Sara Griffen

Executive Director

Imperial Valley Food Bank

AWARD PRESENTATIONS

Distinguished Volunteer

Distinguished Philanthropist

Special Nonprofit Achievement (Organization of Impact)

Philanthropic Corporation of the Year

Spirit of Philanthropy (Volunteer of the Year)

Philanthropists of the Year

Lifetime Achievement

CLOSING

2023 NPD® HONOREES

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

Tom DuBose

PHILANTHROPISTS OF THE YEAR

Les & Terri Rogers

SPIRIT OF PHILANTHROPY (VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR)

Jim Shinn

PHILANTHROPIC CORPORATION OF THE YEAR

RDO Equipment Co.

SPECIAL NONPROFIT ACHIEVEMENT (ORGANIZATION OF IMPACT)

Imperial Valley's New Creations

DISTINGUISHED PHILANTHROPISTS

**Bari Bean
Dr. Jeffrey Chan
Stacie Chandler
Tom DuBose
Valentina Estes
Elvira Teran Gonzalez
Roger Havens
Tommy Havens
Yolanda Ibarra
Sheila Kruger
NorthEnd Alliance 111
Patricia Ojeda
Tony Ojeda
Martha Cardenas-Singh
Gina R. Vargas**

DISTINGUISHED VOLUNTEERS

**Gretchen Benson
Kathleen "Kathy" Brandenberg
Simon Canalez
William A. Cooper
Robin Elmore
Orlando "Lanny" Foote
Michael Harvey
Anne Irigoyen
Carla Kuhns
Genevieve Menvielle
Mary Painter
Teri Panagiotopoulos
Darlene Reverente
Bo Shropshire
Staci Stratton**



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**Congratulations
to all the NPD
awardees!!**

Jeffrey & Jaymee Chan

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

SARA GRIFFEN

Executive Director



Sara Griffen is a native of York, Pennsylvania. She graduated with a BFA from Moore College of Art and Design, in Philadelphia. After graduation, she moved to New York City, where her first job was working with the Muppets, specializing in costumes for Miss Piggy. She moved to Seventh Avenue, where she designed dresses for the houses of St. Gillian, Bichon and Tony Lambert.

After moving to California in 1997, she began her second career in Fundraising as the Special Events Director of South Coast Repertory. In 2004, Ms. Griffen became the Director of Special events for the Pacific Symphony, where she had the privilege to work with such classical music greats as Joshua Bell, Hillary Hahn, Pinkus Zuckerman and Yo-Yo Ma. Her events raised millions of dollars for the performing arts in Orange County.

Sara and her family moved to the Imperial Valley in 2009 when her late husband, the Rev. Dr. Ron Griffen was appointed to First United Methodist Church of El Centro to serve as its Senior Pastor. After working for the El Centro Chamber of Commerce as its Director of Programs, Ms. Griffen began her third career as the Executive Director of the Imperial Valley Food Bank.

Her work with the Food Bank has benefited the County and brought her acclaim, earning her the 2013 Woman of the Year award in the 51st Congressional District for her work raising awareness and providing in roads to address the chronic hunger problem in Imperial County. Ms. Griffen has a Master's Degree in Food Systems and Society from Marylhurst University. She serves locally on several boards. Her work with the Imperial Valley Food Bank led the organization to be named the inaugural Non-profit of the Year by the California Legislature for their district in 2016 and in 2021, and the first recipient of the Special Nonprofit Achievement (Organization of Impact) Award at Imperial Valley's 2019 National Philanthropy Day celebration.

Ms. Griffen is the mother of two children: Evan who lives and works in York, PA, and her daughter, Lane, is a second-grade teacher in Escondido, CA. Sara is a self-proclaimed 'band geek', a second-generation drum corps member who, as an adult, marched with the Kingsman Drum and Bugle Alumni Corp of Anaheim and continues to follow Drum Corp International events and competitions. She is also an avid seamstress, designer and quilter and a soprano in the Imperial Valley Master Chorale.

Funding a thriving region, together.

On National Philanthropy Day and always, Catalyst of San Diego & Imperial Counties celebrates those working towards the total wellness of the Southern Border Region.



