

INNOVATOR *of the* **YEAR AWARDS**

Awards Ceremony at Irvine Marriott | September 12, 2024

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OC's Innovators: Year in Review

Last September, the Business Journal honored five local executives and inventors leading the charge in a variety of fields at the ninth annual **Innovator of the Year Awards**.

From a renowned healthcare philanthropist to an EV software expert, the winners hail from varying industries, but all have made breakthroughs in their respective spaces over the past year.

The Business Journal recently caught up with the winners to see what's changed since 2023.

The tenth annual Innovator of the Year Awards is scheduled for **Sept. 12** at the **Irvine Marriott**.

Bios for the nominees of the upcoming event begin on page 38.

— Sara Shirazian

Alex Parker: Expands to Different Energy Solutions

Sees Growth with Hydrogen; Starts New Programs with Germans

■ By EMILY SANTIAGO-MOLINA

ORANGE — **Alex Parker**, president of **Redline Detection**, says the automotive industry is a ripe starting point for innovation.

Redline, founded in 2008, designs and manufactures battery and coolant leak protection equipment and other tools to sell to automakers and dealerships in 160 countries.

Parker last year won an **Innovator of the Year Award** for her efforts in shifting the company from developing automotive diagnostic equipment solely for internal combustion engines toward building the software equivalent for electric vehicles (EVs) during the pandemic. The new segment now makes up around 40% of the business.

Now, she's expanded to working with hydrogen and creating technology for marine applications. The company has also been looking to move into aviation.

"We are taking intellectual property developed right here in Orange County and applying it to innovative uses," Parker told the Business Journal.

"We are in a fortunate position to be energy agnostic."



She sees the scaling of electrification in the auto industry as an opportunity for Redline to grow as well, saying it's a high growth area.

German Luxury

Currently, Parker is making investments in Redline's research and development division

as well as its engineering capabilities to move into different segments and industry spaces.

In the past year, Redline has launched two new programs with two German luxury automakers that allows the manufacturer's technology to be deployed in new dealers and international locations. Parker said it was an expansion of technology that the company

has worked on domestically with local partners.

She said she'll be spending all of September in Europe to work on technology with new global partners.

"The adoption of innovation takes a moment, and then there's a recognition of ROI, and then it becomes state of the art," Parker said. "I think we're there."

The executive added that Redline has seen double-digit growth across most segments and increased its local workforce by 15% since last year. Continuing her dedication to education, Parker employed nine interns at the Orange headquarters this summer, marking her 115th mentee.

She wants to keep "the best and brightest" in OC.

Parker also noted that the manufacturer would be prepping for any impacts from this election year. She had a chance to meet Minnesota Governor and vice president candidate **Tim Walz** during a short visit to OC last week and expressed to him how critical local trade was.

She said she was encouraged by their conversation about supporting local business needs and workers.

"In the life of an entrepreneur, a year is a lifetime," Parker said. "I love the pace we're running at." ■

Ramin Mousavi: Plots CathWorks' Global Expansion

Gets EU Approval for Noninvasive Heart Tool

■ By YUIKA YOSHIDA

NEWPORT BEACH — **CathWorks'** diagnostic tool recently gained regulatory approval in the European Union, marking the third region where it's commercially available.

Now, the Newport Beach-based medical device company is eyeing the rest of the world, Chief Executive and President **Ramin Mousavi** told the Business Journal.

The **FFRangio System**, a noninvasive method of diagnosing heart disease, is currently available in 45 U.S. states, over 200 hospitals in Japan and is expected to launch in five to seven countries in Europe with the recent approval.

CathWorks' worldwide expansion is supported by its co-promotion partnership with **Medtronic PLC**, one of the world's largest medical device makers, which was first announced in 2022.

"From a commercial perspective, the partnership with Medtronic has proven to be very effective," Mousavi said. "The access to a few 100 Medtronic team members across the globe have been definitely one of main driv-



ers of the growth."

As part of the agreement, Medtronic said it'd invest up to \$75 million in CathWorks, with the option to buy the company in the next five years at a \$585 million valuation after it completes certain product milestones.

While the company had no official announcements to share on the acquisition front, Mousavi said CathWorks is progress-

ing towards "hopefully exciting news."

