

# 2021 Kindness Awards

## "LOCAL KINDNESS HERO" AWARD

### **Wolfram and Marianne Blume**

While everyone has been stressed about survival during the pandemic, Wolfram and Marianne asked how can we help. Since March 3rd of 2021 they have been providing 100 meals a week for the elderly of our community from Harley Restaurant. Their generosity during these hard time has not only provided delicious meals for those who were isolated and unable to shop or cook a healthy meal but also gave a sense of love and support letting them know that they're thought of and cared about. Furthermore, their kindness has provided support for the local restaurant Harley and another local nonprofit, "Sally's Fund" to be able to deliver the meals to those in need. The Blumes have also provided for the Boys and Girls Club with weekly Pizza's from Ginas supporting kids in need and another local restaurant Gina's. They will continue with their heartfelt, thoughtful and extremely generous contribution until Dec. 22, 2021.

## "COURAGE TO BE KIND" AWARDS

### **Ket Youngstead**

During the month of April 2020 after reading an article in Stu News about one way to prevent Covid-19, Ket began her journey of making hundreds of masks, which quickly turned into thousands of masks. She enlisted the help of Sande St. John to individually place them into a bag and distribute them within the City of Laguna Beach. The first stop was the City of Laguna Beach, Police and Fire Departments, Suzi Q Senior Center, Sally's Fund, Hagan House and many Homeless individuals. She continues this mission to this day which has helped to save many lives. Ket epitomizes the true meaning of a good neighbor and friendship for the many citizens of Laguna Beach.

### **Jennifer Halbert**

Founder of a local nonprofit magazine "We Love Laguna Beach" has been providing much needed support to local nonprofits and businesses in town including Ability Awareness Project and our Laguna Beach Kindness Movement. The magazine is all about the heart of the community, giving and connecting.

### **Karen Martin**

Mrs. Martin has been helping a neighbor in need with child care and cooking meals for months. A committee member of Housing and Human Services and a former vice chair of Affordable Housing she is super passionate about doing everything she can to provide basic need of housing for our community and beyond.

### **HeARTsy**

Formerly know as "Color Sensations" HeARTsy provides therapeutic art activities, music and kids yoga for the homeless, at-risk youth and special needs children. Their mission is healing hearts through the arts. HeARTsy this year is sponsoring a table of activities for children at our event on November 13. The public awareness part of our event is not suitable for children so this provides tremendous help and support at our little visitors and their families.

### **Heidi Miller**

A super kind member of the community, this year when Alice and her husband John Good lost their Laguna Beach home to fire, Heidi gifted her the start of a new wardrobe from her amazing store "Tight Assets". Alice received dress, leggings, sweaters and more plus magazines from Heidi's World Newsstand from Heidi and more wardrobe items from another friend. Heidi then also put together a gift basket of gift cards from Ralphs, Pavillions, CVS, restaurants, VISA, American Express and more as she also encouraged the community to help. She is also a Kidney donor and has been making beautiful handmade art with repurposed jewelry to support the cause "Donate Life" for years. She has also been busy making quality masks since the beginning of Covid and continues to sell and donate as much as she can.

### **Anne Palmer**

Anne lives in northern california and was visiting her son attending Chapman University. One day they decided to visit our town when she saw our Kindness Wall on the Forest Avenue Promenade. She was so passionate and enthusiastic about what we do and Laguna Beach Kindness Movement that she decided to spread the word in her community. She then started a Kindness Ripple of Hope as she calls it by making her own Yard Signs, kindness social media posts and made chocolate chip cookies bags and gave them to the delivery people in her area. On Every bag, Yard Sign and social media post she added uplifting messages plus our logos, website information and our hashtags #AbilityAwarenessProject #LagunaBeachKindnessMovement #KindAndSafeSchools. She's also traveling to town to volunteer for our event.





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## "COURAGE TO BE KIND" AWARDS

### **Debbie Espinoza**

Debbie is 8 years old, a smart young lady who is a kindness leader at the Boys & Girls Club of Laguna Beach. She never holds back a good compliment and is always uplifting all those around her. She goes out of her way to welcome new members and make them feel loved. She is a joy to all who meet her. She makes gratitude cards for friends and staff, too!

### **Jocelyn Wang**

Josie is an event coordinator on the board of the National Honors Society (NHS) at the Orange County School of the Arts in Santa Ana, California. She reached out to Ability Awareness Project and asked if we needed volunteers for our event and the rest is history. She's been able to sign-up over 20 volunteers and have each one fill out and sign our waiver in no time.

### **MacKenzie Trinidad**

McKenzie is a 3rd grader attending the Boys & Girls Club of Laguna Beach. She has a super fun personality with an outgoing and happy disposition. She is always thinking of others and how to help others be happy too. Her bright smile beams sunlight through the day at the club. She loves to be part of a team and shows leadership in the Philanthropy Club by her daily kind acts.

### **Michelle Highberg**

Michelle works at the Boys and Girls Club of Laguna Beach and has gone beyond the line of duty to create a new kindness initiative at the club called Candy for Kindness. She encourages all to be kind and share their joy and kindness with one another. Students receive a candy for sharing their stories of kindness.

### **Geshe Tsewang Thinley**

Being the embodiment of kindness, compassion, intelligence, and good humor. Geshe Lharampa Tsewang Thinley, currently in residence in Kansas City, teaches classes, provides monthly Dharma talks, and performs Buddhist practices at the Rime Buddhist Center, and throughout the midwest, since his US arrival in 2017 from the Drepung Gomang Monastery in India. He will be blessing us with a chant on Kindness, Compassion and Forgiveness at our Sunset Meditation Nov.13 celebration of World Kindness Day.

### **Rachael Berger**

Soon after stay at home orders were in place, Rachael the executive director of Sally's Fund realized she needed to rethink the nonprofit format. Sally's Fund had been providing transportation for the elderly to important appointments for many years and then everything was shut down because of Covid. Almost immediately and with the help and generosity of locals, local businesses and The Food Pantry they instead began delivering groceries, toilet papers, food and daily needs to the elderly community. They continued delivering 150 bags of groceries plus 100 meals a week to all seniors in need and made sure they feel cared for until August of 2021.

## "COOL TO BE KIND" AWARDS

The following individuals/groups are recognized for their kind contribution to help us celebrate World Kindness Day 2021

**Jason Feddy**-- Musician, Singer/Songwriter, performer

**Michelle Scott and Djembah Fusion**-- Fusing New Generation and Traditional West African Rhythms and Percussion

**Yeggie Watts**-- Artist, musician, mom, humanitarian and Child Advocate, performer

**BigFoot**-- The Creature of Kindness joining in a Conversation is Kindness

**Lisa Farber**--From Laguna Beach Vibe joining in a Conversation is Kindness

**Ed Steinfeld**--From KXFM joining in a Conversation is Kindness

**Pam Wicks and The Enchanters**-- Call and Response Devotional Kirtan Chanting

**Aisha Khan from NAMI**--Providing mental health support and information

**Danny Gray**-- Providing Sound System

**Laguna Beach Whole Foods**-- Providing Kind Bars