Join your peers at www.catalystsd.org

*Congratulations to Tommy and Roger Havens for all the years of community service and support to our community. With your support we continue **Building A Legacy** for future generations. We are privileged to be honoring you both as Distinguished Philanthropists.*



THANK YOU FOR YOUR COMMUNITY SUPPORT.

CINDY &
HOWARD ELMORE



TENASKA THANKS IMPERIAL VALLEY VOLUNTEERS!

Thank you to all Imperial Valley volunteers for your work with local non-profit organizations. Tenaska is proud to participate in the Community Foundation's National Philanthropy Day Celebration and recognize those in the Imperial Valley community who have gone above and beyond to help others and their community.

Congratulations and thank you to all volunteers, especially the honorees being recognized today!



**THANK YOU FOR
YOUR COMMITMENT TO OUR
IMPERIAL VALLEY COMMUNITIES**



*Congratulations to
this year's honorees!*

**Congratulations to this
year's NPD recipients!**

**Thank you for your
service to our
community.**



*The Imperial Valley College Foundation
is proud to support the 11th annual
National Philanthropy Day awards celebration.*



*Imperial Valley College has been ranked the top
Community College in the nation by the Aspen Institute!*



**We're proud to support Imperial Valley's
National Philanthropy Day Celebration!**

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**Special Nonprofit Achievement
(Organization of Impact)**

Imperial Valley's New Creations



Founded in 1993 by Pastor Walter Colace, Imperial Valley's New Creations provides free, faith-based, men's and women's residential facilities and a large offering of programs and services where individuals battling addiction and life-controlling problems can come and receive care and assistance.

Over the span of three decades, Imperial Valley's New Creations (New Creations) has served more than 6,000 individuals and their families.

Their first residential men's home was launched in 1994, and in 1996 a home was opened for women. At any point in time, there are currently between twenty-five and fifty individuals in New Creations' residential programs.

In addition to their residential programs, New Creations serves youth, adults, and the community by offering domestic violence prevention and anger management classes; school, community outreach, and gang intervention and prevention presentations; transitional living support and group sessions; jail and Juvenile Hall visits and court representations; and, crisis intervention and family support teams.

New Creations is a court-eligible alternative program for individuals who might otherwise be incarcerated but are seeking help and have the desire to change their lives and become useful and productive citizens, and they work closely with the Imperial County, San Diego County, and Yuma, Arizona courts and Probation Departments in assisting individuals who need help.

While outreach and rehabilitation ministries like Imperial Valley's New Creations might typically be the sort of thing started by a church, Pastor Walter Colace witnessed and recognized the need to serve, reunify, and restore the whole family unit - the result of which was the creation of Christ Community Church in 1998, which now has three English and three Spanish church locations throughout the Imperial Valley, having expanded their ministry into Calexico in 2015, and Brawley in 2017.

Imperial Valley's New Creations has served as a model for other rehabilitation and outreach programs throughout the country and around the globe because of their leadership, successes, and effectiveness.

The leadership and staff of New Creations is working tirelessly to educate youth and the general public in the border region on the severe dangers and threats of fentanyl. Additionally, Pastor Walter Colace and his team are involved in efforts with religious leaders in Thailand, Laos, and Burma to address needs and problems in their communities.

On June 19, 2023, New Creations Thailand was officially dedicated, and now offers programs and ministry in areas which have long suffered and struggled with opium addiction.

Congratulations to this year's Special Nonprofit Achievement (Organization of Impact) Award recipient, Imperial Valley's New Creations. Thank you for your dedication and service to our community through your love and concern for the hurting, vulnerable, and families of Imperial Valley.

2022

Lifetime Achievement Award

Dr. Travis Calvin, Jr.