All-Rise Study

Since Mousavi was awarded the Business Journal's **Innovator of the Year Award** last year, he has overseen the company's global expansion and ongoing clinical trials.

CathWorks last June announced that it enrolled its first patient in its international **All-**

Rise study, a randomized controlled trial comparing the clinical outcomes between patients using FFRangio and traditional invasive catheter wires.

The study is expected to enroll close to 2,000 patients at 60 sites across North America, Asia, Europe and the Middle East. It is now close to achieving half of its enrollment goal, Mousavi said.

Last year, Mousavi also told the Business Journal that CathWorks was making big strides in creating noninvasive approaches using artificial intelligence and computational science technology to diagnose cardiovascular disease.

He said he hopes to share new product announcements within the next 12 months.

CathWorks saw its largest growth in sales last year and is on track to more than double that figure this year, according to Mousavi.

The company has fully settled into its new headquarters, having relocated its U.S. headquarters from Irvine to a space in Newport Beach nearly triple its prior footprint last year.

If Medtronic were to acquire CathWorks, Mousavi believes it'd be beneficial to keep CathWorks in Orange County.

"I think it'd be a great addition to the Medtronic portfolio since they don't have any cardiovascular presence yet in Orange County," he said. ■



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Jennifer Friend: Project Hope Secures \$2.1M Grant

Aims to Transform Support for Unhoused Youth

By KAITLIN AQUINO

COSTA MESA — **Project Hope Alliance** is well on its way to reaching all unhoused students in Orange County.

The nonprofit in June received a \$2.1 million grant from **CalOptima**, the Orange-based public agency responsible for providing health insurance to California residents.

The “systems change” grant enables Project Hope to scale its model of support for unhoused youth by partnering with OC school districts and the **OC Department of Education (OCDE)**.

Costa Mesa’s Project Hope aims to use the funding to transform how students experiencing homelessness are identified and supported through school staff training.

“This is the first time CalOptima has ever given a ‘systems change’ grant,” Project Hope CEO **Jennifer Friend** told the Business Journal.

Friend last year was honored at the Business Journal’s **Innovator of the Year Awards** for her work quintupling Project Hope’s reach and growing the nonprofit’s funding 40% to \$2.8 million.

“There are a lot of organizations that applied for the grant that are dramatically larger than we are,” Friend said. “But CalOptima saw our vision to rise up and meet the needs of children experiencing homelessness.”

Today, there are over 23,000 students experiencing homelessness in OC, according to Project Hope.

The issue of youth homelessness is a personal one for Friend, whose family



struggled to find a permanent roof over their heads while she lived in Huntington Beach.

High School

When Friend grew up, her family hopped around motels, sometimes relying on the kindness of close relatives and friends for a place to stay.

Her situation is common for many families in OC. Motels along Costa Mesa’s Harbor Boulevard and Buena Park’s Beach Boulevard are filled with families who use them as de facto housing, she said.

Friend’s experience has shaped the way Project Hope supports children experiencing

homelessness. The nonprofit’s growth has primarily been driven by her method of integrating the nonprofit’s services on school campuses.

“We don’t have signage,” Friend told the Business Journal in a prior interview. “Our offices don’t say anything about homelessness, so kids don’t have to feel ashamed or worried that they’re going to be discovered.”

The nonprofit’s systems change initiative, enabled by the CalOptima grant, is also guided by the same dignity for unhoused students.

“Currently, most registration forms by school

districts ask ‘are you currently experiencing homelessness’ to identify” unhoused students, Friend said. “A family faced with just that question may be reticent to answer because they’re scared of social services being called. They’re not sleeping on the street, but they don’t have a permanent home, or they’re ashamed.”

In collaboration with OCDE, Project Hope is changing the form’s question to ask recipients to check off which situation applies to them. The provided options will include “living in a home, living in a motel, living in a shelter and living with two or three other families.”

“That will give us a more accurate number of how many students are experiencing homelessness,” Friend said.

The form adjustment is one of many steps Project Hope is taking to reach more unhoused children. The nonprofit is also gearing up to train school administrators, nurses, faculty and security to help identify unhoused students and to direct them to resources.

