

# **Social Services Commission**

## **Special Meeting Agenda Announcement**

On March 12, 2020, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order No. N-25-20, which allows Brown Act Body members to attend meetings telephonically. Please be advised that some Whittier Social Services Commissioners may attend this meeting telephonically.

Speakers must limit their comments to three minutes. Please note, by order of the presiding officer, public comments minutes may be reduced if at their discretion a surplus of public speakers is present at the meeting.

To submit Public Comments/Questions:

- Email: [gonzalezr@cityofwhittier.org](mailto:gonzalezr@cityofwhittier.org)
- Voicemail: (562) 567-9400
- Live Audio via Zoom: Only those members of the public who have 'raised their hand' on Zoom will be in the queue for speaking.
- In person at City Hall 13230 Penn St., Whittier, CA 90602, City Council Chamber

To view live meetings remotely:

- Video and audio: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81856830791>  
Use 'Raise Hand' feature
- Audio only: Dial (669) 900-9128 (Meeting ID: 818 5683 0791)  
Press \*9 to 'Raise Hand' and then \*6 to unmute yourself when prompted

Please submit email comments by 5:30 p.m. on the date of the meeting to ensure Social Service Commissioners receive and have time to review them. All emails received by 5:30 p.m. are forwarded to the Commission. Emails received after 5:30 p.m. but before the conclusion of public comments will be entered into the record.

### **Americans with Disabilities Act**

Disability-related services are available to enable persons with a disability to participate in this meeting, consistent with the Federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Spanish interpreters are also available. For information or to request services, please contact the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting at (562) 567-9400.

**NOTICE AND CALL OF SPECIAL MEETING BY COMMISSION SECRETARY  
AGENDA  
CITY OF WHITTIER  
SOCIAL SERVICES COMMISSION  
SPECIAL MEETING  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 13230 PENN STREET  
FEBRUARY 26, 2025, 6:30 PM**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

**2. ROLL CALL**

Commissioner Jessica Alva  
Commissioner Marisol Enriquez-Santos  
Commissioner Alejandro Mendoza  
Vice Chair Jeff Brauckmann  
Chair Carlos Illingworth

**3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**4. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

The public is invited to address the Social Services Commission regarding any item of business, or any matter within the body's subject matter jurisdiction. Consistent with Executive Order No. N-29-20 public comments can be made via:

- Email: [gonzalezr@cityofwhittier.org](mailto:gonzalezr@cityofwhittier.org)
- Voicemail: (562) 567-9400

Please submit email and voicemail public comments by 5:30 p.m. on the date of the meeting to ensure Commissioners receive and have time to review them. All emails and voicemails received by 5:30 p.m. are forwarded to the Commission. Emails and voicemails received after 5:30 p.m. but before the conclusion of public comments will be entered into the record.

Pursuant to State law, the Commission cannot take action or express a consensus of approval or disapproval on any communications which do not appear on the printed agenda.

**5. STAFF REPORTS**

**5.A. SOCIAL SERVICES GRANT FUNDING PROGRAM - FY 2025-2026**

Recommendation: Discuss and recommend updates to the Social Services Grant Funding Application for the 2025-2026 funding cycle.

**5.B. 2024 WHITTIER VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION PROGRAM**

Recommendation: Discuss and approve recipients for the 2024 Whittier Volunteer Recognition award.

**6. SECRETARY COMMENTS**

**7. COMMISSION MEMBER COMMENTS/CONFERENCE REPORTS**

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

Disability-related services are available to enable persons with a disability to participate in this meeting, consistent with the Federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Spanish interpreters are also available. For information or to request services, please contact the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting at (562) 567-9400.

The agenda packet is available three days before the meeting in the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department at City Hall (13230 Penn Street), Whittier Central Library (7344 Washington Avenue) and the East Whittier Branch Library (10537 Santa Gertrudes Avenue). Additionally, the agenda packet can be viewed on the City's website. Materials distributed to the Commission within 72 hours of the Social Services Commission meeting are available for public inspection in the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department Office.

Los servicios relacionados con la discapacidad están disponibles para permitir que las personas con discapacidad participen en esta reunión, de conformidad con la Ley Federal de Estadounidenses con Discapacidades de 1990. También hay intérpretes en español disponibles. Para obtener información o para solicitar servicios, comuníquese con el Departamento de recreación y Parques al Servicio a la Comunidad de la reunión al (562) 567-9400.

El paquete de la agenda está disponible tres días antes de la reunión el Departamento Parques Recreación y Servicio a la Comunidad en el Ayuntamiento (13230 Penn Street), Whittier Central Library (7344 Washington Avenue) y Biblioteca sucursal del este de Whittier (10537 Santa Gertrudes Avenue). Además, el paquete de la agenda se puede ver en el sitio web de la Ciudad. Los materiales distribuidos al Concejo Municipal dentro de las 72 horas de la reunión del Comisión de Servicios Sociales están disponibles para inspección pública en el Departamento de Recreación y Parques al Servicio a la Comunidad.

I hereby certify under penalty of perjury, under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing agenda was posted in accordance with the applicable legal requirements. Regular and Adjourned Regular meeting agendas may be amended up to 72 hours in advance of the meeting. Dated this 19<sup>th</sup> day of February 2025.

/s/ Roxanne Gonzalez

Roxanne Gonzalez, Administrative Secretary



# Agenda Report

Social Services Commission

**Date:** February 26, 2025

**To:** Social Services Commission

**From:** Virginia Santana, Director of Parks, Recreation, and Community Services

**Subject:** Social Services Grant Funding Program - FY 2025-2026

## **RECOMMENDATION**

Discuss and recommend updates to the Social Services Grant Funding Application for the 2025-2026 funding cycle.

## **BACKGROUND**

The City Council allocates \$176,516 annually from the General Fund to support local non-profits providing essential services. The Social Services Commission reviews applications each year to ensure fair and equitable distribution of funds, offering recommendations to the City Council.

On June 11, 2024, City Council approved updates to the Social Services guidelines, grading rubric and funding allocation process. Changes include awarding additional points to agencies based in Whittier and those serving veterans.

The Funding allocation process moved to a banding system that placed application scores into the following bands:

Band 1	100 – 90 points scored	Eligible to receive up to \$20,000
Band 2	89 – 75 points scored	Eligible to receive up to \$15,000
Band 3	74 – 60 points scored	Eligible to receive up to \$10,000
Band 4	59 & under points scored	Eligible to receive up to \$5,000

## **DISCUSSION**

We request that the Commission review and discuss the process utilized for the FY 2024-2025 funding cycle and recommend any needed changes for the FY 2025-2026 cycle.

## **FISCAL IMPACT**

None

## **STRATEGIC PLANNING GOAL**

Goal 3: Maintain and Enhance Quality of Life



**ATTACHMENTS**

- A. Guidelines
- B. Application
- C. Funding Chart FY 2024-2025

# Social Services Grant Funding Application

The Social Services Commission was established by the City Council to study and make recommendations regarding matters pertaining to the social services needs of the community. The City Council's philosophy is that the City should not provide direct social services, but utilize City funds to support social service agencies providing much needed services to agencies providing social services to the Whittier community.

The Commission is now inviting non-profit organizations, that serve the residents of Whittier, to apply for funding. Total grant funds available: \$176,516.00.

## 2024-2025 Grant Award Banding Allocation:

Band 1	100-90 points scored	Eligible to receive up to \$20,000
Band 2	89-75 points scored	Eligible to receive up to \$15,000
Band 3	74-60 points scored	Eligible to receive up to \$10,000
Band 4	59 & under points scored	Eligible to receive up to \$5,000

## APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

All applications must be submitted via the Google Forms survey clickable link <https://forms.gle/QD4PLZFmzNvuXAGW9> or the fillable PDF provided by Monday, August 5, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. for consideration for possible funding for the 2024/2025 fiscal year.

- Only one application per agency.
- Agencies located within the City of Whittier and providing resources for Veteran Services & Mental Health Services have an opportunity to earn additional points.
- Application must be submitted by the deadline. **(Due: August 5, 2024, at 5:00 p.m.)** Only
- On-Time applications will be considered.
- Additional materials submitted but not required will not be considered nor returned unless requested by City Staff.
- No Regranting of Funds: Regranting proposals will not be accepted. All funds awarded must be used directly for the stated project or program outlined in the proposal. Redistribution or regranting of funds to individuals, other organizations, or initiatives is prohibited.
- Eligible projects for funding include operations and capital expenses.
- Must attend a pre-submission meeting.
- Applicant agency must have a current 501(c)3 or 501(c)6, and in good standing.
- Must label each attachment with agency name and document name.
- Proposed projects must be completed by June 30, 2026.

If assistance is needed with technology to complete the application, please contact the Whittier Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department.  
Any questions, please contact us at (562) 567-9400.

A mandatory pre-submission meeting will be held on Monday, July 1, 2024, at 1:30 p.m.. The pre-submission meeting will be held in person at City Hall in the Council Chambers, 13230 Penn Street, Whittier, CA 90602.

\* Indicates required question

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Preliminary Information

1. Agency Name \*

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2. Agency Address \*

3. Agency Mailing Address \*

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4. Agency Website \*

---

5. Agency's Contact Name \*

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6. Contact Title \*

.....

7. Contact Email \*

.....

8. Contact Phone Number \*

9. Head of Agency's Name & Title \*

#### Agency Information

10. Agency's Mission Statement Summary \*

11. How long has your agency been in operation? \*

12. Geographical area(s) your agency services? (Please indicate City of Whittier, Unincorporated Whittier, and LA County as separate areas).

\*

13. Non-profit status \*

*Mark only one oval.*

- ☐ 501 (c)3  
☐ 501 (c)6  
☐ Other:

14. Has your agency received in-kind support or funding from the City of Whittier in the past? \*

*Mark only one oval.*

- ☐ Yes  
☐ No

15. If yes, please list the year(s) and dollar amount(s) of previous grant funds received and/or in-kind services. \*

16. List, if any, previous financial support your agency has received from the City of Whittier. \*

17. Describe current collaborations with other agencies. (write N/A if none). \*

#### Funding Request

18. Title of your proposed project. \*

19. Funding request for this project? (in dollars) \*

20. Total cost of your project? (in dollars) \*

21. Has your agency allocated funds for this project?

*Mark only one oval.*

☐ Yes

☐ No

22. What is your match for the grant? \*

*Mark only one oval.*

- ☐ None (We are requesting the full cost of the project)
- ☐ 1-10% (We are adding up to 10% of our own funds to the total cost of the project)
- ☐ 11-25% (We are adding 11-25% of our own funds to the total cost of the project)
- ☐ 26-50% (We are adding 26-50% of our own funds to the total cost of the project)
- ☐ 51-75% (We are adding 51-75% of our own funds to the total cost of the project)
- ☐ 76-99% (We are adding 76-99% of our own funds to the total cost of the project)

23. Have you applied for additional grant funds to help with this project? \*

*Mark only one oval.*

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

24. If yes, list other funding sources and in-kind support you have applied for or received for this project and the corresponding dollar amounts. If no, why? \*

25. List what other avenues of revenue or what other types of financial support your agency has, or will use to sustain your project. \*

26. How did your agency identify the need for this project? \*

500 words max.