Philanthropist of the Year

Karen Elmore Smith

Spirit of Philanthropy

(Volunteer of the Year)

Robert Trimm

Philanthropic

Corporation of the Year

One World Beef

Special Nonprofit Achievement

(Organization of Impact)

Catholic Charities

Diocese of San Diego

Distinguished Philanthropists

El Centro Host Lions Club &

Imperial Valley Blind Center

Gina Encinas

Karen Elmore Smith

Kim Taylor

Robert Trimm

Cindy Wingate

Distinguished Volunteers

Ramona Campos

Diane Cason

Doug Dahm

Dillon Faubion

Lupita Islas

Miguel Meza

Angie Marie Peña

Noemi Soto

Kim Taylor

Joan Tyler

Richie Windsor

2021

Lifetime Achievement Award

Sheriff Oren R. Fox

Philanthropist of the Year

Don Shank

Spirit of Philanthropy

(Volunteer of the Year)

Sam Couchman

Philanthropic

Corporation of the Year

Farm Credit West

Special Nonprofit Achievement

(Organization of Impact)

Best S.T.E.P. Forward

Philanthropic Award of Merit

El Centro Catholic

El Centro Regional Medical Center

Distinguished Philanthropists

Margaret Sauza

Glen Huber

Debbie & Roy Foster / RDF Express

Steve Ellison /

Jordan/Central Implement Co.

Jessica Solorio /

Spread the Love Charity

Victoria Homes

Distinguished Volunteers

Cherisse Alford

Martha Cardenas-Singh

Christina Center

Tom DuBose

Father Mark Edney

Cindy Elmore

Julie Hamilton

James Dean Jones

Janeen Kalin

Cathy Kennerson

Federico Miramontes

Coni Stokely

Betty Tucker

Cheryl Viegas-Walker

Aaron Rubalcava

Steven Weir

2020

Lifetime Achievement Award

Bill & Sue Brandt

Philanthropists of the Year

Bill & Marybelle Plourd

Spirit of Philanthropy

(Volunteer of the Year)

Jill Deen

Philanthropic

Corporation of the Year

Scaroni Family of Companies

Special Nonprofit Achievement

(Organization of Impact)

Calexico Neighborhood House

Distinguished Philanthropists

Wanda Layton

Bill & Marybelle Plourd

George & Jaclyn Ray

Distinguished Volunteers

Chuck Fisher

Cynda Henry

Jaime Honold

Kristine "Kris" Kussman

Jeff Lamoure

Katie Luna

Mary Kay Painter

Aaron Popejoy

2019

Lifetime Achievement Award

Elise & Phil Heald

Philanthropist of the Year

Dr. George Fareed

Spirit of Philanthropy

(Volunteer of the Year)

Mary Miller

Philanthropic

Corporation of the Year

Vessey & Co.

Special Nonprofit Achievement

(Organization of Impact)

Imperial Valley Food Bank

Distinguished Philanthropists

Kim & Kevin Grizzle

Lisa & Justin Lofton

Mary Sue & Bob Shank

Distinguished Volunteers

Ross Daniels

Leticia Garcia

Carla Kuhns

Ellie Kussman

Mary Miller

Lisa Chapin Winkler

2018

Lifetime Achievement Award

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

Barbara Deol

Adrienne Dymond

Kim & Paul Hamby
Sheriann Hess
Abraham Rubalcava
Robert Trimm

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
Jimmy 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 Honold
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 Lowenthal
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
Al & 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
Teri 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



The California Mid-Winter Fair Heritage Foundation (CMWFHF) is a nonprofit organization established in 2011 by local members of our community who are dedicated to supporting and improving the IV Fairgrounds and the California Mid-Winter Fair and Fiesta. We received our 501C-3 status in the summer of 2014.

The mission of the CMWFHF is to solicit, accumulate and disperse funds to maintain a standard of excellence in the California IV Fairgrounds facilities, and infrastructure, assist with the development of long-term year-round uses of the fairground facilities to aid in the sustainability of the California Mid-Winter Fair for future generations. In addition, we support Agricultural Scholarships for Trade School, College or University and a Youth Livestock Mentoring Project that was new in 2023 Fair Season.

In 2022, the Foundation started a racing series, at the Imperial Valley Raceway to utilize the fairgrounds racetrack not just for events during the Fair. In 2023, we held racing events in September and in October we finished a two-day event that included Lightning Sprint, IMCA Modified, Non-Wing Sprint, and local sport compacts which we refer to as Heritage Cars.



www.cmwfheritage.foundation

Congratulations to all the 2023 National Philanthropy Day recipients. Your support to our community has continued to improve our Valley.