“We will never stop doing our programmatic work, but our ability to also elevate this to a systems change level—which I believe can be replicated nationally—will help a much larger percentage of students experiencing homelessness,” Friend said. ■

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"In our experience, the best way to drive change in healthcare is through innovation. Transformative innovation can accelerate that change and positively impact patients' lives. That's our mission at CathWorks, and we are proud of the progress and impact we have made over the last decade."

—**Ramin Mousavi**, President & CEO of CathWorks

Rob Phillips: Family Company Keeps on Innovating

Making Life Better for Truckers

■ By KEVIN COSTELLOE

IRVINE — **Rob Phillips**' family company keeps innovating to ensure a safer and more efficient life for the all-important trucking industry.

For example, in May, **Phillips Industries** announced the launch of the **REAR-VU Backup Camera**.

Using the camera means that "any driver can connect with any trailer equipped with the device."

"This universal compatibility is complemented by a robust and stable proprietary Wi-Fi connection that extends over 70 feet, ensuring reliable and continuous service," the company said.

Phillips, the company's CEO, was one of the five local innovators honored by the Business Journal during the ninth annual **Innovator of the Year Awards** almost a year ago.

He was then moving the 96-year-old family business headquarters from Santa Fe Springs to **UCI Research Park** in Irvine.

"The move to UCI Research Park has been fantastic! We're at the center of incredible innovation and next-level thinking, and our state-of-the-art office, with creative collaborative spaces, is inspiring employees to come in more and more. The area is very safe with convenient freeway access, and being close to John Wayne Airport is both great and accessible for team members and customers," Phillips told the Business Jour-



nal on Aug. 13.

Solar Panels

In another innovation introduced just three months ago, Phillips launched solar panel technology for commercial trucks and trailers.

Phillips now offers durable, monocrystalline silicon solar panels that it says are 80% lighter than traditional glass systems, producing 20% more energy with a 50% higher power density.

Tractor and trailer solar systems offer commercial vehicle operators numerous advantages, including fuel savings, reduced CO2 emissions, elimination of jump starts, extended battery life, increased reliability,

liftgate support and additional power.

The durable, patented grid design withstands extreme vibrations, winds up to 155 miles per hour and impacts from road debris, rocks and tree branches.

In March, the company announced a product called **T/T Pair** that acts as a "smart seven-way socket" providing tractor and trailer pairing, designed to replace the existing **Phillips QCS2 Socket**. In one minute, truckers can swap the seven-way socket for a patented T/T Pair socket and avoid any additional wiring or installation, the company said.

"The system provides instant tracking and verification of tractor-trailer pairing and prevents unnecessary trailer pulls that consume

driver hours, fuel and mileage. T/T Pair also alerts unauthorized trailer use to increase security," **Commercial Carrier Journal** reported at the time.

\$500M Annual Revenue

Rob Phillips told the Business Journal last year that the company's focus is on GPS, plus components such as brake sensors, tire sensors, light sensors, temperature, cameras on the inside of trailers and on the outsides of trailers.

He is the great-grandson of **H.W. Phillips**, who patented, manufactured and distributed the first reflective turn signal for trucks in California, starting his business in 1928.

Phillips succeeded his father, **Bob Phillips**, at the head of the 96-year-old company.

Phillips Industries and its two additional business units have about \$500 million in annual global revenue.

The company has 1,850 employees, with 140 in the Irvine headquarters area.

Phillips makes about 4,000 products, such as electrical connections, lights, wiring cable and air connectors for tractor-trailers.

The company's products are installed on all trucks made in the U.S. and 84% of the trailers, according to Rob Phillips.

"That's really our foundational business that we have," he said.

He is also CEO and Co-Founder of **Phillips Connect**. ■



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Thomas Nichols, Founder & CEO

I am honored to be nominated for the Innovator of the Year Award and would like to recognize and thank the firms that have been instrumental to our success.



Thank You for Helping End Homelessness in Orange County

We extend our sincere gratitude to all of the WelcomeHomeOCSM Property Provider Network members who play a key role in ending homelessness in our community by opening their doors to help house our neighbors in need.

Special recognition goes to the **Apartment Association of Orange County** and its Executive Director, **David Cordero**, for their collaboration in helping establish WelcomeHomeOC and their ongoing support, which bolsters the program's continued success.