27. Please describe who will be served. (100 words or less) \*

28. Does your agency provide Mental Health Services and/or Veteran Services that are easily accessible? \*

*Mark only one oval.*

☐ Yes

☐ No

29. If yes, list how mental health services and/or veteran services will be incorporated in the proposed project and the strategies used to reach those who may be seeking support. \*



30. How many City of Whittier residents will be served by this project? *Mark only one oval.* \*

*Mark only one oval.*

- ☐ 1- 10 residents
- ☐ 11-25 residents
- ☐ 26-50 residents
- ☐ 51-75 residents
- ☐ 76-100 residents
- ☐ 101-200 residents
- ☐ 200+ residents

31. What percentage of the total participants for this project will be City of Whittier residents? \*

*Mark only one oval.*

*Mark only one oval.*

- ☐ 100%
- ☐ 70-99%
- ☐ 50-69%
- ☐ Less than 50%
- ☐ Does not serve Whittier residents

32. How will the City of Whittier residency be verified for potential future audit processes? \*  
(Example: Zip Codes, Addresses). Staff may request that non-profit agency to produce records with the Periodic Performance reports.

33. If your grant request is only partially funded through this application process, will the program still be offered? *Mark only one oval.*

\*

*Mark only one oval.*

- ☐ Yes  
☐ No  
☐ Other:

34. Please describe how the project will be evaluated. \*

#### Supporting Documents Checklist

Upload all supporting documents in the following section, including:

- Proof of Non-profit status - 501(c)3 or 501(c)6
- Description of project including measurable goals and objectives. (Two page maximum and 12 point Arial font).
- List of Board of Directors - Must include their city of residence and/or business
- Previous year's IRS Form 990
- Current Annual Operating Budget
- Project Budget
- Two positive success stories from your agency in the past year.

35. Attach proof of non-profit status - 501(c)3 or 501(c)6.

\*

a. A Certificate of Filing, Certificate of Status, or Certificate of Articles of Incorporation or Exemption Determination Letter of the California Secretary of State (Revenue and Taxation code section 26451.3 provides that the Exemption Application FTB3500, together with any supporting documents shall open to public inspection if granted).

b. A Determination Letter of Internal Revenue Services (IRS) recognition of their section of 501 c (3) exempt status. (An organization that submits an application to the IRS and has it approved must make a copy of the application and supporting documents, as well as any letter issued by the IRS, available for public inspection.)

Files submitted:

36. Description of project including measurable goals and objectives. (two page maximum and 12 point Arial font) \*

Files submitted:

37. Attach copy of Board of Directors and salary or stipend. \*  
Including city of residence and/or business.

Files submitted:

38. Attach a copy of the previous year's IRS Form 990. \*

Files submitted:

39. Attach a copy of your current Annual Operating Budget. \*

Files submitted:

40. Submit budget for the specified project that highlights the revenues and expenses. This enclosed budget should not be the same as your annual agency budget, submitted for an earlier question. This budget is project specific to this application. \*

Files submitted:

41. Upload two positive success stories from your agency in one document. \*

Files submitted:

42. Please mark all boxes of documents you have uploaded. \*

*Tick all that apply.*

- ☐ Proof of non-profit status - 501(c)3 or 501(c)6
- ☐ Two page description of project including measurable goals and objectives.
- ☐ List of Board of Directors
- ☐ Previous year's IRS Form 990
- ☐ Annual Operating Budget
- ☐ Project Budget
- ☐ Two positive success stories from your agency in the past year.

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Google Forms

Agency Name	Score A	Score B	Score C	Average Score	Agency 2024-2025 ask	Scored 100-90 Up to \$20,000	Scored 89-75 Up to \$15,000	Scored 74-60 Up to \$10,000	Scored 59 & under Up to \$5,000	2024-2025 Recommendation
PIH Health Foundation	93	95	95	94	\$ 15,000.00	\$15,000.00				\$15,000.00
The Whole Child - Mental Health & Housing Services	98	93	83	91.33333	\$ 20,000.00	\$20,000.00				\$20,000.00
SPIRITT Family Services	95	88	90	91	\$ 20,000.00	\$20,000.00				\$20,000.00
Boys and Girls Club of Whittier, Inc.	95	84	79	86	\$ 15,000.00		\$15,000.00			\$15,000.00
YMCA of Greater Whittier	80	78	90	83	\$ 20,000.00		\$15,000.00			\$15,000.00
Whittier Meals on Wheels	81	74	71	75.33333	\$ 14,956.00		\$14,956.00			\$14,956.00
Los Angeles Centers for Alcohol and Drug Abuse (LA CADA)	65	80	80	75	\$ 20,000.00		\$15,000.00			\$15,000.00
Whittier Area Interfaith Council	90	55	75	73.33333	\$ 10,000.00			\$10,000.00		\$10,000.00
Community Legal Aid SoCal	65	65	85	72	\$ 5,000.00			\$5,000.00		\$5,000.00
Nehemiah Project LA	55	48	95	66	\$ 20,000.00			\$10,000.00		\$10,000.00
Third Step Ministry	95	31	70	65	\$ 20,000.00			\$10,000.00		\$10,000.00
Jovenes, Inc.	58	54	80	64	\$ 15,000.00			\$10,000.00		\$10,000.00
REACH	64	46	56	55	\$ 14,530.00				\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
Interfaith Food Center	47	58	51	52	\$ 20,000.00				\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
										\$169,956.00

Can give up to \$ 176,516.00



# Agenda Report

Social Services Commission

**Date:** February 26, 2025

**To:** Social Services Commission

**From:** Virginia Santana, Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services

**Subject:** 2024 Whittier Volunteer Recognition Program

## **RECOMMENDATION**

Discuss and approve recipients for the 2024 Whittier Volunteer Recognition Award.

## **BACKGROUND**

Annually, Commissioners review the nominations for the Whittier Volunteer Recognition program, which honors outstanding individuals who have gone above and beyond in volunteer service for the Whittier Community.

## **DISCUSSION**

Volunteer Nomination Applications were sent to non-profit social service agencies, youth groups, schools, service clubs, and business volunteer groups in Whittier. Nominee service hours must have been performed in the City of Whittier. Religious, fraternal, City employees, City commissioners, and other professional groups providing services only to their members were not eligible for nomination.

Twelve nominations were received. Commissioners will review the nomination forms and select recipients. An award ceremony will be held on April 22, 2025.

<b>#</b>	<b>Agency</b>	<b>Nominees</b>
1.	Assistance League of Whittier	Carolyn Cunial Salazar
2.	Boys & Girls Club of Whittier	Lori Knight
3.	CAPC, Inc.	Sylvia Foltz
4.	Whittier Aquatics Club	Hazel Torres
5.	Whittier Area Youth Soccer	Michelle Ryan
6.	Whittier Art Association & Gallery	Judy Jansen
7.	Whittier Chamber of Commerce	Michael Seril
8.	Whittier City School District	Peter & Tara Hernandez
9.	Whittier Emergency Management	Josh Henderson
10.	Whittier Host Lions Club	Steve Cauffman
11.	Women's and Children's Crisis Shelter	Petra Schmischke
12.	YMCA of Greater Whittier	Terry Roznos

## **FISCAL IMPACT**

**Agenda Item No. 5.B.**

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

**STRATEGIC PLANNING GOAL**

Goal 3: Maintain and Enhance Quality of Life

Goal 4: Transparent and Open Government

**ATTACHMENTS**

A. 2024 Volunteer Recognition Award Nominations





# WHITTIER VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR



## CALLS FOR NOMINATIONS

Do you know someone extraordinary whose dedication deserves recognition? We're calling on you to nominate your standout volunteers for the Whittier Volunteer of the Year Awards!

Whether they've brightened lives through community service, or sparked positive change, we want to honor those who have gone the extra mile.

Visit [www.cityofwhittier.org](http://www.cityofwhittier.org) to submit your nomination and let's shine a spotlight on these community members!

**SERVICE  
YEAR  
2024**



**APPLICATIONS DUE:**  
FRIDAY, JANUARY 31, 2025  
BY 5:00 PM



**ASSISTANCE LEAGUE OF WHITTIER**  
**NOMINEE: CAROLYN CUNIAL SALAZAR**

## 2024 Volunteer of the Year Nomination Form

### VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION:

The Volunteer Recognition awards are presented annually to outstanding individuals who have gone above and beyond in giving to the Whittier community. Nominees devote their time, talent, and expertise on a volunteer non-paid basis to local non-profit organizations. Whittier is known for its strong volunteer ethic, and to date, more than 200 volunteers have been honored. They include representatives from non-profit social service agencies, youth groups, schools, service clubs, and business volunteer groups.

### ELIGIBILITY FOR VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION NOMINEES:

Please note: Volunteer service hours must have been performed in the City of Whittier during 2024. Volunteers do not need to be city residents. Religious, fraternal, city employees, city commissioners, and other professional groups providing services only to their members are not eligible for nomination. Past recipients are eligible this year.

### HOW TO NOMINATE:

To nominate that special person(s) in your organization, you just need to complete the Award Nomination form below. Please include a description of the volunteer's service and its impact on the organization, and the community at large. Submissions may include photographs, video files (no longer than two minutes), scrapbooks, or brochures of the organization. The submission of photographs and video files are highly encouraged. Submissions will not be returned. A PDF or video file can be sent if the survey link cannot be accessed.

Applications are due:

Thursday, December 12, 2024, by 5:00 PM to [gonzalezr@cityofwhittier.org](mailto:gonzalezr@cityofwhittier.org)

### Nominating Agency Details

Submitting Agency Name \*

Assistance League® of Whittier

Agency Address \*

6339 Greenleaf Avenue, Whittier, CA 90601

Mailing Address (include attention to) \*

6339 Greenleaf Avenue, ATT: Rita Holmes, Whittier, CA 90601

Contact Name \*

Delia Morales

Contact Phone Number \*

562/756-3231

Contact Email Address \*

busd77@gmail.com

### Nominee Information

Nominee Name \*

Carolyn Cunial Salazar

Contact Phone Number \*

562/756-3231

Contact Email Address \*

busd77@gmail.com

Name of agency Nominee supported in 2024 \*

Assistance League® of Whittier

Nominee Job Title (if applicable)

3rd Vice Chair, Philanthropic Programs and Co-Chair of Timeless Treasures Gift Shop.

Total number of hours served as a volunteer for this agency in 2024 \*

From 7/1/24 to 11/24/24 she has volunteered over 500 hours.

Frequency of service in 2024 \*

☒ Daily

☐ Weekly

☐ Monthly

☐ Ad hoc

☐ Other:

Overall length of time they have served their agency \*

☐ 0-1 year

☐ 2-5 years

☒ 6-10 years

☐ 11-15 years


☐ 15-20 years


☐ 20+ years

Describe the reasons for nominating this individual \*


Ms. Salazar has donated tireless hours since 2019 to the serve on the following Assistance League® of Whittier Philanthropic Committees: Operation Holiday; Wee Wardrobe; Membership; Scholarship; and provides leadership to our fundraising effort by being Co-Chair of Timeless Treasures Gift Shop and on the Carousel Planning Fundraiser Committee.

If you would like to submit more information about the nominee or the agency please attach a PDF

 Carolyn Salazar ...

 Add File

If you would like to submit a video file to support this application please attach a file

 Add File

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Google Forms

**Carolyn Salazar**

Is married to Anthony and they have one daughter Nicole.

In addition to her current volunteer obligations with the Assistance League® of Whittier and PIH Health Hospital - Whittier, Carolyn also is a member of a local PEO.

She maintains a full-time job. She is co-owner of Structure Analytics with her husband Anthony. Her degree in Architecture is valuable in performing her duties.

Carolyn has extensive volunteer experience working with various organizations. She was team mom for all of her daughter's softball teams at WGSJ and a Brownie and Girl Scout leader for Whittier Troop 614. Carolyn was a past board member with the National Charity League of Whittier, a volunteer with Interfaith Food Center, Meals on Wheels, PTA member for Murphy Ranch Elementary School and Booster Club Vice President for St. Mark's Lutheran School.