PHILANTHROPIC CORPORATION OF THE YEAR



RDO Equipment Co. was founded in 1968 when Ron D. Offutt, Jr., a potato farmer from Moorhead, Minnesota, seized the opportunity to purchase the John Deere dealership in nearby Casselton, North Dakota that he and his dad, Ron, Sr., rented their farming equipment from. Over the years, RDO Equipment Co. (RDO) has grown to more than eighty stores in ten states, and has international locations in Africa, Australia, Mexico, Russia, and Ukraine as RDO International.

While their foundation may have been built on John Deere agriculture equipment, RDO's expertise and solutions extends into construction, environmental, forestry, irrigation, roadbuilding, underground, and machine technologies.

RDO has more than seventy-five employees that work and live in Imperial Valley between their RDO Equipment Co. and RDO Water locations, and approximately five thousand employees companywide.

RDO trusts their local operations to find ways to be meaningfully involved in the community, and encourages employees to participate and volunteer with community organizations. In addition to their commitment to local giving, RDO also administers a scholarship program for employees and their families.

RDO generously and regularly supports a number of local organizations, programs, and events including the California Mid-Winter Fair & Fiesta, California Mid-Winter Fair Heritage Foundation, COLAB of Imperial County, Imperial Valley Vegetable Growers Association, Imperial County Farm Bureau, Imperial Valley Food Bank, Humane Society of Imperial County, Imperial Valley Community Foundation, Boys & Girls Clubs of Imperial Valley, and Boys & Girls Clubs of Coachella Valley. They are also supportive of youth sports and Valley Sports Network (VSN), which provides streaming broadcast coverage of local high school athletics.

The company maintains close relationships with their customers, and they work hard to show their gratitude to their customers and employees through appreciation events, as well as to partner and help with community projects and needs that are brought to RDO's attention by customers and employees.

RDO's commitment to the Imperial Valley comes from an understanding of the needs and challenges of agricultural communities, and the importance of giving back and being involved to care for the communities that supports their business and the place where their employees call home. RDO is not just a sponsor or donor to local events and charities, but an engaged leader who has built a culture of supporting and backing the efforts, passions, and visions of their employees who give leadership and their time and resources to improving the quality of life and opportunities in Imperial Valley.

It is our honor to recognize RDO Equipment Co. as the 2023 Philanthropic Corporation of the Year in recognition for their decades of generous philanthropy and leadership serving the Imperial Valley.

Intersect Power is proud to sponsor Imperial Valley's 11th Annual National Philanthropy Day Award Celebration.

Congratulations to all the distinguished honorees for your exceptional commitment and dedication to the Imperial Valley community.



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Power

www.intersectpower.com

SPIRIT OF PHILANTHROPY (Volunteer of the Year)

Jim Shinn



Jim Shinn is a retired Licensed Clinical Social Worker, counselor, educator, and author. He grew up in a household where volunteering was a normal way of life, and what may have come naturally to him as part of his DNA, has made a tremendous impact on the families and lives he has saved, restored, and changed.

His mother, Mary Shinn, was a licensed counselor who served on the boards of Sure Helpline Crisis Center, Area Agency on Aging, San Diego State University - Imperial Valley, and Sunbeam Little League. His oldest brother, John, roped Jim into helping coach youth sports when he was sixteen, and his mom recruited him to umpire Little League baseball and volunteer with Sure Helpline Crisis Center a year later.

He earned his bachelor's degree from UCSD in 1974, and his master's in Social Work from Fresno State University in 1982. His work in the mental health field began in 1975 with Imperial County Behavioral Health, and his graduate training was spent working with children and families. In 1976, he helped establish the Imperial County Work Training Center, a rehabilitation and resource center for persons with physical, mental, and developmental disabilities, which is still in existence nearly fifty years later.

Over the course of his career and into retirement, Jim has used his gift for writing to share information, comfort, and inspiration to those in need of care and encouragement. While Jim was working at the EOC Family Planning & Prenatal Clinic in El Centro, he coordinated the writing of the first book in the US in Spanish for bereaved parents, entitled "Ocaso Sin Aurora." He later authored two books, "Bedtime Storeezzz" in 2006, and "Faith and Loving on the Way to Heaven: Self-Help for Sinners and Saints!" in 2011, and is a regular contributor to four different newspapers including The Desert Review, The Desert Voice, Imperial Valley Press, and The Alpine News.