Photo: Top, right: Special recognition by State Senator Dave Min's office



WelcomeHomeOC is part of Orange County United Way's United to End HomelessnessSM initiative. Now in its fifth year, the housing navigation and landlord incentive program works to streamline the housing process for Orange County residents who have a housing voucher and ensures supportive services are provided so that families can stay housed for the long-term.



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Revolutionizing Emergency Communication with Titan HST

Sit down with the minds that created Titan HST and learn more about how the mass communication company has become so successful. Vic Merjanian, Founder & CEO, and Ryan Khalili, CTO, answer questions about the company's origins and what sets Titan HST apart.

Q: What encouraged you to design a product like Titan HST?

- a. Vic: I experienced many incidents first-hand that affected me, my friends, family, and people close to me. In each event, they were surrounded by people, but couldn't get connected with help fast enough. I believed in the power of people. We order food, household items, play games, and even date via mobile phones and apps. Why not get help via them? With Titan HST you can.

Q: What sets Titan HST apart from other systems on the market?

- a. Ryan: Titan HST at its core has been designed and engineered by our team in house with our client's needs in mind. We hold dozens of patents on our core technology and those are built directly into the Titan HST mobile app. The platform is supercharged with life-saving technology like Mesh Networking and Real-Time Translation, so users can communicate when networks are down or overloaded and reach more people in multiple languages. In addition to that, the most important thing in the event of an emergency is reliability and ease-of-use. The Titan HST platform is very user friendly and has several layers of redundancy to support our clients when all else fails.

Q: Do your clients inspire your team when you are designing new features?

- a. Ryan: Our clients are a big part of our development process. Titan HST is always monitoring the news, markets, and social media for trends in rising incidents and threats. We are also fortunate to have clients in every industry, including hospitality, education, enterprise, stadiums and arenas,

and more. This gives us visibility into what many different organizations are facing and allows us to build features that are most helpful to our clients. We are proud to have a very rich pipeline of features that our clients are given access to as soon as they are deployed at no additional cost.

Q: What do you see as the future of Titan HST?

- a. Vic: With Titan HST, anything is possible! We strive to be the most innovative mass communication system on the market and are always adapting our product to help our clients face the challenges of today. We are currently working on incorporating more emerging technology into our platform to create a better user experience and help our clients gain a better understanding of the incidents that take place at their sites so they can be better prepared for the future. We are also always breaking into new industries and markets and look forward to helping the world become better connected.

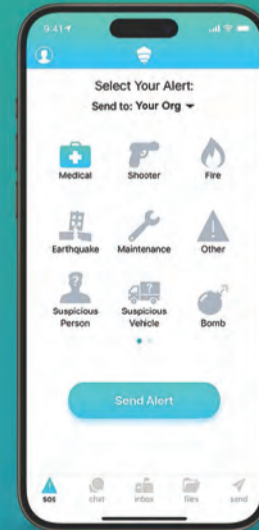


Vic Merjanian, Founder and CEO, and Ryan Khalili, CTO

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Now open: Joe C. Wen & Family Center for Advanced Care

When the new Irvine medical complex opened its doors to patients on April 30, UCI Health expanded the power of academic medicine to coastal and south Orange County, fundamentally changing the region's healthcare landscape.

The Joe C. Wen & Family Center for Advanced Care, the first of three state-of-the-art buildings to open at the UCI Health — Irvine campus, offers primary and specialty outpatient care for adults and children, all conveniently located under one roof at Jamboree Road and Birch Street.

A key mission of the Wen center is to deliver the finest multidisciplinary care in a setting that emphasizes convenience and comfort. Many patient needs can be met during a single trip, including physician visits, laboratory tests and imaging.

"The Joe C. Wen & Family Center for Advanced Care will provide access to comprehensive outpatient care in critical clinical specialties that are only available from an academic health system," says Chad T. Lefteris, president and chief executive officer of UCI Health.

Construction of the \$221 million, 168,000-square-foot facility was approved by the University of California Board of Regents in August 2020. It was augmented by a \$20 million gift from Joe C. Wen and his family. Wen is the founder and chief executive officer of Sakura Paper Inc., a division of Formosa Ltd. The gift is one of the largest ever to the University of California, Irvine.