All of those wonderful experiences prepared her to start volunteering in 2019 with the Assistance League® of Whittier. She has been on the following Assistance League Philanthropic Committees: Operation Holiday; Wee Wardrobe; Membership; Scholarship; and Co-Chair of Timeless Treasures Gift Shop.

Currently Carolyn is on the following Assistance League committees: Board of Directors, Budget; Carousel Planning Fundraiser and 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President of Philanthropic Programs and Co-Chair of Timeless Treasures Gift Shop. In her spare time, she is overseeing the redevelopment of our website. Carolyn is always willing to help when asked and proactive when something requires to be done.

During the holidays she helps out in the kitchen by decorating gingerbread cookies which are sold at our Carousel fundraiser.

Ms. Salazar is a woman of many skills and talents her annual volunteer hours are usually under reported and exceed 500 hours each year.

**WHITTIER CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**NOMINEE: PETER & TARA HERNANDEZ**



# 2024 Volunteer of the Year Nomination Form

## VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION:

The Volunteer Recognition awards are presented annually to outstanding individuals who have gone above and beyond in giving to the Whittier community. Nominees devote their time, talent, and expertise on a volunteer non-paid basis to local non-profit organizations. Whittier is known for its strong volunteer ethic, and to date, more than 200 volunteers have been honored. They include representatives from non-profit social service agencies, youth groups, schools, service clubs, and business volunteer groups.

## ELIGIBILITY FOR VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION NOMINEES:

Please note: Volunteer service hours must have been performed in the City of Whittier during 2024. Volunteers do not need to be city residents. Religious, fraternal, city employees, city commissioners, and other professional groups providing services only to their members are not eligible for nomination. Past recipients are eligible this year.

## HOW TO NOMINATE:

To nominate that special person(s) in your organization, you just need to complete the Award Nomination form below. Please include a description of the volunteer's service and its impact on the organization, and the community at large. Submissions may include photographs, video les (no longer than two minutes), scrapbooks, or brochures of the organization. The submission of photographs and video les are highly encouraged. Submissions will not be returned. A PDF or video led can be sent if the survey link cannot be accessed.

Applications are due:

**Friday, January 31, 2025, by 5:00 PM (Extended)** to [gonzalezr@cityofwhittier.org](mailto:gonzalezr@cityofwhittier.org)

\* Indicates required question

### Nominating Agency Details

1. Submitting Agency Name \*

Whittier City School District

2. Agency Address \*

7211 S. Whittier Ave, Whittier, CA 90602

3. Mailing Address (include attention to) \*

7211 S. Whittier Ave, Whittier, CA 90602 (Dr. Brad Mason)



4. Contact Name \*

Dr. Brad Mason, WCSD Superintendent

5. Contact Phone Number \*

(909) 519-3289

6. Contact Email Address \*

bmason@whittiercity.net

## Nominee Information

7. Nominee Name \*

Peter and Tara Hernandez

8. Contact Phone Number \*

(562) 328-8326

9. Contact Email Address \*

phernandez.agla@gmail.com

10. Name of agency Nominee supported in 2024 \*

Whittier City School District

11. Nominee Job Title (if applicable)

12. Total number of hours served as a volunteer for this agency in 2024 \*

500+ Peter, 500+ Tara

## 13. Frequency of service in 2024 \*

*Mark only one oval.*

- ☐ Daily  
☒ Weekly  
☐ Monthly  
☐ Ad hoc  
☐ Other:


## 14. Overall length of time they have served their agency \*

*Mark only one oval.*

- ☐ 0-1 year  
☐ 2-5 years  
☒ 6-10 years  
☐ 11-15 years  
☐ 15-20 years  
☐ 20+ years

## 15. Describe the reasons for nominating this individual \*

For the past eight years, Peter and Tara Hernandez, both residents of the City of Whittier, have been the most dedicated parent of the Whittier City School District. Peter, who began his involvement at Phelan Language Academy during the 2017/18 school year as President of the Dad's Club, has served in various roles with the Phelan Parent Teacher Organization (PTO), including Vice President and he has been President for the past five years. Tara has also been involved in the PTO in different capacities and has served as Vice President the last five years.

During their tenure, Phelan's PTO has become a critical and trusted partner of our 

## 16. If you would like to submit more information about the nominee or the agency please attach a PDF

Files submitted:

## 17. If you would like to submit a video file to support this application please attach a file

Files submitted:

Some specific programs and activities that Peter and Tara Hernandez have led in the City of Whittier include bringing Phelan Language Academy's Winter Program to the Vic Lopez Auditorium at Whittier High School. Over the past few years, they have been instrumental in getting Phelan involved in the Uptown Whittier Christmas Parade, building and decorating the final float which Santa rides on with Phelan students and families. Additionally, they coordinated Phelan's participation in the Whittier Sonata in Uptown Whittier. Peter and Tara have also worked with small business like Crossfit Blvd (a business in the City of Whittier) to support Phelan's Red Ribbon Week to encourage healthy choices. Lastly, while serving as President and Vice President of the Phelan PTO, they are also President and Vice President of the Katherine Edwards Middle School (KEMS) PTO. In their first year at KEMS, Peter and Tara successfully produced the school's gala at Sage Restaurant & Lounge, which was a PTO fundraiser. They are currently working on planning the second annual gathering, which will take place at the Whittier Masonic Temple.

**WHITTIER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

**NOMINEE: MICHAEL SERIL**

# 2024 Volunteer of the Year Nomination Form

## VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION:

The Volunteer Recognition awards are presented annually to outstanding individuals who have gone above and beyond in giving to the Whittier community. Nominees devote their time, talent, and expertise on a volunteer non-paid basis to local non-profit organizations. Whittier is known for its strong volunteer ethic, and to date, more than 200 volunteers have been honored. They include representatives from non-profit social service agencies, youth groups, schools, service clubs, and business volunteer groups.

## ELIGIBILITY FOR VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION NOMINEES:

Please note: Volunteer service hours must have been performed in the City of Whittier during 2024. Volunteers do not need to be city residents. Religious, fraternal, city employees, city commissioners, and other professional groups providing services only to their members are not eligible for nomination. Past recipients are eligible this year.

## HOW TO NOMINATE:

To nominate that special person(s) in your organization, you just need to complete the Award Nomination form below. Please include a description of the volunteer's service and its impact on the organization, and the community at large. Submissions may include photographs, video files (no longer than two minutes), scrapbooks, or brochures of the organization. The submission of photographs and video files are highly encouraged. Submissions will not be returned. A PDF or video file can be sent if the survey link cannot be accessed.

Applications are due:

**Friday, January 31, 2025, by 5:00 PM (Extended)** to [gonzalezr@cityofwhittier.org](mailto:gonzalezr@cityofwhittier.org)

\* Indicates required question

### Submitting Agency Details

1. Submitting Agency Name \*

Whittier Chamber of Commerce

2. Agency Address \*

8158 Painter Ave., Whittier, CA 90602

3. Mailing Address (include attention to) \*

Attn: Alyson Tietze, 8158 Painter Ave., Whittier, CA 90602

4. Contact Name \*

Alyson Tietze

5. Contact Phone Number \*

5626311255

6. Contact Email Address \*

alyson@whittierchamber.com

## Nominee Information

7. Nominee Name \*

Michael Seril

8. Contact Phone Number \*

714-306-9002

9. Contact Email Address \*

mseryl1@gmail.com

10. Name of agency Nominee supported in 2024 \*

Whittier Chamber of Commerce, Los Nietos School District and Foundation, Fox N Fidos, and more.

11. Nominee Job Title (if applicable)

12. Total number of hours served as a volunteer for this agency in 2024 \*

300+

## 13. Frequency of service in 2024 \*

*Mark only one oval.*

- ☒ Daily  
☐ Weekly  
☐ Monthly  
☐ Ad hoc  
☐ Other:

## 14. Overall length of time they have served their agency \*

*Mark only one oval.*

- ☐ 0-1 year  
☐ 2-5 years  
☐ 6-10 years  
☐ 11-15 years  
☒ 15-20 years  
☐ 20+ years

## 15. Describe the reasons for nominating this individual \*

Michael Seril exemplifies the essence of volunteerism, dedicating his time, resources, and leadership to uplifting Whittier and its residents. Through fundraising, advocacy, and active involvement, he has made a lasting impact on the community, earning him the well-deserved recognition as Volunteer of the Year.

## 16. If you would like to submit more information about the nominee or the agency please attach a PDF

Files submitted:

## 17. If you would like to submit a video file to support this application please attach a file

Files submitted:

### **Volunteer of the Year Submission – Michael Seril**

Michael is a dedicated community leader whose volunteerism has significantly impacted Whittier. As a Board Member of the Whittier Chamber of Commerce and Vice President of the Los Nietos Educational Foundation, Mike has continuously sought ways to uplift local organizations and individuals in need.

In 2024 alone, Mike demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to service by leading and supporting multiple initiatives:

- Raised over \$8,000 for Fix' N Fidos through two fundraising events, ensuring pets in need receive essential medical care.
- Led fundraising efforts for the Boys & Girls Club of Whittier, raising over \$10,000 through Tour De Great Futures, an initiative that has grown each year to support youth programs and services.
- Raised over \$6,000 for the Los Nietos Educational Foundation at the MSF Bowling for Charity event, furthering educational opportunities for local students.
- Collected over 125 Halloween costumes for children in need through the Boys & Girls Club, ensuring every child could experience the joy of the holiday.

Mike's unwavering dedication has earned widespread recognition, including:

- The Community Leadership Award and the Community Champion Award from the Boys & Girls Club of Whittier.
- Being featured twice on Channel 5 News for outstanding contributions to the community.
- Voted 2024 Business Person of the Year by the Whittier Chamber of Commerce, reflecting his dedication to both businesses and community impact.

Michael Seril embodies the spirit of volunteerism, using time, resources, and leadership to uplift Whittier and its residents. Through fundraising, advocacy, and hands-on involvement, Mike has left a lasting mark on the community, making him a deserving recipient of the Volunteer of the Year Award.