After four years of medical social work at EOC, Jim embarked on a twenty-four year career as a counselor at De Anza Junior High in Calexico, where he developed and taught an afterschool "peer counseling" class, and was the volunteer advisor for the Contract Club, C-Level Club (for students struggling with grades), Bulldogs Against Drugs (BAD) Club, Club Live, Interact (a program of Rotary International), and the organizer of a two-day talent show at the school for over fifteen years.

He chaired the Calexico Gang Prevention & Intervention Committee for ten years, and also served as the president of the Imperial Valley Counselor Association. He has been involved with the national organization Concerned United Birthparents since the late 1980's, and helped direct the first video in the country focused on how subsequent pregnancy loss affects birthparents. And, he has also supported the Imperial Child Abuse Prevention Council's annual Children's Fair for more than forty years.

Outside of his work at De Anza Junior High, Jim had a successful private counseling practice where he provided pro bono counseling to motivated individuals and families for decades, was the Base Clinician at the Fleet & Family Support Center at Naval Air Facility - El Centro where he counseled military service members and their families, and he currently teaches Sociology for Imperial Valley College in the local prisons.

He is regularly invited to present as a featured speaker on education and social work at national and regional conferences because of his professional, clinical, and volunteer experiences. In 2013, he was presented with the "I Have a Dream" Community Builder award by Ballington Academy for the Arts & Science and Volunteers of America Southwest, and received the Reuben O. Lopez Community Service award from Imperial Valley College in 2018.

He currently chairs the KAIROS Prison Ministry, which serves Centinela inmates three times a month, and also helps with a prayer ministry for the protection and wellbeing of law enforcement officers and first responders. And for the past four years, Jim has volunteered with Alzheimer's San Diego, where he offers a weekly, free-of-charge, caretaker support group for families struggling with Alzheimer's, dementia, and other brain diseases.

Jim was an active member of Valley Baptist Church for more than thirty years, where he served as the Youth Services Director, and is a current member and volunteer of First Christian Church in El Centro. He has taught adult and youth Sunday School, helped with Vacation Bible School for more than twenty years, and been an Awana leader for several years.

It is our sincere privilege to celebrate and honor Jim Shinn as the recipient of the 2023 Spirit of Philanthropy (Volunteer of the Year) award in thanks and recognition for his life of distinguished service and devoted care for the wellness and welfare of others.



William A. Cooper
 City of Calipatria Planning Commissioner,
 Calipatria Lions Club President,
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 Community Advocate

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Children And Parents Council



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**WE ARE COMMITTED TO
IMPERIAL VALLEY**

BHE Renewables is pleased to support National Philanthropy Day and wants to congratulate our employee Bari Bean on her recognition for her dedication to the community! From 2022-2023, BHE Renewables and BHE Foundation have donated over \$775,000 to support organizations in the Imperial Valley and our employees have volunteered locally over 300 hours. As a company, we are proud to contribute to the local community while helping California achieve its renewable energy goals.





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Foundation's Annual
National Philanthropy
Day Celebration.



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Thank you for the opportunity to come together as a community of partners and friends to celebrate the collective efforts and impacts of the wonderful people and organizations that love and serve the Imperial Valley.

We are grateful for the kindness, support, and generosity of our donors and volunteers. Thank you for caring and helping in your own special ways.

Congratulations to this year's class of honorees! Thanks for all you do.




imperial valley
community foundation





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BENCHMARK NEVER QUILTS



Proud to sponsor
Imperial Valley's 11th Annual
National Philanthropy Day.

Congratulations to all the
distinguished honorees for
your selfless commitment
and dedication to the
community.



PHILANTHROPISTS OF THE YEAR

Les & Terri Rogers



Les & Terri Rogers might not be in the car business any more, but a lot like Les's driving and Terri's social calendar - their charitable and community involvement shows no signs of slowing down.

Over the years, they have been recognized for their contributions to the community through their business (Rogers & Rogers Auto Group), individually, and as a couple.

