ORGANIZATION WINNERS OF THE YEAR

FUNDRAISING EVENT
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of San Diego County

COLLABORATION
- Connect All @ The Jacobs Center

AWARENESS CAMPAIGN
- Feeding San Diego

BUSINESS ANGEL
- Molina Healthcare

NON-PROFIT
- Promises2Kids 40th Anniversary

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY
- Wilson Turner Kosmo LLP

EXECUTIVE WINNERS OF THE YEAR

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY
- Jennifer Barnes

VOLUNTEER
- Tim Cruickshank

NON-PROFIT
- Tony Teravainen
Tony Teravainen Builds Financial Self-Sufficiency

EXECUTIVE: STEP Has Served More Than 5,600 Military and Veteran Families

Tony Teravainen, CEO of Support the Enlisted Project (STEP), has won the Nonprofit Executive of the Year Award. In 2012, Teravainen built Support the Enlisted Project (STEP). The organization aims to build financial self-sufficiency among junior active duty enlisted members and recently discharged enlisted veterans and their families that are facing financial crisis. The nonprofit does so by providing counseling, education and grants.

To date, STEP has served more than 5,600 military and veteran families through its main Emergency Financial Assistance program. The families who turn to STEP are usually at risk of losing a basic necessity, like their home, a vehicle, water, electricity or insurance, or don’t have the financial means to purchase things like food and/or baby diapers until their next paycheck.

The STEP social workers counsel one-on-one with each family, helping with personal finance. Every client leaves with a personalized plan to achieve financial goals and, when necessary, STEP provides financial assistance grants to prevent the loss of a critical basic need. As CEO of STEP, Teravainen has grown its team to 12 staffers and hundreds of volunteers since 2014. The nonprofit’s budget has gone from $650,000 annually to $2.8 million in nine years. And, it has positively impacted 40,000 lives each year since then. As a result, 92% of clients report being on track in their path of financial self-sufficiency, including avoiding pending eviction, repossession, disconnection, hunger and more.

Because of his accomplishments with STEP and his desire to give back to his community, Teravainen also serves as leader of other local organizations. This includes the San Diego County Military and Veteran Advisory Council, San Diego Coast Guard City Committee, Sand Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce Veteran and Military Committee, North Chamber Economic Development & Advocacy Advisory Council, San Diego Leadership Forum, and Commissioner on City of San Diego Citizens Equal Opportunity Committee among others.

Tim Cruickshank Chairs Annual Golf Marathon

VOLUNTEER: Personally Raises Over $30,000 for Event

The winner of the Volunteer of the Year Award is Tim Cruickshank. Tim Cruickshank is on the Board of Directors for Big Brothers Big Sisters of San Diego County. He is also chair of the organization’s annual golf marathon.

For the 28th Golf Marathon, which Cruickshank chaired or participated in the event for 10 consecutive years, raising over $1,500,000 for Big Brothers Big Sisters of San Diego County through the event and personally fundraising well in excess of $150,000 during that span. Now, being named a winner of San Diego Business Journal’s 2021 Nonprofit awards is a hole in one.

Jennifer Barnes Helps Nonprofits Manage Their Finances, Team

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY: Offered Over $80,000 in Pro-Bono Services

Jennifer Barnes, CEO and founder of the Optima Office, has been named Outstanding Social Responsibility Executive of the Year.

Through the accounting firm Barnes has offered over $80,000 in pro-bono services to companies struggling during the COVID-19 crisis.

During the pandemic, the president and CEO launched a non-profit specialization within the company to help more charitable organizations optimally manage their finances and team. Barnes also sits on many boards, including that of The Better Business Bureau, The Business Executives Council and Junior Achievement Young Executives Board. She is currently a member of Rotary, Village International, Young Entrepreneurs Council and Entrepreneurs Organization.

At San Diego State University, Barnes volunteers her time by participating in the mentor program and also as a judge in various student competitions. She is active in Junior Achievement, helping set up youth for financial success, and serves as a mentor for the Lavin Program at the institution.