- **Alyson Tietze**

**Director of Marketing - Whittier Chamber of Commerce**

- **Emilio Sosa**

**Board of Trustees - Los Nietos School District**

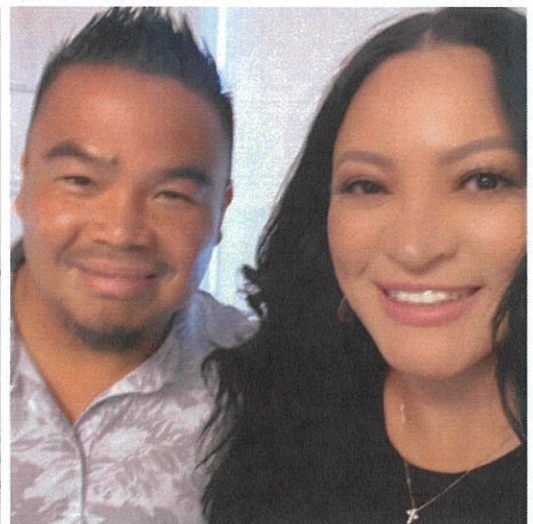
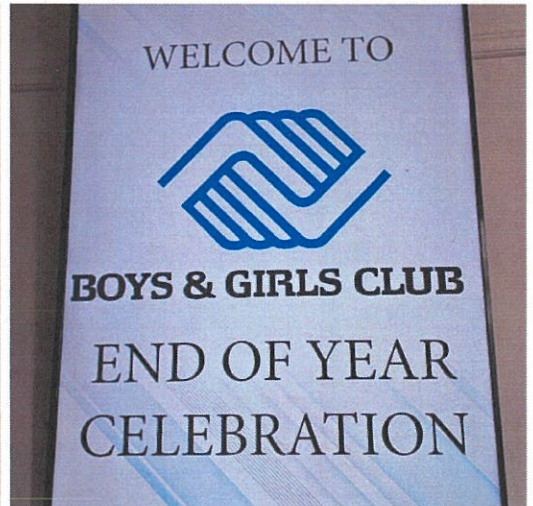








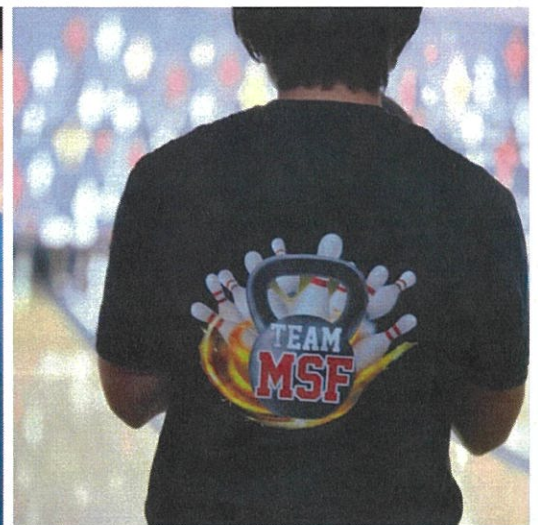
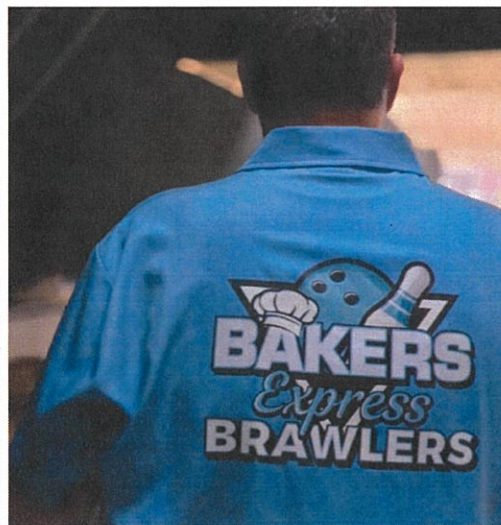




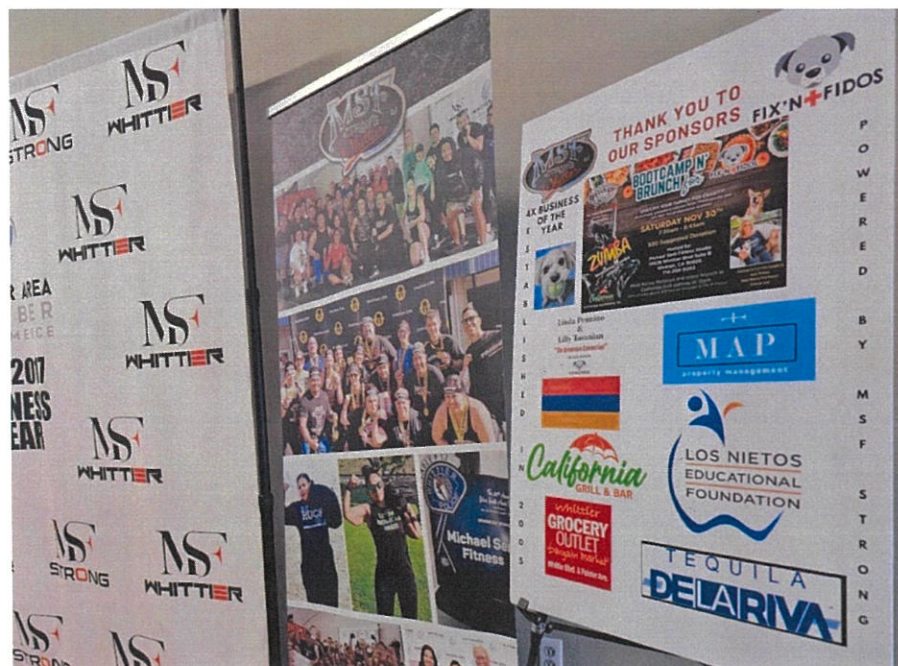
















4X BUSINESS OF THE YEAR  
ESTABLISHED  
IN 2005

**4X BUSINESS OF THE YEAR**



Linda Perrino & Lilly Tosunian  
"The Armenian Connection"



**California GRILL & BAR**

**Whittier GROCERY OUTLET**  
Bargain Market  
Whittier Blvd. & Painter Ave.

**BOOTCAMPIN' BRUNCH for FLEXN' FIDOS**

UNSTUFF YOUR TURKEY FOR CHARITY!  
Bring friends, family & your dog to 'Teamwork and Fun'!  
Join MAP for an awesome brunch!

**SATURDAY NOV 30<sup>th</sup>**  
7:30am - 8:45am  
\$30 Suggested Donation  
Hosted by: Michael Sami Fitness Studio  
14820 Whittier Blvd Suite B  
Whittier, CA 90605  
714-306-9002

Host: Nancy Hoffman and empty stomachs of California Grill starting at 12pm.  
Lots of water, coffee, and tea will be provided. No cash or credit.

**MAP**  
property management

**LOS NIETOS EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION**

**TEQUILA DE LARIVA**

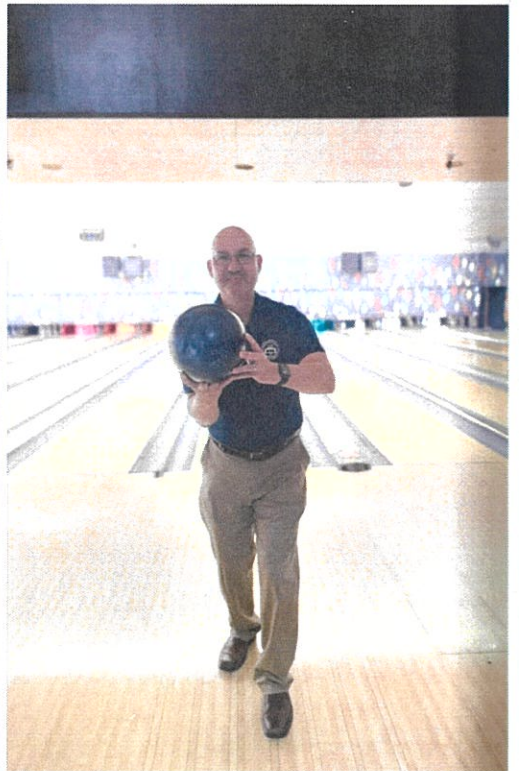
POWERED BY MSF STRONG

26 of 89

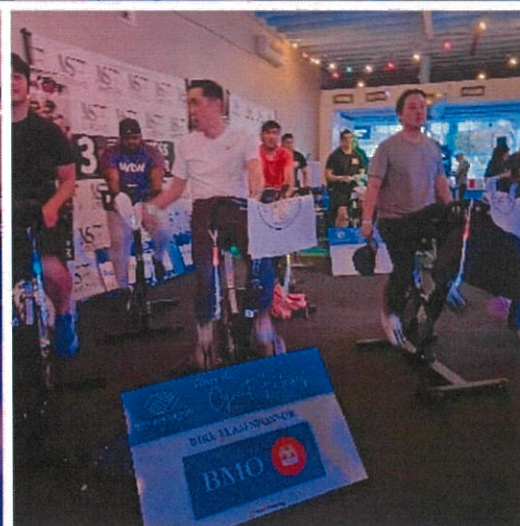
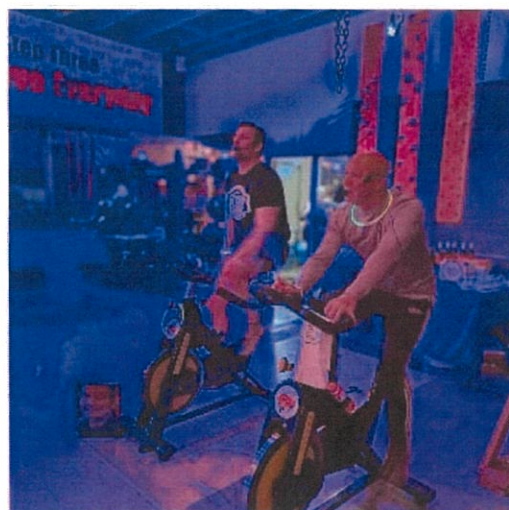