The Rogers have supported a wide variety of local programs and organizations including Autism Support of Imperial County, Desert Cruisers Car Club, American Cancer Society, CHARLEE Family Care, Southwest Academy for the Performing Arts (SAVAPA), IVROP Community Foundation, Imperial Valley Community Foundation, Boys & Girls Clubs of Imperial Valley, 4-H, FFA, and a host of youth, sports, educational, and other important causes.

They were selected as the Mardi Gras King & Queen of the Calexico Chamber of Commerce's celebration in 2014, crowned Mardi Gras King & Queen for the City of El Centro's Mardi Gras festivities in 2015, named the Imperial Valley Regional Occupational Program's (IVROP) Partner of the Year in 2019, and received the Legacy award at the Imperial Valley Press Reader's Choice Gala that same year. In 2016, Rogers & Rogers received the Philanthropic Corporation of the Year award at Imperial Valley's annual National Philanthropy Day (NPD) celebration.

Les is a longtime member of the El Centro Rotary Club and former member of Los Vigilantes. He is a strong advocate and champion for Autism awareness and the neurodiverse community, and his heart is invested in youth causes.

Les was honored as a Distinguished Philanthropist at NPD by the Boys & Girls Clubs of Imperial Valley in 2014, and presented with the William G. Duflock Award for Outstanding Business Leader of the Year from the El Centro Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Bureau in 2018. He has received awards and honors from Autism Support of Imperial County, Ronald McDonald House Charities of San Diego, American Cancer Society, Imperial Valley Desert Museum, and the Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots program - among others.

Terri serves on the board and as president of the IVROP Community Foundation, an organization she became deeply involved in after participating as a celebrity contestant at their annual "Dancing with the Stars" scholarship fundraiser. She previously served on the St. Mary's Church Finance Committee, and was a longtime volunteer with the Central Union High School Spartan Athletic Club and El Centro youth soccer. She is a past president of the El Centro Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Bureau, currently serves on the board and executive committee of the Imperial Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce, volunteers with the Imperial Valley Community Foundation, and is a member of DOVES (Donors of Valley Endeavors).

Terri received the Ruby award from Soroptimist International of El Centro in 2019, named Citizen of the Year by the El Centro Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Bureau in 2021, and presented with the Las Primeras award from MANA of Imperial Valley in 2022.

Their youngest daughter, Vanessa, recalls a time when she was working in the rental department at Rogers & Rogers Toyota and developed rapport with a customer (a struggling single mother) who came in every Wednesday to rent a car for a couple of days in order to take her daughter to chemotherapy in San Diego. One night, while having dinner with her parents, Vanessa shared the customer's story. A few weeks later, Vanessa called the customer as a courtesy because she had not rented a car lately. As it turned out, the customer said that she had not been in to rent a car because Les Rogers bought her one so that she could take her daughter to her cancer treatment and medical appointments. This generous act was done lovingly, quietly, and without any expectation of payment or praise.

There is no doubt that many other similar stories exist that remain privately kept in the hearts of Les & Terri Rogers. Their kindness is genuine, and their love for the Imperial Valley and its people is endless.

Together they have four adult children, six grandchildren, two bonus grandchildren (precious grand-niece and nephew, Liam and Linnaea), and one great-grandchild. They are also blessed to have Terri's sister, MaryHelen ("Sis") and nephew, Justin Sanchez, close by and a major part of their lives.

It is our sincere pleasure to recognize Les & Terri Rogers as the 2023 Philanthropists of the Year in thanks and appreciation for their altruism, example, and generosity.

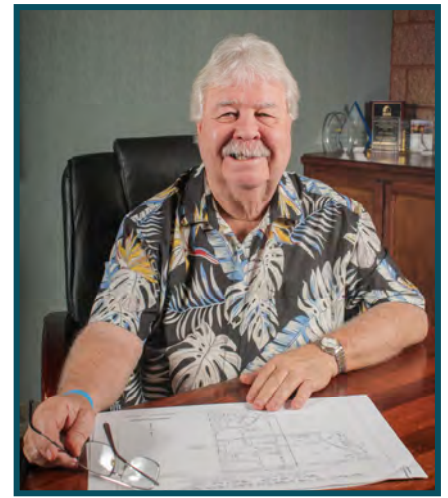
Leaders are always, first
and foremost, believers.