A nexus of leading-edge care

The five-story Wen center is divided into spaces devoted to pediatric primary and specialty care, adult primary care and a broad range of adult specialty care. They include digestive health specialties, cardiovascular care, endocrinology, gynecology, neurology, neurosurgery, orthopaedics, pain, spine, sports medicine and ear, nose and throat services.

Comprehensive lab and imaging services are located on the first floor, as is the new home of the UCI Health Center for Autism & Neurodevelopmental Disorders.

An urgent care center staffed seven days a week by emergency medicine physicians occupies a wing of the ground floor with its own entrance. Patients and visitors can also relax in an airy cafe or outdoor garden area. In addition, an adjacent 800-space parking structure allows quick access to Wen center services.

Cancer care

The second phase of the \$1.3 billion Irvine medical complex, the Chao Family Comprehensive Cancer Center and Ambulatory Care building, opened to patients on July 16.

Together, the Wen and cancer centers will foster research efforts — the foundation of an academic health system — giving patients access to the latest, most promising new therapies unavailable elsewhere.

The final phase of the Irvine medical complex will be a 144-bed acute care hospital, complete with a 24-hour emergency department. It is scheduled to open in 2025.

"This medical center will have such a positive impact on so many lives," says Donna Hurt, director of ambulatory care administration, who has helped oversee staffing and service operations for the Wen center. "I'm honored to be a part of such great work."

To learn more or to make an appointment, visit ucihealth.org/wencenter

UCI Health



Now open in Irvine

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Making your business privacy compliant: a Q&A with BakerHostetler privacy litigation partner Matt Pearson

Privacy used to be limited to what happened behind closed doors. That is no longer the case. Privacy has exploded, in California and across the country, causing companies to scramble just to keep up. We talked to **Matt Pearson**, privacy litigation partner in BakerHostetler's Orange County office, to learn more about why privacy has become such an issue now and what companies should be doing to address it.

Everywhere we look, we are reminded of the intersection of privacy and business, whether in a company's privacy policy or in those little banners that pop up on websites. Why the recent surge?

There are really three reasons for it. First, people have come to realize that the internet is not anonymous. Second, people are learning more and more every day how their information can be and is being leveraged. And third, states are taking it upon themselves to enact laws intended to protect their residents' privacy.

The unintended result of those three things is a patchwork of state privacy laws, confusing and often conflicting interpretations of those laws, and fertile ground for consumer class actions and regulatory investigations. Truthfully, the speed at which these laws are being enacted and amended is putting companies in very uncomfortable situations, especially given how costly one mistake could be.



You mentioned the costs being borne by companies. What are those costs?

It really just depends. Obviously, not all data is the same, and not all uses of that data are the same. Making sure a company is privacy compliant does require some investment, but that investment pales in comparison to the cost of a regulatory investigation or consumer class action. Companies are far better off investing in their compliance now than they are defending their actions later.

What would you recommend companies do to avoid some of these costs in the future?

I think we have to change how we view privacy compliance. In the past, companies might have updated their privacy policies once every couple of years or when something changed drastically. Doing that now is a recipe for disaster. Privacy compliance is no longer a "check the box" kind of thing. Companies need to be proactive about it. There should be, at a minimum, quarterly audits. Policies should be continuously updated. Websites should be periodically cleaned up. You'd be amazed how many companies find themselves in trouble for using something on their website that they either no longer use or didn't know they were using in the first place. I see this often with specific marketing campaigns—the campaign has run its course, but the java script that companies were running to track the campaign's success remains on the website. Similarly, companies will often fixate on the data they can gather from their website users without stopping to think whether they should be gathering it in the first place. There is a lot of low-hanging fruit that can be addressed immediately, which can significantly reduce future exposure for companies.

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We believe innovation is the heart of any successful venture and we join the *Orange County Business Journal* in recognizing and celebrating all **2024 Innovator of the Year** nominees.