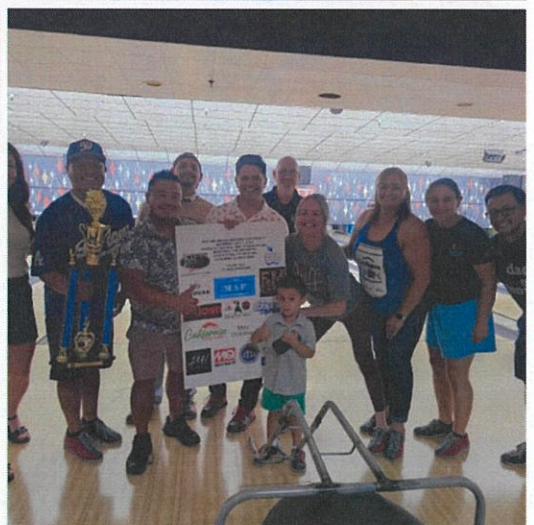








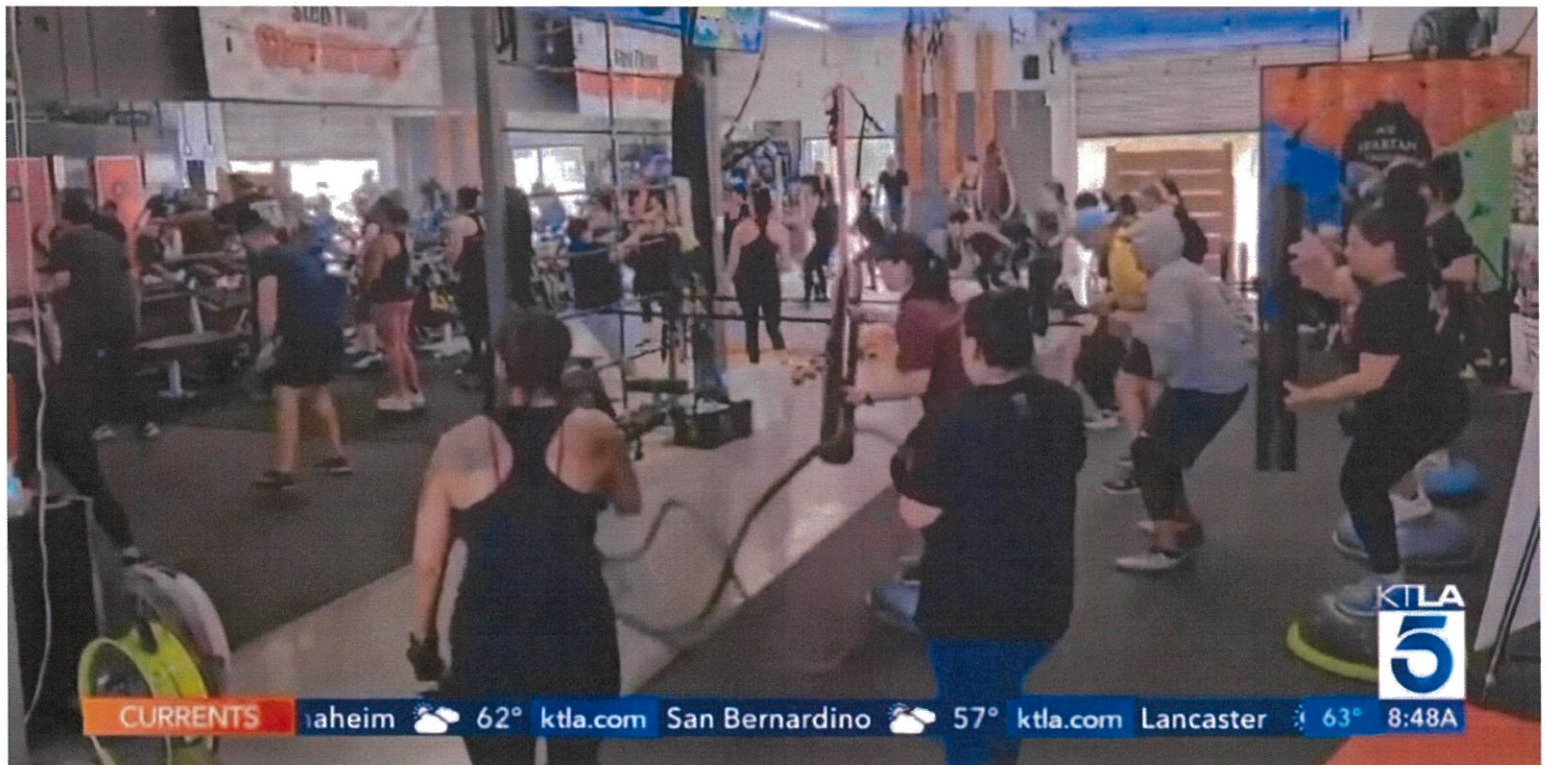






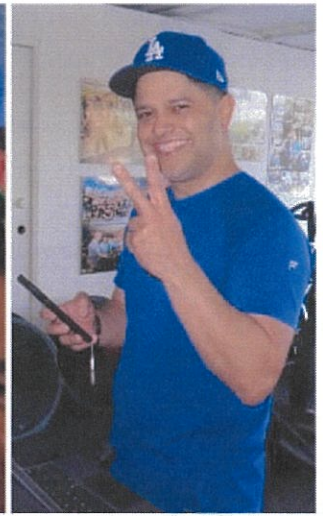


FORECASTS 63° 8:49A KTLA 5



CURRENTS Anaheim 62° ktla.com San Bernardino 57° ktla.com Lancaster 63° 8:48A KTLA 5





WHITTIER ART ASSOCIATION & GALLERY

NOMINEE: JUDY JANSEN



## 2024 Volunteer of the Year Nomination Form

### VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION:

The Volunteer Recognition awards are presented annually to outstanding individuals who have gone above and beyond in giving to the Whittier community. Nominees devote their time, talent, and expertise on a volunteer non-paid basis to local non-profit organizations. Whittier is known for its strong volunteer ethic, and to date, more than 200 volunteers have been honored. They include representatives from non-profit social service agencies, youth groups, schools, service clubs, and business volunteer groups.

### ELIGIBILITY FOR VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION NOMINEES:

Please note: Volunteer service hours must have been performed in the City of Whittier during 2024. Volunteers do not need to be city residents. Religious, fraternal, city employees, city commissioners, and other professional groups providing services only to their members are not eligible for nomination. Past recipients are eligible this year.

### HOW TO NOMINATE:

To nominate that special person(s) in your organization, you just need to complete the Award Nomination form below. Please include a description of the volunteer's service and its impact on the organization, and the community at large. Submissions may include photographs, video files (no longer than two minutes), scrapbooks, or brochures of the organization. The submission of photographs and video files are highly encouraged. Submissions will not be returned. A PDF or video file can be sent if the survey link cannot be accessed.

Applications are due:

Friday, January 31, 2025, by 5:00 PM to [gonzalezr@cityofwhittier.org](mailto:gonzalezr@cityofwhittier.org)

### Nominating Agency Details

Submitting Agency Name \*

Whittier Art Association and Gallery

Agency Address \*

8035 Painter Ave., Whittier, CA 90602

Mailing Address (include attention to) \*

Attn: Pam Korporaal, 8035 Painter Ave., Whittier, CA 90602

Contact Name \*

Pam Korporaal

Contact Phone Number \*

562-714-4758

Contact Email Address \*

pamk1@mac.com

## Nominee Information

Nominee Name \*

Judy Jansen - posthumously

Contact Phone Number \*

none

Contact Email Address \*

none

Name of agency Nominee supported in 2024 \*

Whittier Art Association and Gallery

Nominee Job Title (if applicable)

VP of Exhibitions, Board Member



Total number of hours served as a volunteer for this agency in 2024 \*

over 700 hours

Frequency of service in 2024 \*

- ☐ Daily
- ☐ Weekly
- ☐ Monthly
- ☐ Ad hoc
- ☒ Other: Definitely weekly but often visited on a daily basis


Overall length of time they have served their agency \*


- ☐ 0-1 year
- ☐ 2-5 years
- ☐ 6-10 years
- ☐ 11-15 years
- ☐ 15-20 years
- ☒ 20+ years

Describe the reasons for nominating this individual \*


Judy has been a member of the Gallery since the 1990's. She has served as exhibitions committee, property maintenance and general memory of the Gallery building maintenance.

If you would like to submit more information about the nominee or the agency please attach a PDF

 Judy Jansen No...

 Add File

If you would like to submit a video file to support this application please attach a file

 Add File

This content is neither created nor endorsed by Google.

Google Forms

Judy Jansen moved to Whittier in the 1950's as a young girl with her parents and brother. Judy attended local schools graduating from Whittier High in the 1960's. Unfortunately, Judy passed away this past November 23, 2024. Judy provided a force in the Whittier Community, service to the Whittier Art Association and Gallery, an active member of the Whittier Centennial, advocate for the erection of the John Greenleaf Whittier statue in Central Park, active in the Whittier Conservancy and the Whittier Historic Neighborhood Association.

In a small non-profit there are many deserving people, and a number of those work tirelessly to serve The Whittier Art Association and Gallery. Judy took on the task of Grounds and Building Committee as well as Vice President of Exhibitions Committee. Judy often would visit the Gallery daily to check on the grounds and building. We do 4 major exhibits yearly and those exhibits require attending to take-in, hanging of exhibitions and take-out. It takes at least 3 days per exhibition to complete all these tasks.

Judy's exhibitions work for the Whittier Art Association and Gallery began long before the 2024-25 fiscal year. As a Life Member of our Association, she has served more than 20 years as a leader who has contributed to the amazing success of our historic nonprofit Association and Gallery. She has strongly supported our Association's Objectives as stated in the Bylaws, striving to provide quality exhibits of fine arts and crafts, and art education, at no charge to the general public. As a current Board member and past president of the Whittier Art Association and Gallery, I would like to nominate posthumously to Judy Jansen the honor as recipient of the City of Whittier, Volunteer of the Year Award.

Hours: 700+ per year

Pam Korporaal  
Past President  
Whittier Art Association & Gallery

**YMCA OF GREATER WHITTIER**

**NOMINEE: TERRY ROZNOS**

# 2024 Volunteer of the Year Nomination Form

## VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION:

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## ELIGIBILITY FOR VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION NOMINEES:

Please note: Volunteer service hours must have been performed in the City of Whittier during 2024. Volunteers do not need to be city residents. Religious, fraternal, city employees, city commissioners, and other professional groups providing services only to their members are not eligible for nomination. Past recipients are eligible this year.

## HOW TO NOMINATE:

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Applications are due:

Thursday, December 12, 2024, by 5:00 PM to [gonzalezr@cityofwhittier.org](mailto:gonzalezr@cityofwhittier.org)

\* Indicates required question

### Nominating Agency Details

1. Submitting Agency Name \*

YMCA of Greater Whittier

2. Agency Address \*

12510 Hadley Street

Whittier, CA 90601

3. Mailing Address (include attention to) \*

Juan Aceves

4. Contact Name \*

Juan Aceves

5. Contact Phone Number \*

562-321-0333

6. Contact Email Address \*

jaceves@ymcawhittier.org

## Nominee Information

7. Nominee Name \*

Terry Roznos

8. Contact Phone Number \*

Please use YMCA # above

9. Contact Email Address \*

taroznos@verizon.net

10. Name of agency Nominee supported in 2024 \*

YMCA of Greater Whittier

11. Nominee Job Title (if applicable)

Retiree

12. Total number of hours served as a volunteer for this agency in 2024 \*

100



## 13. Frequency of service in 2024 \*

*Mark only one oval.*

- ☐ Daily
- ☐ Weekly
- ☒ Monthly
- ☐ Ad hoc
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## 14. Overall length of time they have served their agency \*

*Mark only one oval.*

- ☐ 0-1 year
- ☐ 2-5 years
- ☐ 6-10 years
- ☐ 11-15 years
- ☐ 15-20 years
- ☒ 20+ years

## 15. Describe the reasons for nominating this individual \*

The YMCA of Greater Whittier is proud to nominate Terry Roznos for the City of Whittier Volunteer of the Year 2024. As a former board president, board director, volunteer, and donor, Terry has demonstrated exceptional dedication and commitment to our community for at least 22 years. His countless volunteer hours have significantly contributed to the success and sustainability of our center, ensuring it remains a valuable resource for the city for years to come.

Terry's leadership and vision have been instrumental in driving numerous initiatives that benefit our members and the broader community. His unwavering

## 16. If you would like to submit more information about the nominee or the agency please attach a PDF

Files submitted:

## 17. If you would like to submit a video file to support this application please attach a file

Files submitted:





YMCA of Greater Whittier

To donate scan above or visit  
[givebutter.com/ymcawhittier](https://givebutter.com/ymcawhittier)

## Impact in the community

At the YMCA, we believe that the true power of our organization lies not in our buildings or programs, but in the hearts and actions of every neighbor who shares our vision of a stronger community for all. Every day, we witness the amazing transformations that happen when people come together to support each other, learn from each other, and grow with each other. We are proud to be part of this movement of kindness, compassion, and empowerment that makes our community a better place for everyone.

Because of donations, we can feed the hungry, create a fun and supportive environment for kids to learn and grow, and connect with seniors who need some company. Thank you for being part of our community!

**In 2023, our Y significantly impacted 7,235 individuals, thanks to neighbors like you.**



**240 donors**  
raised over  
**\$670,000** to give  
back to the  
community in  
programs and  
services.

**73,249**  
meals  
served  
Across all branch  
locations.

**1,365**  
youth learned  
life-saving  
safety  
around water skills.

**824**  
youth participated  
in Y childcare  
programs.

**616**  
seniors  
engaged through  
programs and  
activities at the  
YMCA.

**36**  
adults with diverse  
abilities  
were encouraged  
to achieve their  
highest potential in  
the community.

## YMCA of Greater Whittier

(562) 392-6487 · [FundDevelopment@YMCAWhittier.org](mailto:FundDevelopment@YMCAWhittier.org) · [www.YMCAWhittier.org](http://www.YMCAWhittier.org)

**For a better us.®**  
43 of 89





# ONE STEP AT A TIME

YMCA of Greater Whittier  
Annual Report 2023



# President and CEO Message

The YMCA of Greater Whittier has been a beacon of hope, resilience, and unwavering commitment to our community. Together, in 2023, we've forged connections, nurtured potential, and uplifted lives by focusing on three areas:

## Youth Development: Empowering Tomorrow's Leaders

Our young people are the architects of our future, and at the Y, we take this responsibility to heart. Through our dynamic youth development programs, we ignite curiosity, build character, and foster leadership skills. Whether it's after-school activities, childcare, or sports leagues, we empower our youth to dream big and reach for the stars.