Within her own organization, Barnes ensured her employees’ financial stability by not laying off a single employee as a result of the pandemic and giving the team flexibility in their scheduling to best address their evolving needs. Many of her employees with school aged children loved being able to work around their kids’ at-home school schedule and continue to have the support of Barnes and Optima Office to manage the ongoing, everchanging situation.
Helping our neighbors create paths to healthy food, stable homes and safe relationships.
Promises2Kids Responds to the Needs of Foster Children

**NONPROFIT:** Provides Over 3,000 Youth With Opportunities and Guidance

Promises2Kids has been named Nonprofit of the Year. Since 1981, Promises2Kids has responded to the needs of foster children and provides support to children removed from their homes due to abuse and neglect. Now celebrating its 40th anniversary, Promises2Kids supports these children through four programs: The A.B. & Jessie Polinsky Children’s Center, Camp Connect, Guardian Scholars and Foster Funds. During the pandemic, Promises2Kids was able to successfully navigate and redirect its programs to meet the needs of employees and those they serve. It was able to ensure that all foster youth received the financial and emotional support they rely on for basic needs. The organization acted quickly to secure funds necessary to support $350,000 of unexpected expenses for the youth in response to COVID-19.

Additionally, Promises2Kids received a gift of $1 million from San Diego’s McCarthy Foundation, with a focus on child abuse prevention, and secured $2.6 million. This allowed the organization to achieve the vision of supporting every foster youth in San Diego County as they reach age 18 and work towards their career or educational goals, within three years. Elsewhere, the essential support from businesses and community leaders to serve as role models and mentors for foster youth has resulted in more than 85% of youth in the Guardian Scholars program completing their education, compared to the national average of 11%.

**FUNDRAISING EVENT OF THE YEAR**

**Big Brothers Big Sisters of S.D. See Record Funds**

**FUNDRAISING:** More Than $305,000 Raised at Golf Marathon

**INNOVATIVE AWARENESS CAMPAIGN**

**Feeding San Diego Launches Awareness Campaign**

**INNOVATIVE:** Organization Demonstrates Feeding the Hungry is Not About Sourcing, But Distribution

Feeding San Diego received the award for Most Innovative Awareness Campaign. The organization’s mission is ending hunger through food rescue.

In April 2021, Feeding San Diego launched the inaugural “Feed People, Not Landfills” awareness campaign. The impetus was to demonstrate that feeding the hungry is not a sourcing problem but a distribution problem.

According to ReFED, the national nonprofit working to end food loss and waste across the United States’ food system, 35% of all food produced is wasted in this country. Meanwhile, over one million people in San Diego County are at risk of experiencing hunger. Further, 8% of global greenhouse gas emissions are attributed to food waste. When still-edible food is tossed in the trash, it ends up in landfills, where it generates methane. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 34% of all methane emissions in the U.S. come from landfills.

As a result, the Sorrento Valley-based organization is rescuing high-quality food from local grocery stores, farms and other food donors like hotels, restaurants and convenience stores and getting it to people that are food insecure. These partnerships are providing San Diegans with healthy meals while diverting food from the waste stream.

As part of the awareness campaign, Feeding San Diego launched a number of initiatives to capture the attention of both the general public and niche community groups.

One effort was partnering with In Good Company, a local brand that sells frozen meals in sustainable packaging prepared by some of San Diego’s favorite chefs. In partnership with the Girl Scouts San Diego and San Diego County, Big Brothers Big Sisters has been creating and supporting one-to-one mentoring relationships. The Big Brothers Big Sisters’ vision is for all youth to achieve their full potential.

National research has shown that positive relationships between Littles and their Bigs have a direct and measurable impact on children’s lives. By partnering with the Girl Scouts, the program helps create confidence, avoid risky behaviors and aim for educational success.
Molina Healthcare is the winner of this year’s Business Angel of the Year award. The company places heavy focus on helping underserved children, teens and families in San Diego unlock life’s opportunities through a commitment to education.

Molina Healthcare supports Words Alive and the San Diego community through volunteer engagement and recognition as well as support of special events that directly benefit Words Alive program participants and efforts. This helps increase visibility and awareness of critical community issues and the nonprofits working to address them.