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The Best Business Bank in California

By Ivo A. Tjan, CEO
CommerceWest Bank

CommerceWest Bank is determined to redefine banking for small and mid-sized businesses in California. Many businesses do not realize they qualify for a customized loan, treasury management product and/or checking account that is tailor made to meet their specific needs. Our Bankers provide flexibility, servicing owners and catering to their particular business and individual banking needs. We work to accommodate our clients, rather than force our clients to accommodate to us by providing high-quality, low-stress, and personally tailored banking and financial services. As a full-service business bank, we offer a wide range of commercial banking services, remote deposit solutions, online banking, mobile banking, lines of credit, working capital loans, commercial real estate loans, SBA loans, and treasury management services. By employing a strategically selected team of experienced professionals, we carefully shepherd the assets with which we are entrusted. In the process of doing so, we maximize the financial potential of our clients, ensure the stability of our institution, and deliver on the promise to our clients and employees.

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Our forward-thinking approach to business, navigated our company to be recognized by *Newsweek* as one of “**America’s Best Regional Banks and Credit Unions 2024**”, named to the **2023 Best 50 List** (an annual ranking of the top 50 U.S and international companies trades on the OTCQX market), to be awarded the **2024 Top 100 Publicly Traded Community Banks** by *American Banker*, and a **Company That Cares** by the *Orange County Business Journal*.

The Bank continue this well into 2024 by actively managing credit risk, expanding our client base, and bringing on new talented employees to our team. Our fortress balance sheet approach and business model continue to be sources of economic strength for our business community, entrepreneurs, business owners, employees, and shareholders.

About the Bank

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It is prudent for businesses to have a long-term banking partnership that is safe and secure. CommerceWest Bank is FDIC insured and operates with a Fortress Balance Sheet, Strong Liquidity and Strong Capital Ratios that well exceed regulatory required levels. The Bank is simply built to last!

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About our Culture

Our Bank embodies a culture of Bankers whose only objective is to deliver unparalleled service to the business community versus being all things to all people like most banks today. By being all things to some people, CommerceWest Bank can provide customized and personally tailored banking services to businesses and their owners throughout California.

Our Bankers are experienced market leaders with a proven track record advising business owners and C-Suite Executives. Their passion for banking-and commitment to being stewards of the funds they are entrusted-has built a solid and stable foundation. Business owners trust our knowledge in evaluating their financial service needs and advising them on ways to save time, increase



operational efficiencies and enhance their cash flow by providing them with the credit facilities and treasury management services they need to help them grow their companies and protect their assets. Our Bankers take a deep approach to understanding financial conditions and trends to create a long-term customized solution.

Committed to our Community

CommerceWest Bank remains fully committed to our community. The Bank is celebrating its 23rd anniversary. Our unprecedented growth is all the more significant as other Banks have left the California marketplace or have closed their doors for good. With the 2021 move to a larger Corporate Headquarter in Irvine to accommodate our growth; while enabling us to continue growing for many years to come.

We are committed to making a difference supporting the community. In the spirit of service, tens of thousands are raised annually for Southern California nonprofits, primarily focusing on children and individuals with disabilities, those experiencing a hardship in their life, and those battling life threatening diseases. As a result, CommerceWest Bank is recognized as a “**Company That Cares**” by the *Orange County Business Journal* year after year.

These are exciting times for our company, our team, and our clients. Our future is bright. Our goals are clear. We know that it is more important than ever to be able to count on your banking partnership and we plan to continue to prove to the business community who the Best Bankers are in California.

Ivo A. Tjan, Founder & CEO

Ivo A. Tjan is Chairman, President and CEO of CommerceWest Bank. He has been recognized by the *Los Angeles Times* as a 2023 Orange County Visionary and named in the 2024 OC50 List and OC500 Most Influential People by the *Orange County Business Journal*. The Bank is headquartered in Irvine, California and serves businesses throughout California. He can be reached at itjan@cwbk.com or (949) 474-5278.



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TamiT@UnitedWayOC.org | 949.263.6163

Pictured above, center: Stephen G. and Regina Oswald, Chairs, Orange County United Way's Journey to 100 Centennial Gala

Event proceeds will support Orange County United Way's mission to ensure local students succeed, OC families gain financial security, our neighbors experiencing homelessness find a place to call home, and everyone gets connected to the resources they need.