## Social Responsibility: Bridging Gaps



In times of challenge, our community rallies together. We've witnessed the strength of our collective spirit as we've stood side by side, addressing critical needs to uplift families through

our Stride Programs for adults with diverse abilities, technology equipment giveaway, free family events, or scholarships for our programs, we've exemplified what it means to be socially responsible. Your voice matters, and together, we create positive change.

## Healthy Living: Nurturing Mind, Body, and Soul

Health is wealth, and our commitment to your well-being remains unshakable. Whether you're a seasoned fitness enthusiast or just starting your wellness journey, the Y is your partner. From invigorating workouts

to mindfulness sessions, we're here to help you thrive. Our pools echo with laughter during swim lessons, and our fitness classes pulse with energy. We're not just a gym; we're a vibrant community where health flourishes.

Our valued partners, each of you, have been instrumental in our journey. Your unwavering commitment fuels our programs, and your belief in our mission propels us forward. As we rebuild and revamp, we're excited about the new horizons ahead. The Y isn't just a place; it's a force for good.

Thank you for being an essential thread in our community fabric. Your kindness, dedication, and resilience inspire us daily. Let's continue to dream, connect, and create a brighter tomorrow.

With gratitude,

Curt Skotnicki

President & CEO | YMCA of Greater Whittier

## 2022 - 2023 Board of Directors

### Officers

Terry Roznos  
Board Chair  
Ron Copley  
First Vice Chair  
Theresa Rivas  
Secretary  
Luis Carrion  
Treasurer

### Directors

Regina Ayala  
Jerry Laiblin  
Dan McMillan  
Susanne Mendoza  
Jess Montes  
Caren Spilsbury  
Billy Velez

### Emeritus Members

Jean Arbuckle*	Janet Henke
Virginia "Ginny" Ball	Don Jenkins*
Eleanor "Ellie" Bewley	Berta Leon
Rev. Thomas M. Boles*	Edward L. Miller
Virginia Boles	Ardith Allene Montelius*
Wayne Campfield*	Dr. Breene Murphy*
Jack Carmichael *	Robert A. Stambaugh*
Sylvia Foltz	Donald E. (Bill) Wood*
Carmella S. Franco, Ed.D.	*in Memoriam



# Child Development



Through childcare, the Y served 834 youth in 2023. An additional 121 were involved in sports.

Everyday we are reminded of the incredible impact your generosity has had on young lives at the YMCA of Greater Whittier. Your unwavering support has transformed dreams into reality, and we are immensely grateful.

Let me introduce you to Lennox, a spirited child who embodies the heart of our mission. Lennox stepped into our programs in 2020. His journey began with crayons and storybooks, but it was on the basketball court that he truly found his rhythm. The Y's basketball program became his compass, guiding him toward confidence, teamwork, and resilience.

Lennox's mother, shared her gratitude with us. She noticed the change and the sparkle in Lennox's eyes. She says he is a lot more engaged now since he started playing basketball.

But it wasn't just about academics; it was about readiness for life. The Y had become their extended family and a place where values like caring, honesty, and respect were woven into every activity. And then came the scholarship to participate in the basketball program.

This was the bridge that connected Lennox's dreams to reality. Your donation wasn't just financial support; it was a lifeline. Lennox's layups echoed your kindness. The Y had given them more than basketball; it had given them hope.

**He is a lot more engaged now since he started playing basketball.**

Today, Lennox stands ready for kindergarten. Your generosity has ignited his journey.

As we embark on another year, we invite you to continue this journey with us. Your donation matters. It transforms lives, nurtures potential, and builds a stronger community. Together, we can create more Lennox stories - more dreams realized, more futures brightened.



› [www.ymcawhittier.org](http://www.ymcawhittier.org)



# Social Responsibility

**Over \$670,000**  
Philanthropic amount  
raised to make Y  
programs and services  
affordable to the  
community.

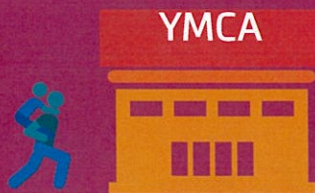
From camp sessions to local area 5th graders to tech literacy workshops to community events, we believe in accessibility to all our programs and services. Last summer, Marisol shared her son's story. Matthew, a brave 12-year old, who survived cancer and a stroke, made it to YMCA Camp Arbolado along with his sister on Y scholarships. His mother initially unable to afford sending both to camp, shared that one day she will be financially able to sponsor a child as her children were in 2023.

We also held skill building workshops throughout the year. Our workshops covered topics including technology, financial literacy, and navigation of the healthcare system for older adults.

Our family events are not only enjoyable but also contribute to building a stronger sense of community. The Pumpkin Plunge, a fun-filled aquatic event where families and friends come together to celebrate the season and search for pumpkins in our pool. It's a unique twist on traditional pumpkin picking! Our Healthy Kids Day is all about promoting physical activity, nutrition, and overall wellness for children.

Recognizing the importance of digital access, we organized the giveaway of 50 laptops to students at no-cost to families.

Our collaborative efforts with school districts, community organizations, and businesses including AT&T, Credit Union of Southern California, and Human I-T continue to strengthen the community. We realize we cannot do it alone, but together, we can build a better future for all.



# Healthy Living

"This is a marvelous place. There is a lot of love here. There is no place like the Y for me," says member Yvonne P. who is a consistent face at our group exercise classes in the Uptown Whittier Family YMCA.

Our fitness centers provide a space for members to achieve their wellness goals and offer a comprehensive workout experience at both branch locations .

Our group exercise classes have become a hub of energy and camaraderie.

Participants engage in activities like family basketball games, cycling, Zumba, yoga, and boot camp, benefiting from both physical fitness and social connections.

**There is a lot of love here. There is no place like the Y...**



**73,249**

Nutritious and delicious meals provided to children.



**1,365**

Youth learned life-saving safety around water skills.



**616**

Seniors engaged through programs & activities at the Y.



# 2023 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

## AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT – DECEMBER 31, 2023

REVENUES & SUPPORT	JAN 1 – DEC 31, 2023
Grants and contributions	\$705,616.00
Support-in-kind-facilities & goods	\$51,824.00
Program service Fees	\$687,233.00
Camp and childcare programs	\$2,821,285.00
Memberships	\$974,535.00
Investment income/(loss), net	\$379,344.00
Rent	\$20,224.00
Change in value of split interest agreements	\$14,597.00
Special Events, net of direct expenses	\$22,748.00
Other, including refundable tax credit	\$11,306.00
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$5,688,712.00</b>

EXPENSES	JAN 1 – DEC 31, 2023
Program services	\$4,651,256.00
Supporting services	
Management and general	\$1,343,448.00
Fundraising	\$141,835.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$6,136,539.00</b>

## The YMCA remembers the life & service of William & Peggy Newsom



William, affectionately known as Bill, and Margaret, fondly called Peggy, were pillars of support for the YMCA community in Whittier.

Born amidst the fragrant citrus groves of Santa Fe Springs, Bill's childhood was steeped in the outdoors. At YMCA Camp Arbolado, Bill actively participated in programs that shaped character and resilience.

Settling in Whittier, Bill and Peggy continued their YMCA journey, sharing its magic with their own family – two sons and one daughter.

William and Peggy continue their support of the Y through the legacy gift made to the YMCA before their passing. Their unwavering commitment left an indelible mark, fostering growth, connection, and well-being for generations.

If you would like to leave a legacy gift to the YMCA and join our Heritage Society please contact Juan Aceves at [jaceves@ymcawhittier.org](mailto:jaceves@ymcawhittier.org) or (562) 392-6487.

Photo courtesy of family.

› The YMCA of Greater Whittier is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, tax ID # 95-1684795.

# Donor Recognition: Chair's Round Table

## Champion

**(\$250,000 and Above)**

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**(\$50,000 and above)**

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**(\$5,000 and above)**

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**(\$2,500 and above)**

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Billy Velez

Wal\*mart Spark for Good

Soretta Walker

Monica and Robert Warnock

Whittier Rotary Club

## Members

**(\$1,000 and above)**

Nancy Back

Steve Cauffman

Dr. Joan Meister and Dr. Bruce Everett

Irma and Alex Moisa

Jan and Jess Montes

Jeanne and Ralph Muhlestein

Albert Navarra

Irene and Rett Rasmussen

Stifel

Wal\*Mart Store Santa Fe Springs #2948

YMCA Staff

## Tributes – Gifts made in honor

In honor of Robert and Evelyn Back

In honor of Wayne Campfield

In honor of Ted and Monica Dean

In honor of Eugenia De Son

In honor of Erin

In honor of George R. Esterley, Jr.

In honor of Robert "Bob" Henke

In honor of Patsy Holody

In honor of Jesse Lopez

In honor of William "Bill" Newsom

In honor of Ruth Shannon

In honor of John Taboada

Scan to donate







### Leadership Team

Curt Skotnicki  
President and CEO

Penny Lopez  
Chief Advancement and  
Administration Officer

Soretta Walker  
Executive Director

### Locations

#### East Whittier Family YMCA

15740 Starbuck Street  
Whittier, 90603  
(562) 307-8725

#### La Mirada Youth Services Center

14540 San Cristobal Dr.  
La Mirada, 90638  
(562) 329-4690

#### Uptown Whittier Family YMCA

12510 Hadley Street  
Whittier, 90601  
(562) 600-6148

#### YMCA Camp Arbolado

42500 HWY 38  
Angelus Oaks, 92305  
(909) 794-6724

[www.ymcawhittier.org](http://www.ymcawhittier.org)

## YMCA of Greater Whittier



Moving the community forward one step at a time  
for 108 years.



**WOMEN'S AND CHILDREN'S CRISIS SHELTER**

**NOMINEE: PETRA SCHMISCHKE**

# 2024 Volunteer of the Year Nomination Form

## VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION:

The Volunteer Recognition awards are presented annually to outstanding individuals who have gone above and beyond in giving to the Whittier community. Nominees devote their time, talent, and expertise on a volunteer non-paid basis to local non-profit organizations. Whittier is known for its strong volunteer ethic, and to date, more than 200 volunteers have been honored. They include representatives from non-profit social service agencies, youth groups, schools, service clubs, and business volunteer groups.

## ELIGIBILITY FOR VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION NOMINEES:

Please note: Volunteer service hours must have been performed in the City of Whittier during 2024. Volunteers do not need to be city residents. Religious, fraternal, city employees, city commissioners, and other professional groups providing services only to their members are not eligible for nomination. Past recipients are eligible this year.

## HOW TO NOMINATE:

To nominate that special person(s) in your organization, you just need to complete the Award Nomination form below. Please include a description of the volunteer's service and its impact on the organization, and the community at large. Submissions may include photographs, video files (no longer than two minutes), scrapbooks, or brochures of the organization. The submission of photographs and video files are highly encouraged. Submissions will not be returned. A PDF or video file can be sent if the survey link cannot be accessed.

