

# 2024 Kindness Awards

## “Kindness Hero” Award

**Skipper Carrillo** came to Laguna Beach in 1953. You can often find him in uniform. A true baseball fan, Skipper peppers his conversations with baseball analogies. His sincerity and enthusiasm is infectious. His kindest words are “Have a Home Run Day!” Skipper worked for Laguna Beach High School for 51 years. He organized football uniforms for 23-24 years. He umpired at Riddle Field for 25 years. According to Skipper, these three important things provide his joy & spirit: “My Father in Heaven, my parents, and my teammates”.

## “Courage To Be Kind” Awards

**Zoe Bartels** is one of the kindest students we know at Laguna Beach High School. Daily, she seeks ways to uplift friends, provide hope and encouragement. She began a fairy garden at the corner of Anita and Temple Terrace as a place to leave wishes and dreams. This year, she began a Love One Another Club for local nonprofit Just Gather. A gymnast, a creative, and a friend to many, Zoe Bartels shines her light to everyone she meets.

**Angelina Christopher** is a wonderful and caring volunteer. On 9/11, with her husband Hoyt, children Colton, Kylie, and Tristan, Angelina helped our Fire Department’s event set up. Arriving before 7 a.m., their family team placed hundreds of flags at Monument Point to honor all those lost in the attack. To support a community theatre, she also volunteered for 3 weekends in a row. As a store manager of the T-shirt Company who works 50 hours weekly, Angelina leads with love, creating fun opportunities, financial bonuses, and youth mentorship opportunities to show trust in their ideas and judgements. Angelina is a kind caring person who is always ready to listen and to help.

**Chelsea Alessandra Haderer** Found an iPhone on the steep hill going up 3rd avenue in Laguna Beach. The phone was run over multiple times and completely destroyed but she took the phone and dropped it off at the police station just in case the owner has insurance on the phone. She then made a post on social media so hopefully the owner would see it. It takes a beautiful caring heart for taking a chance and going out of your way to help someone you had no way of knowing and we truly appreciate your kindness.



# 2024 Kindness Awards

**Frank Daniels** served his country as a Marine. Frank is an officer with VFW and American Legion he works hard on all the Patriot events in town, including putting up flags in town on all patriotic holidays. He also served as Jesus in The Pageant of the Masters for almost three decades. Every week he drives neighbors to appointments, stores and churches. He is truly one of the best guys around.

**Rick Conkey** is one of our town's most talented individuals. He has been a nationally ranked tennis player and internationally ranked tennis player, coach and mentor. He brought the Laguna Beach High School Team from Division 4 to Division 1. Under his care, the Boys won the CIF State Title, and the girls won the State Runner up Trophy. As a respected institution, Rick uses his influence and hard work to support the arts in our community. In 2019 Rick founded the Laguna Beach Cultural Arts Center, where he currently serves as director. Its mission is to Support, Celebrate and Honor the Arts and the artistic heartbeat of the Laguna Beach Art Community. Rick's personal dedication has helped unify all the arts in the community.

**Kerri Sherwood** As we know, many times in life: "we can't do things alone." Kerri provided her gifts of gourmet cooking to the "Mammone" family. In addition to her many talents, Kerri helped organized friends to help prepare very special meals and get them delivered to the family. Throughout this time of family healing, Kerri showed compassion, kindness, and support to all the folks involved.

**Officer Joy Butterfield** found the time between her very hectic job and her very busy life to help the Mammone family in their time of dire need. Officer Joy delivered special gourmet foods she had a hand in making along with restaurant dinners to the family. Her concern, dedication, and passion inspired joy in the Mammone family and in all involved.

**Sieu Tan Koi** A natural animal lover, Tan helps seniors, community nonprofits & local organizations on a regular basis. She volunteers for VFW, American Legion, Artists, & ongoing Laguna Beach community events. She recently joined the board of Just Gather as a community outreach leader. Kind to everyone, you can see often on foot, smiling with her cute dog Sheena in tow.

**Lupe Blanton Lupe** is a Sawdust artist with a kind heart. She creates colorful ceramic art to uplift and brighten lives. Away, from Sawdust she creates her own food giveaway for needy recipients in Laguna Beach. Lupe goes above and beyond to not only give away food for those in need but also her as love and kindness.



# 2024 Kindness Awards

**Erin Slattery** is a third generation Laguna native who serves as the CEO of the Laguna Beach Chamber of Commerce. As one who knows our community inside and out, one of this seasoned leader's top gifts is "listening", which she does daily to community, businesses & the city. After learning of situations and challenges, Erin provides avenues, builds bridges to connect and suggests thoughtful solutions. Erin is a joy and cherished friend to many.

**Gail Onodera** is one of the kindest and gracious leaders in Laguna Beach. She serves as chair of "Love Laguna Beach", an annual day of service collaborative event with Laguna Beach Interfaith Council, City of Laguna Beach, local nonprofits, businesses and residents. This City-wide movement just completed its 3rd event inspiring 200 volunteers, 24 various projects. Additionally, Gail leads children's ministries and activities and is loved by all.

**Kris Spitaleri** is the man behind the scenes helping injured wild animals throughout Orange County. As an integrative healer, Kris is an environmental steward who protects our local lands with eco-builds and self-sustaining plants for firewalls. He continues to care for over 100 animals, including birds, bunnies, snakes, iguana, llamas, and turtles at his nonprofit "Emerald Sanctuary." He carries on his philanthropic father's dream to save and protect animals for over 50 years.