Words Alive connects children, teens and families with the power of reading. Its mission is to open opportunities for life success by inspiring a commitment to reading. Molina Healthcare believes that empowering experiences turns individuals into agents of change and advocates for their own education. It also stands behind the idea that when everyone can read, whole communities thrive.

Wilson Turner Kosmo Launches Diversity, Equity, Inclusion Group

By MARIEL CONCEPCION

Wilson Turner Kosmo’s continuously expanding diverse makeup reflects the goals upon which the firm was founded: creating and growing. They are being honored as Outstanding Social Responsibility and Nonprofit.

In the wake of the death of George Floyd, a black man murdered at the hands of a Minneapolis police officer last year, San Diego-based Wilson Turner Kosmo immediately took action to stand in solidarity with the movement against racial justice.

One of the largest certified women-owned law firms in California, Wilson Turner Kosmo launched a Diversity, Equity & Inclusion practice group to support companies and organizations that lacked their own diversity programs. It also undertook a matching donation for four community groups that support the advancement of minorities. This included the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation, headquartered Downtown, and Turner Dream Foundation, in Chula Vista. Meanwhile, Wilson Turner Kosmo continues to promote diversity within its own four walls. Almost 85% of all firm personnel are women or minorities, with women making up over half of all equity partners and over 76% of attorneys. Nearly 50% of the firm’s attorneys, and 31% of all equity partners, are minorities.

Wilson Turner Kosmo’s continuously expanding diverse makeup reflects the goals upon which the firm was founded: creating and growing. They are being honored as Outstanding Social Responsibility and Nonprofit.

In 2020, Words Alive connected with the regional San Diego office of Molina Healthcare to discuss the severe effects of school closures on academic performance and student engagement. From that stemmed a partnership of ideation, collaboration and commitment to recovering learning loss and provide students and families new ways to learn skills in socially distant settings.

Molina Healthcare’s core programming serves nearly 4,000 students and families in San Diego facing extraordinary circumstances such as homelessness, poverty, foster care, abuse, impact by the juvenile justice system and teen pregnancy. It collaborates with 80+ schools and community organizations to reach these youth and families.
Providing essential services to children and adults with disabilities throughout San Diego County for 70 years.

Providing essential services to children and adults with disabilities throughout San Diego County for 70 years.

Congratulations!
SAN DIEGO BUSINESS JOURNAL
2021
NONPROFIT & CORPORATE CITIZENSHIP AWARDS FINALISTS

ANTHONY J. DESALIS, ESQ.
Nonprofit Executive of the Year

JULIE LYON
Volunteer of the Year

The Arc.
of San Diego
619.685.1175 | www.arc-sd.com

ANTHONY J. DESALIS, ESQ.
President & CEO, The Arc of San Diego

JULIE LYON
Board Chair, The Arc of San Diego’s North County Chapter Advisory Board

Helping connect vulnerable families with the EBB program

Scan me and donate your unused electronics today!

www.c2k.org

EMERGENCY BROADBAND BENEFIT
We’re committed to meeting individuals and families where they are and delivering the compassionate services that have helped generations of San Diegans transform their lives.

Community is the Home We Build Together
www.jfssd.org

Jewish Family Service of San Diego • JOAN & IRWIN JACOBS CAMPUS • Turk Family Center • 8804 Balboa Ave, San Diego CA 92123

Providing Vital Services to the Community During Challenging Times

From providing critical assistance during the pandemic, to welcoming asylum seekers and refugees, and helping San Diego’s vulnerable populations, we offer compassionate services that create a stronger and healthier community where everyone can thrive.

Congratulations to all of the nominees and winners!

Molina Healthcare has been taking care of moms, kids, and families for 40 years.

MolinaHealthcare.com
Promises2Kids is honored to be selected as San Diego Business Journal’s Nonprofit of the Year!

Proudly serving foster youth for 40 years! Thanks to the support of the community, Promises2Kids is creating a brighter future for foster children.

To learn how you can make a difference in a child’s life, visit www.Promises2Kids.org

We are honored to be a FINALIST for the San Diego Business Journal’s 2021 Nonprofit & Corporate Citizenship Awards.