Applications are due:

**Friday, January 31, 2025, by 5:00 PM (Extended)** to [gonzalezr@cityofwhittier.org](mailto:gonzalezr@cityofwhittier.org)

\* Indicates required question

### Nominating Agency Details

1. Submitting Agency Name \*

Women's and Children's Crisis Shelter

2. Agency Address \*

7702 Washington Ave, 2nd floor, Whittier, CA 90602

3. Mailing Address (include attention to) \*

Same as above. ATTN: Catalina Melgoza

4. Contact Name \*

Catalina Melgoza

5. Contact Phone Number \*

5626686427

6. Contact Email Address \*

cmelgoza@dvshelter.org**Nominee Information**

7. Nominee Name \*

Petra Schmischke

8. Contact Phone Number \*

5626523451

9. Contact Email Address \*

pschmischke@wccshope.org

10. Name of agency Nominee supported in 2024 \*

Women's and Children's Crisis Shelter

11. Nominee Job Title (if applicable)

Executive Assistant

12. Total number of hours served as a volunteer for this agency in 2024 \*

416

## 13. Frequency of service in 2024 \*

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Daily  
☒ Weekly  
☐ Monthly  
☐ Ad hoc  
☐ Other:

## 14. Overall length of time they have served their agency \*

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ 0-1 year  
☐ 2-5 years  
☐ 6-10 years  
☒ 11-15 years  
☐ 15-20 years  
☐ 20+ years

## 15. Describe the reasons for nominating this individual \*

Petra was born and raised in Germany, but she has been calling Whittier home since 1991. Her career in banking led her to Friendly Hills Bank where she has been the Executive Assistant since inception of the Bank in 2006. Petra was a former President and is currently an active member of Soroptimist International of Whittier, as well as a founding board member of Studio Danza Folklorica de Colores, and certified Zumba instructor since 2007. In addition, she has been a passionate board member of the Women's and Children's Crisis Shelter since 2014. Petra has contributed so much to the Whittier community and continues to make an impact and lend a helping hand when needed. That is why we would like

## 16. If you would like to submit more information about the nominee or the agency please attach a PDF

Files submitted:

## 17. If you would like to submit a video file to support this application please attach a file

Files submitted:





**WHITTIER HOST LIONS CLUB**

**NOMINEE: STEVE CAUFFMAN**

# 2024 Volunteer of the Year Nomination Form

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## ELIGIBILITY FOR VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION NOMINEES:

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Applications are due:

Thursday, December 12, 2024, by 5:00 PM to [gonzalezr@cityofwhittier.org](mailto:gonzalezr@cityofwhittier.org)

\* Indicates required question

### Nominating Agency Details

1. Submitting Agency Name \*

Whittier Host Lions Club

2. Agency Address \*

PO Box 245

Whittier CA 90608

3. Mailing Address (include attention to) \*

PO Box 245 Whittier CA 90608



4. Contact Name \*

Rick Gomez

5. Contact Phone Number \*

562-618-3588

6. Contact Email Address \*

rgomez7579@gmail.com

**Nominee Information**

7. Nominee Name \*

Steve Cauffman

8. Contact Phone Number \*

949-533-4501

9. Contact Email Address \*

jstevecauffman@gmail.com

10. Name of agency Nominee supported in 2024 \*

Whittier Host Lions Club

11. Nominee Job Title (if applicable)

President

12. Total number of hours served as a volunteer for this agency in 2024 \*

Incalculable

## 13. Frequency of service in 2024 \*

Mark only one oval.

- ☒ Daily  
☐ Weekly  
☐ Monthly  
☐ Ad hoc  
☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## 14. Overall length of time they have served their agency \*

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ 0-1 year  
☐ 2-5 years  
☐ 6-10 years  
☐ 11-15 years  
☒ 15-20 years  
☐ 20+ years

## 15. Describe the reasons for nominating this individual \*

Steve has been the driving force in leading the Whittier Host Lions Club in projects that embody the Lions Club's mission of service and care for our community. Under his leadership we commemorated our 100th year service project with a transformative project for the Women's & Children's Crisis Shelter ( Shelter). This year Steve took charge of two other significant projects for the Shelter-the remodeling of kitchen and improvements to the living spaces. These renovations improved the safety, functionality and comfort for families seeking refuge. These efforts reflect not just the values of the Whittier Host Lions Club but also Steve's deeply personal commitment to serving others.

## 16. If you would like to submit more information about the nominee or the agency please attach a PDF

Files submitted:

## 17. If you would like to submit a video file to support this application please attach a file

Files submitted:

**WHITTIER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

**NOMINEE: JOSH HENDERSON**



# 2024 Volunteer of the Year Nomination Form

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## ELIGIBILITY FOR VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION NOMINEES:

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Applications are due:

Thursday, December 12, 2024, by 5:00 PM to [gonzalezr@cityofwhittier.org](mailto:gonzalezr@cityofwhittier.org)

\* Indicates required question

### Nominating Agency Details

1. Submitting Agency Name \*

Whittier Emergency Management

2. Agency Address \*

13230 Penn Street Whittier CA 90602

3. Mailing Address (include attention to) \*

Hector Palomares 13230 Penn Street Whittier CA 90602

4. Contact Name \*

Hector Palomares

5. Contact Phone Number \*

562-567-9819

6. Contact Email Address \*

hpalomares@cityofwhittier.org

#### Nominee information

7. Nominee Name \*

Josh Henderson

8. Contact Phone Number \*

562-346-4410

9. Contact Email Address \*

k6pnp@gmail.com

10. Name of agency Nominee supported in 2024 \*

CERT & ARES

11. Nominee Job Title (if applicable)

CERT volunteer and HAM radio operator

12. Total number of hours served as a volunteer for this agency in 2024 \*

35

## 13. Frequency of service in 2024 \*

*Mark only one oval.*

- ☐ Daily
- ☐ Weekly
- ☒ Monthly
- ☐ Ad hoc
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## 14. Overall length of time they have served their agency \*

*Mark only one oval.*

- ☐ 0-1 year
- ☐ 2-5 years
- ☐ 6-10 years
- ☒ 11-15 years
- ☐ 15-20 years
- ☐ 20+ years

## 15. Describe the reasons for nominating this individual \*

Josh is part of all three volunteers group at Whittier. He is the lead CERT volunteer. Is a senior member of ARES group and a member of the wildlife group. His dedication to the Whittier has shown through out the years. He assist in community events when possible

## 16. If you would like to submit more information about the nominee or the agency please attach a PDF

Files submitted:

## 17. If you would like to submit a video file to support this application please attach a file

Files submitted:



**EAST WHITTIER WOMAN'S IMPROVEMENT CLUB**

**NOMINEE: SYLVIA FOLTZ**

## 2024 Volunteer of the Year Nomination Form

### VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION:

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### ELIGIBILITY FOR VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION NOMINEES:

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### HOW TO NOMINATE:

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Applications are due:

Thursday, December 12, 2024, by 5:00 PM to [gonzalezr@cityofwhittier.org](mailto:gonzalezr@cityofwhittier.org)

### Nominating Agency Details

Submitting Agency Name \*

East Whittier Woman's Improvement Club

Agency Address \*

14148 East Second St., Whittier, CA 90605

Mailing Address (include attention to) \*

Attn: Jan Daigneault, 14148 East Second St., Whittier, CA 90605

Contact Name \*

Jan Daigneault

Contact Phone Number \*

818-731-1717

Contact Email Address \*

ewwic.email@gmail.com

## Nominee Information

Nominee Name \*

Sylvia Foltz

Contact Phone Number \*

562-646-8317

Contact Email Address \*

slfoltz@gmail.com

Name of agency Nominee supported in 2024 \*

East Whittier Woman's Improvement Club

Nominee Job Title (if applicable)

Second Vice President



Total number of hours served as a volunteer for this agency in 2024 \*

200

Frequency of service in 2024 \*

☒ Daily

☐ Weekly

☐ Monthly

☐ Ad hoc

☐ Other:

Overall length of time they have served their agency \*

☐ 0-1 year

☐ 2-5 years

☐ 6-10 years

☐ 11-15 years


☐ 15-20 years


☒ 20+ years

Describe the reasons for nominating this individual \*


She has worked in EWWIC for 62 years, has been president twice, and on the board for more than 20 years.


If you would like to submit more information about the nominee or the agency please attach a PDF

 sylvia nominatio...

 Add File

If you would like to submit a video file to support this application please attach a file

 sylvia1 - EWWIC ...

 Add File

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Google Forms

## **Nomination for Sylvia Foltz – 2024 City of Whittier Volunteer of the Year Award**

The East Whittier Woman's Improvement Club (EWWIC) is honored to nominate Sylvia Foltz for the 2024 City of Whittier Volunteer of the Year Award. Sylvia first became involved with EWWIC in **1962**, and over the years, she has proven to be an irreplaceable pillar of our organization. Now 98 years old, Sylvia continues to volunteer over **200 hours per year**, dedicating her time, energy, and expertise to a variety of causes and events that benefit both our members and the broader Whittier community.

As a former two-term president and a board member for over 20 years, Sylvia's leadership has been invaluable to the club's ongoing success. She currently serves as the Second Vice President, overseeing the club's programs and ensuring they continue to serve the needs of the community. Sylvia has also chaired numerous charity events hosted by the club, including the monthly luncheons, Arbor Day celebrations, Christmas festivities, membership drives, and capital campaigns are among some of her endeavors.

Beyond her leadership in organizing events, Sylvia has long been known as the "matriarch" of EWWIC, ensuring that the historical integrity of the club and its clubhouse remains a cornerstone of the organization. EWWIC clubhouse, originally a Whittier Water Pump House, holds deep historical significance. Not only is it a place where members gather to celebrate life's special occasions, but it also serves as a monument to the early history of Whittier. Sylvia's unwavering commitment to maintaining and preserving this space ensures that it remains open to the community for generations to come.



Sylvia's dedication to EWWIC and the City of Whittier exemplifies the spirit of volunteerism and community service. Her contributions have made a lasting impact on the club, the city, and its residents, and we are proud to nominate her for this well-deserved recognition.

Thank you for considering Sylvia Foltz for the 2024 City of Whittier Volunteer of the Year Award.

Sincerely,

Jan Daigneault

President

East Whittier Woman's Improvement Club



**BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB OF WHITTIER**

**NOMINEE: LORI KNIGHT**



# 2024 Volunteer of the Year Nomination Form

## VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION:

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## ELIGIBILITY FOR VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION NOMINEES:

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## HOW TO NOMINATE:

To nominate that special person(s) in your organization, you just need to complete the Award Nomination form below. Please include a description of the volunteer's service and its impact on the organization, and the community at large. Submissions may include photographs, video les (no longer than two minutes), scrapbooks, or brochures of the organization. The submission of photographs and video les are highly encouraged. Submissions will not be returned. A PDF or video led can be sent if the survey link cannot be accessed.

Applications are due:

Thursday, December 12, 2024, by 5:00 PM to [gonzalezr@cityofwhittier.org](mailto:gonzalezr@cityofwhittier.org)

\* Indicates required question

### Nominating Agency Details

1. Submitting Agency Name \*

Boys & Girls Club of Whittier

2. Agency Address \*

7905 S. Greenleaf Ave.

Whittier, CA 90602

3. Mailing Address (include attention to) \*

Attention: Kwon Lee

4. Contact Name \*

Kwon Lee

5. Contact Phone Number \*

562-286-7503

6. Contact Email Address \*

KwonL@bgcw.org

## Nominee Information

7. Nominee Name \*

Lori Knight

8. Contact Phone Number \*

562-320-9919

9. Contact Email Address \*

loriknight27@verizon.net

10. Name of agency Nominee supported in 2024 \*

Boys &amp; Girls Club of Whitter

11. Nominee Job Title (if applicable)

Volunteer Literacy Tutor

12. Total number of hours served as a volunteer for this agency in 2024 \*

120

## 13. Frequency of service in 2024 \*

*Mark only one oval.*

- ☐ Daily
- ☒ Weekly
- ☐ Monthly
- ☐ Ad hoc
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## 14. Overall length of time they have served their agency \*

*Mark only one oval.*

- ☐ 0-1 year
- ☒ 2-5 years
- ☐ 6-10 years
- ☐ 11-15 years
- ☐ 15-20 years
- ☐ 20+ years

## 15. Describe the reasons for nominating this individual \*

Please see attached nomination for Ms. Lori Knight.

