



Check Presentation to Kim and Dave Savage, Founders of Megan's Wings

NONPROFIT SPOTLIGHT

# UPLANDER'S CLUB: Fun, Friends & Fundraising

BY SHARON GOODRICH



Fifty-five years ago, twelve Upland women, who met through Welcome Wagon, formed a group to foster friendships through social activities. This group expanded and eventually became known as the Uplanders Club (UC).

In 2003, the Bylaws were changed extending membership to surrounding communities. Currently members reside from Glendora, San Dimas, La Verne, Pomona, Claremont, Chino Hills, Chino, Ontario, Rancho Cucamonga and Fontana. The Uplanders Club is approved as a 501(c)(7) nonprofit social and recreational organization.

There are a variety of groups that meet monthly including Morning Glories for breakfast, Chick Flicks for lunch and a movie, Book Club, Mexican Train (dominoes) and Wine A Little-Laugh A Lot. Also, each month there is an all-member luncheon at the Upland Hills Country Club. While the focus continues to be on social activities, the group also supports local nonprofits.

In 2012, to expand the ability to support local charities, the UC formed a 501(c)(3) nonprofit known as Uplanders Club Charitable Organization (UCCO). UCCO has its own Board of Directors and Governing Bylaws. A social club with a philanthropic project became the foundation upon which the future of the club was built.

Each fiscal year, UCCO selects a Charity of Choice through a formal application process. The selected charity then becomes the focus of all fundraising activities, culminating in a large event every March. The UCCO manages all fundraising activities. This more focused fundraising effort has produced outstanding results, significantly helping over 14 local charities since its inception.

In 2024, the Charity of Choice was Megan's Wings. In May, a check for \$68,000 was

presented to them by UCCO President Lis Johnson, Director of Philanthropy Kathy Kelcher, Director Ways & Means Teri Willsey and UC President Linda Schroeder.

Examples of other charities selected since 2012 include:

- Upland Police Foundation \$55,000
- Foothill Family Shelter \$34,415
- His Hands Food Pantry \$42,226
- Heroes Warehouse \$57,000
- OPARC \$55,000
- Casa Colina Children's Center \$45,000
- Ontario USO \$18,731

The 2025 Charity of Choice is **A Lot Of Good**. This is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit with several philanthropic programs to assist families (dealing with a health or family crisis) with access to basic essentials that, because of their circumstances, are unaffordable. In most cases this involves a child or other family member with a serious medical condition which can easily decimate the family's resources. Sandy Capelli is the founder and CEO and her husband Tony manages all marketing.

UCCO's gifts will support a specific project called **There Is Hope**. Families who are selected by their Board of Directors receive three \$100 gift cards (gas, groceries and stores) monthly for 1 year. It also includes shopping, free of charge, for a year at the organization's Upland thrift shop. If necessary, this program can be extended for another year. Our work will support the continuation and expansion of this very deserving project.

This year's major fundraising event, **Hope Springs Eternal**, will be held on March 28, 2025, from 5 pm to 9 pm at Mountain Meadows Golf Course in Pomona. Please save the date! Reservation information will be posted online at [www.uplandersclub.com](http://www.uplandersclub.com).



Teri Willsey, Tony & Sandy Cappelli (A Lot of Good), Kathy Kelcher