Spectrum is proud to be part of The Imperial
Valley Community Foundation's National
Philanthropy Day Celebration.

Spectrum 

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Tom DuBose



Tom DuBose learned from a young age the joys of volunteerism and a love for his community. His parents, Dan & Evelyn DuBose, were both involved in various civic and service activities - his dad was active in the 20/30 Club, a founding member of the Brawley Jaycees, Cattle Call, Little League umpire, the VFW and American Legion, and as a Scoutmaster - and, his mother was his Cub Scout Den Leader and active in a variety of auxiliary groups.

Before graduating from high school, Tom coached Babe Ruth baseball, umpired Little League, and had announced his first Brawley Cattle Call parade. He was also a color commentator for high school sports on KROP, an FCC-licensed weekend Top 40 DJ on KAMP as "Tommy James" and "TJ the DJ," and the "nine to noon guy" the summer following his graduation. He then spent three years as the sports director and hosted a weekly sports wrap-up show for KROP.

His gift as a great observer, storyteller, and communicator has served a lot of people well through his leadership and efforts in support of economic and workforce development, education, addressing affordable housing and homelessness, collaborating and building trust and relationships with regional partners, investors, and employers, attracting new industries, and as a champion for the Imperial Valley.

Tom is the president and owner of DuBose Design Group, a local firm which focuses on liaison work with governmental agencies involved with planning regulations and approval of development projects. A lifelong resident of Brawley, Tom and his wife, Kathy, have three daughters and three grandchildren.

In 1978, Tom was appointed to the Brawley Planning Commission at the age of 22, and served a total of twenty years on the Brawley Union High School District board, five as its president, elected to his first term in 1979.

Tom chaired the Brawley Chamber's new committee for economic development in 1984, and is a founding member and past president of Imperial County Regional Economic Development Inc. (REDI) - a precursor of today's Imperial Valley Economic Development Corporation (IVEDC). He served on the boards of the Brawley Chamber of Commerce, the Boys & Girls Club as president, and on the Blue Angels Golf Tournament committee for sixteen years when the tournament was hosted by the El Centro Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Bureau. He also served on the Private Industry Council and the County's Overall Economic Development Commission, and is a past chair and current executive committee member of both IVEDC and the Imperial Regional Alliance.

He is a founding member, past president, and director emeritus of the Imperial Valley Community Foundation, founding member and current chairman of the Imperial-Mexicali Binational Alliance, past president of the Desert Chapter of the Building Industry Association (BIA), founding president and director of the Desert Valley Builders Association, and has served on the Imperial County Air Pollution District Board of Appeals for twenty years, sixteen as chairman. He is an active member of the Eagle Board of Review for the Boy Scouts of America, and was on the Holiday Home Tour committee for several years helping to raise funds for the local Scouting program.

Tom was recognized as Associate of the Year in 2007 from the Desert Chapter of the BIA, with an IMAGINE award from the City of El Centro in 2010, and as a Distinguished Volunteer in 2014 and 2021 at Imperial Valley's annual National Philanthropy Day celebration.

While on the Imperial Valley College Foundation board of directors, he led the Foundation's efforts to provide housing solutions for students who do not have permanent shelter, culminating in IVC's Tiny Homes Project.

Tom serves on the advisory board of Border Communities Capital Company, a community development entity that provides capital and financing through New Markets Tax Credit allocations for projects in low-income communities throughout Southern California, Arizona, and parts of Texas and New Mexico. Some local projects supported through BCCC include: One World Beef, Innercare, and indieDwell. And, for the past fourteen years he has been on the board of Pacific Southwest Development Corporation, a nonprofit focused on providing affordable housing which started in Imperial County, but now serves all of Southern California and Arizona, and has a portfolio of approximately 7,000 housing units.

It is our great honor and privilege to recognize Tom DuBose as the recipient of the 2023 Lifetime Achievement Award in thanks for his commitment, leadership, service, and advocacy benefiting the Imperial Valley and its residents.



imperial valley
community foundation