**Greg Thorne** is an amazing teaching artist at the Sawdust Art Festival and a Falconer as he calls himself, found a baby hummingbird in need and he taught the little bird about flowers and how to fly. It takes such patience and love for this to be successful and a pure heart for the bird to trust and learn. We are so grateful for your compassion and kindness.

**Steve & Embry Munsey Jedidiah Coffee** Local family-owned Community Driven along with grand adventures. While growing their family, they took a 6-year journey away from establishing their coffee house and worked with nonprofits and community service. In January 2024, Steve & Embry opened their 1st coffee shop in Laguna Beach. Prior to the long-awaited brick and mortar location, Jedidiah Coffee donated/provided coffee to numerous Laguna Beach events sharing their kind & service-oriented culture.

**Joelle Perdue.** An "events & marketing" guru at the Laguna Beach Chamber of Commerce, who knows no boundaries in offering her gifts to any organization or nonprofit in town who may need additional ideas or advice. She's as unselfish as they come.



# 2024 Kindness Awards

**Amy Amarado/ Mom Conference** For several years now, Amy Amarado (co-founder) has provided a “Mom Conference” @ Pageant of the Masters- a day of respite and connection for special needs Moms. A dream birthed from a realization that friendship with another Mom raising a person with Down syndrome is one of the strongest tools you will have on this journey. Amy’s journey to the “Mom Conference “ began with the: Early Intervention Program (pre-natal - 1 year) here in Laguna Beach for developmentally delayed infants and now has grown to help moms: see hope, find a voice, and let go of fears.

**Whitney Wineforder** gives hours weekly time to helping local nonprofits. As well, she is one of Laguna Beach’s youngest female vocalists who performed her first solo on stage at age 6.

More recently, Whitney wrote a song to help those facing mental wellness challenges. She is singing her song “Hiding” at Kindness Day. Whitney is joyful, faithful, and kind to everyone she meets.

**Mary Jo Wineforder** has been adding joy to Laguna Beach for decades. Beyond being a stellar mom of two talented children, Mary Jo serves on the Housing and Human Services Committee for the City of Laguna Beach. Additionally, Mary Jo volunteers several hours weekly to procure food for Laguna Food Pantry. As a generous philanthropist and welcoming hostess, Mary Jo opens her home for special events that promote community unity, support, and kindness.

**Jeanne Meyers** is a documentary film maker and co-founder of My Hero Project. 1994 she was jarred by too much violence shared in the news. That year Jeannie created a pilot documentary with the goal of creating positive role models for adults or children who have overcome life’s obstacles. The goal of My Hero Project is to inspire all to play a role in their community in a positive way! We are so proud of your beautiful way of teaching others kindness through films for 30 years.

**Shawn and Brennan Claybaugh** This loving couple have been rescuing abandoned dogs for many years. They either keep them for a while to find them a forever home, take them to a shelter or in cases where there was no hope of them being adopted due to the pet’s health and age, they would adopt them and take care of them in their loving home so they live the rest of their remaining life with love, a safe shelter and food. They are a true example of pouring love into the community and we are deeply thankful for your continuous kindness.



# 2024 Kindness Awards

**George Gilliam** Founder and Executive Director of Creative Identity for over 28 years serving at 2 locations of Anaheim and Laguna Beach. A musician and music therapist, he saw the need to create this nonprofit to improve the lives of adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities by providing therapeutic & educational interventions that cultivate personal & social responsibility, independence & creative potential. He says: “You have to have the willingness to sacrifice for others to be an active member of the community”. We are grateful for your courage to be kind and sacrifice yourself to help those in need.

## “Cool To Be Kind” Awards

Thank you all for your support to help us celebrate “2024 Day Of Kindness” event

**Ed Steinfeld** of “Voice of Laguna”: MC of the event, Providing Sound system, moderating “Conversation in Kindness”

**Jennifer Halbert** of “We Love Laguna Beach”: Sponsorship support, advertising, providing Kindness merch to raise awareness and help us fundraise

**Tarek Jadeba** with Eyes in the Sky who has been filming and taking incredible photos of our events and even editing a few videos after the event out of the kindness of his heart. We truly appreciate you sharing your amazing talent with us.

**Michelle Highberg**: Volunteer extraordinaire, help with sponsorship, “Just Gather” children art table, and offering gratitude teachings.

**Dee Perry**: School Board, Participant at our “Conversation in Kindness”

**Corporal Abe Ocampo**: Laguna Beach Police, Participant at our “Conversation in Kindness”

**Bishop Brian Delvaux**: from Saint Francis By The Sea, Participant at our “Conversation in Kindness”

**Captain John Kuzmic**: Laguna Beach Fire Dept., joining us at our “Conversation in Kindness”

**Robert Gaber**: Volunteer extraordinaire!

**Laguna Beach Whole foods**: Donating Kind Bars for donors

And the following musicians for the incredible musical performances

**Michelle Scott** — with African Drums OC

**Lele Rose**

**Yeggi Watts** — Also sponsoring Children’s Table

**Whitney Wineforder**

[@KindAndSafeSchools.org](https://www.kindandsafeschools.org)