Invest in San Ysidro Health for a healthy San Diego.

Thank you for supporting our mission of improving the health and well-being of the communities we serve with access for all.

108,000 lives in our care

47 health centers & program sites

2,400 workforce dedicated to our mission

55,000+ COVID-19 vaccines administered to date

www.sdbj.com AUGUST 30, 2021
We are proud to be a finalist for the Nonprofit & Citizenship Awards 2021

Opportunity through work

We help businesses grow, rebuild and thrive equitably, while equipping job seekers to increase their economic mobility.

We believe in the power and dignity of work, fight for equity and inclusion, and dedicate ourselves to building services that meet people where they are.

workforce.org

The Support The Enlisted Project Board and Staff Congratulate their CEO & Co-Founder

Tony Teravainen

Executive of The Year
2021 Nonprofit Citizenship Awards

Thank you for the nine years of inspirational leadership needed to create STEP – positively affecting the lives of thousands of young military and veteran families each year – in a manner which upholds our values to always do the right thing, honor patriotism and service to country, build relationship, respect others, and deliver results with excellence.

TeamSTEPusa.org

STEP
SUPPORT THE ENLISTED PROJECT
WILSON TURNER KOSMO LLP

is honored to be selected as the WINNER of the

2021 NONPROFIT & CITIZENSHIP AWARD for OUTSTANDING SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

by the SAN DIEGO BUSINESS JOURNAL

Congratulations to our Partner MICHAEL S. KALT on being selected by The San Diego Business Journal as a Finalist for the 2021 VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Learn more about who we are at www.wilsonturnerkosmo.com

SAN DIEGO BUSINESS JOURNAL

2021 Nonprofit Giving Guide

The San Diego Business Journal will be publishing the 2021 Giving Guide on October 25th.

The Giving Guide will feature in-depth two-page profiles on local nonprofit organizations in the area and is an ideal platform for organizations that serve nonprofits helping them to grow and thrive. Professional services are used by every nonprofit and this section is a great opportunity to promote your services.

Publication Date: October 25, 2021
Ad & Profile Deadline: October 1, 2021

For more information, contact AnnMarie Gabaldon p. (760) 271-1660 | e. amgabaldon@sdbj.com
2021 NONPROFIT AWARDS

Jennifer Barnes
Optima Office

Anthony DeSalis
The Arc of San Diego

Michael Kalt
Wilson Turner Kosmo

Paolo Piscatelli
Rescu

Peter Callstrom
San Diego Workforce Partnership

Toni Giffin
Goodwill Industries of San Diego County

Betzy Lynch
Lawrence Family JCC | JACOBS FAMILY CAMPUS

Nancy Sasaki
United Way of San Diego County

Tonya Torosian
Promises2Kids

Dr. Amy Witman
Private MD

EXECUTIVES OF THE YEAR

Tim Cruickshank
Big Brothers Big Sisters of San Diego County

John Jenkins
Asset Preservation Strategies

Julie Lyon
The Arc of San Diego

Tony Teravainen
Support The Enlisted Project (STEP)
2021 NONPROFIT AWARDS

ORGANIZATIONS OF THE YEAR

AWARDS 2021

FINALISTS

Alzheimer's Association of San Diego/Imperial Counties
Alzheimer's San Diego
Arena Pharmaceuticals
Athena
Big Brothers Big Sisters of San Diego County
Chicano Federation of San Diego County
Christopher Weil and Company, Inc.
Community Resource Center
Computers 2 Kids
CONNECT ALL @ the Jacobs Center & Union Bank
Feeding San Diego
Foundation for Women Warriors
Founders First Capital Partners
Girl Scouts San Diego
Home Start, Inc.
Jacobs Center for Neighborhood Innovation
Jewish Family Service of San Diego
Molina Healthcare
PRIDE Industries
Promises2Kids
Rancho Coastal Humane Society
ResMed
San Diego Blood Bank
San Diego Workforce Partnership
San Ysidro Health
Support The Enlisted Project (STEP)
The Honor Foundation
Wilson Turner Kosmo
Words Alive
Wounded Warrior Homes