## 16. If you would like to submit more information about the nominee or the agency please attach a PDF

Files submitted: City of Whitier Volunteer Nomination - Lori Knight

## 17. If you would like to submit a video file to support this application please attach a file

Files submitted: N/A





**The Boys & Girls Club of Whittier's Nomination for Whittier's Volunteer of the Year: Lori Knight**

The Boys and Girls Club of Whittier proudly nominates Ms. Lori Knight for the 2024 City of Whittier's Volunteer of the Year award, recognizing her outstanding contributions and unwavering dedication to our community.

For the past two years, Lori has been a cornerstone of our Whittier Area Literacy program, volunteering as a Literacy Tutor every week. Drawing on her extensive experience as a retired elementary and middle school teacher, Lori brings unmatched expertise in helping students enhance their reading and writing skills. Her approach is characterized by exceptional student engagement, clear communication, and motivational strategies that inspire young learners to thrive.

Lori's impact extends beyond her one-on-one tutoring. She generously mentors fellow tutors, sharing her knowledge to elevate the entire program. Her efforts often go above and beyond expectations—she played a pivotal role in our move to the new program building, contributed by donating books, and has consistently volunteered for major events, assisting with setup and cleanup. Lori's dedication is further evident in her hands-on involvement with curriculum design and implementation, ensuring our literacy program meets the highest standards.

Above all, Lori's warm and cheerful attitude makes her a joy to work with. Her enthusiasm and willingness to help in any capacity have made her a beloved figure among students, staff, and fellow volunteers. Thanks to her hard work, many of our students have achieved significant improvements in literacy, opening doors to brighter futures.

Lori Knight embodies the spirit of volunteerism and community service, and we are honored to nominate her for this well-deserved recognition.

**WHITTIER AQUATICS CLUB**

**NOMINEE: HAZEL TORRES**

## 2024 Volunteer of the Year Nomination Form

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### ELIGIBILITY FOR VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION NOMINEES:

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Applications are due:

Friday, January 31, 2025, by 5:00 PM to [gonzalezr@cityofwhittier.org](mailto:gonzalezr@cityofwhittier.org)

### Nominating Agency Details

Submitting Agency Name \*

Whittier Aquatics Club (WAC)

Agency Address \*

5703 Palm Ave. Whittier, CA 90601

Mailing Address (include attention to) \*

5703 Palm Ave. Whittier, CA 90601



Contact Name \*

Jose Guadalupe Luevano

Contact Phone Number \*

323.388.7871

Contact Email Address \*

luevano.whittier@gmail.com

Nominee Information

Nominee Name \*

Hazel Torrez

Contact Phone Number \*

562.577.1813

Contact Email Address \*

whittieraquaticclub@gmail.com

Name of agency Nominee supported in 2024 \*

Whittier Aquatic Club

Nominee Job Title (if applicable)

Club Manager

Total number of hours served as a volunteer for this agency in 2024 \*

780

Frequency of service in 2024 \*

☐ Daily

☒ Weekly

☐ Monthly

☐ Ad hoc

☐ Other:

Overall length of time they have served their agency \*

☐ 0-1 year

☐ 2-5 years

☐ 6-10 years

☐ 11-15 years

☐ 15-20 years

☒ 20+ years

## Describe the reasons for nominating this individual \*

It is my pleasure to write this letter of recommendation for Ms. Hazel Torrez, a dedicated and passionate volunteer leader who has made an extraordinary impact on the Whittier Aquatics Club (WAC). I have had the privilege of working closely with Hazel for several years, and it is with great confidence that I nominate her for volunteer of the year.

Hazel's journey with WAC began when she saw a void in the local swimming community and, alongside other parents, worked to establish a swim team. Over the years, as her children graduated from high school and other families moved on, Hazel took on more and more responsibilities, ensuring that the club continued to thrive. Today, she serves as the manager of the club in a volunteer capacity, overseeing the scheduling of practices, paying coaches, recruiting new coaching staff, and managing communication with both parents and the City of Whittier. Her leadership, commitment, and perseverance have been a constant source of support for both athletes and parents, and her influence has been felt deeply throughout the entire organization.

In addition to her managerial role, Hazel is one of the three parent board members who help organize and facilitate various fundraisers for the team. One of her most successful initiatives is the Citadel Extravaganza, which she calls a "Mandatory Fundraiser." Hazel takes full responsibility for coordinating this annual event, ensuring that parents are engaged and coaches are reminded of its importance. She also organizes quarterly fundraisers with vendors who provide swim gear for the athletes and is always available to help parents navigate suit sizes and other apparel needs.

Hazel's dedication to the swim team truly shined during the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic. When WAC lost access to its practice pool, Hazel worked closely with coaches to develop an alternative training regimen for athletes, allowing them to continue improving even without water. She also took the initiative to research the latest safety protocols and worked diligently with the City of Whittier to reopen access to the pool. While many other teams were forced to shut down or consolidate, WAC remained active and accessible to its athletes, thanks in large part to Hazel's efforts.

In 2024, WAC faced another setback with the sudden departure of the head coach. Without missing a beat, Hazel immediately began searching for a new coach, reaching out to other local clubs, attending swim meets, and conducting interviews to find the best candidate. Her proactive approach paid off when she successfully recruited a highly qualified coach who had both competitive experience at the collegiate level and a background in coaching both youth and adult swimmers. This transition was seamless, and the team was able to continue its growth under the new leadership.

Hazel has shown unwavering dedication to the Whittier Aquatics Club and the community it serves. Her efforts have ensured the continuity of the team through various challenges, and her leadership has positively impacted the lives of countless athletes and families. I have no doubt that Hazel will continue to be an asset to this organization, and I give her my highest recommendation.

Sincerely,


Jose G. Luevano

If you would like to submit more information about the nominee or the agency please attach a PDF

 Add File



If you would like to submit a video file to support this application please attach a file

 Add File

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**WHITTIER AREA YOUTH SOCCER (WAYS)**

**NOMINEE: MICHELLE RYAN**

# 2024 Volunteer of the Year Nomination Form

## VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION:

The Volunteer Recognition awards are presented annually to outstanding individuals who have gone above and beyond in giving to the Whittier community. Nominees devote their time, talent, and expertise on a volunteer non-paid basis to local non-profit organizations. Whittier is known for its strong volunteer ethic, and to date, more than 200 volunteers have been honored. They include representatives from non-profit social service agencies, youth groups, schools, service clubs, and business volunteer groups.

## ELIGIBILITY FOR VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION NOMINEES:

Please note: Volunteer service hours must have been performed in the City of Whittier during 2024. Volunteers do not need to be city residents. Religious, fraternal, city employees, city commissioners, and other professional groups providing services only to their members are not eligible for nomination. Past recipients are eligible this year.

## HOW TO NOMINATE:

To nominate that special person(s) in your organization, you just need to complete the Award Nomination form below. Please include a description of the volunteer's service and its impact on the organization, and the community at large. Submissions may include photographs, video files (no longer than two minutes), scrapbooks, or brochures of the organization. The submission of photographs and video files are highly encouraged. Submissions will not be returned. A PDF or video file can be sent if the survey link cannot be accessed.

Applications are due:

Friday, January 31, 2025, by 5:00 PM to [gonzalezr@cityofwhittier.org](mailto:gonzalezr@cityofwhittier.org)

## Nominating Agency Details

Submitting Agency Name \*

WAYS (Whittier Area Youth Soccer)

Agency Address \*

P.O. Box 4723  
Whittier, CA 90607-4723

Mailing Address (include attention to) \*

Attn: Veronica Islas, P.O. Box 4723, Whittier, CA 90607-4723



Contact Name \*

Veronica Islas

Contact Phone Number \*

650-207-7636

Contact Email Address \*

communications@whittiersoccer.org

## Nominee Information

Nominee Name \*

Michelle Ryan

Contact Phone Number \*

562-713-1995

Contact Email Address \*

michelledryan@gmail.com

Name of agency Nominee supported in 2024 \*

WAYS (Whittier Area Youth Soccer)

Nominee Job Title (if applicable)

Coach

Total number of hours served as a volunteer for this agency in 2024 \*

520

Frequency of service in 2024 \*

☐ Daily

☒ Weekly

☐ Monthly

☐ Ad hoc

☐ Other:

Overall length of time they have served their agency \*

☐ 0-1 year

☐ 2-5 years

☒ 6-10 years

☐ 11-15 years


☐ 15-20 years


☐ 20+ years

Describe the reasons for nominating this individual \*


See attached nomination.

If you would like to submit more information about the nominee or the agency please attach a PDF

 WAYS - Michelle ...

 Add File

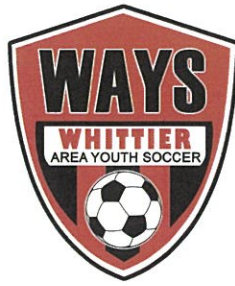
If you would like to submit a video file to support this application please attach a file

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Subject: Nomination for Michelle Ryan - City of Whittier's 2024 Volunteer of the Year

Dear Nomination Committee/Selection Panel,

Coach Michelle Ryan embodies the true spirit of volunteerism and community service through her unwavering dedication to Whittier Area Youth Soccer (WAYS). Her connection to WAYS runs deep—she was a player in the league as a child and has since come full circle, now giving back as a coach to the next generation of young athletes. Since 2017, when she first stepped onto the field as a team mom for her then 3-year-old son, Michelle has continually expanded her role, becoming an assistant coach, then a head coach in 2019—a position she has passionately embraced ever since.

Michelle's impact on the WAYS community extends far beyond coaching her own children. When the league faced a shortage of coaches, she selflessly stepped up to lead a second team, despite not having a child on the roster, simply because the kids needed her. This dedication to ensuring every child has the opportunity to play is a testament to her commitment to youth sports and community engagement.

For many seasons, including this upcoming one, Michelle has coached two teams—one for her 11 year-old son and one for her 7 year-old son—balancing her responsibilities with enthusiasm and care. Season after season, she welcomes players of all skill levels, including those who may need extra guidance and patience. Her approachability and support make her one of the most requested coaches by parents. Additionally, referees consistently commend her positive sideline demeanor, setting an example of sportsmanship for both players and families.

Michelle's influence extends beyond the teams she currently leads. She continues to support her former players, often attending their games, cheering them on, and staying engaged in their development. In many seasons, she has been the only female coach in her division, leading by example and encouraging other women to step up into coaching roles, while also inspiring young girls to see themselves as future leaders in sports.

Coach Michelle Ryan's selfless service, dedication to youth development, and commitment to fostering a positive, inclusive environment in Whittier's soccer community make her an outstanding candidate for the City of Whittier's Volunteer of the Year Award. Her contributions have left a lasting impact on countless young athletes, their families, and the WAYS organization as a whole.

Sincerely,

Veronica Islas  
Vice President of Communications and Community Relations  
[communications@whittiersoccer.org](mailto:communications@whittiersoccer.org)  
650-207-7636