THANK YOU TO OUR EVENT SPONSORS*

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THANK YOU TO OUR JOURNEY TO 100 SUPPORTERS*



*As of 8/9/24

Leading Innovation in Philanthropy

BY SHELLEY M. HOSS, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
ORANGE COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

For 35 years, the Orange County Community Foundation (OCCF) has been a beacon of innovation in philanthropy. Within Orange County's diverse and growing population of more than 3.1 million residents is a vibrant community of successful entrepreneurs, trailblazers, and first-generation wealth creators who are eager to leave a legacy of giving. OCCF stands as the county's foremost expert and facilitator for these forward-thinking philanthropists, helping them maximize their impact and fulfill their philanthropic dreams.

OCCF goes beyond merely advising donors and connecting them to nonprofits. The Foundation has pioneered thoughtful, results-focused programs that empower philanthropists to design and establish high-impact philanthropic funds. These funds support the causes closest to their hearts, creating a ripple effect of positive change that extends far beyond the initial donation. In a county brimming with generous donors and passionate partners, OCCF harnesses this heartfelt intention and transforms it into tangible, lasting impact for good.

PHILANTHROPIC INNOVATION IN OC

OCCF stands at the forefront of philanthropic innovation in Orange County, orchestrating a variety of visionary and strategic programs designed to address our community's most pressing needs. One of OCCF's cornerstone initiatives was **ConnectOC**, launched in 2012 in partnership with McKinsey & Company. This ground-breaking report offered a comprehensive analysis of Orange County's interconnected areas of need and outlined promising strategies to tackle the community's biggest challenges.

Inspired by ConnectOC, OCCF introduced **OC Nonprofit Central**, the region's only online database providing critical information about the local nonprofit sector, fostering greater transparency and collaboration between philanthropists and organizations working on the front lines of need. Visit ocnonprofitcentral.com to learn more.

Another noteworthy Foundation initiative is their **iheartOC Giving Days**, first launched in 2015. This countywide giving event was Orange County's first of its kind, encouraging residents to "give where their heart lives" by donating to local causes across a wide spectrum of needs. The inaugural event saw 6,139 contributions totaling \$1.8 million for 347 local nonprofits in just 30 hours. Over the past nine years, iheartOC Giving Days have collectively raised more than \$25 million, significantly bolstering the capacity of local nonprofits to serve the OC community. OCCF's Collaborative Giving Days use an online giving model to match local donors to Orange County nonprofits with shared missions – from homelessness and workforce development to preserving ecosystems and supporting local veterans – to create momentum on a single shared day and leverage combined outreach efforts. Visit iheartoc.org to learn more.

In 2019, OCCF launched a workforce development initiative now called **The Future is Working**, aimed at equipping graduating high school seniors, disconnected older youth, and underemployed young adults with the skills and credentials needed to secure high-quality jobs that meet local employer needs. This initiative is a testament to OCCF's commitment to fostering economic mobility and workforce readiness in the region, awarding nearly \$2.3 million to 14 projects since its inception.

Additionally, the **Social Innovation Fund**, also launched in 2019, exemplifies OCCF's dedication to pioneering new solutions for social and economic challenges. This fund, in partnership with local philanthropists and entrepreneurs, supports nonprofits ready to implement innovative programs or adapt successful models from other regions to address existing problems in Orange County.

Through these and other initiatives, OCCF continues to lead the way in creating a vibrant, resilient, and inclusive community where all have the opportunity to thrive.

OC PHILANTHROPY INNOVATORS

Ambassador Gaddi Vasquez: Modeled on a successful program of the Hispanic Foundation Silicon Valley, Gaddi approached OCCF with the idea



of creating a training program to equip Latino professionals in Orange County with the essential skills required for nonprofit board service. Despite Latinos making up over a third of the county's population, their representation on nonprofit boards remains disproportionately low. The Avanzar Board Leadership Academy, drawing on Ambassador Vasquez's extensive experience in board leadership, aims to bridge this gap by providing a unique pathway to leadership and community impact.

Joanna Kong: As Executive Director of the Sun Family Foundation, Joanna champions educational opportunities for first-generation college



students and uplifts underserved communities in Orange County. Joanna has been instrumental in expanding the Sun Family Foundation's grantmaking and community presence using a trust-based approach. Beyond her role at the foundation, Joanna co-founded Asian American Futures, a national nonprofit dedicated to empowering the next generation of Asian American and Pacific Islanders through high-impact, collective philanthropy and innovative programs.

Tam Nguyen: A community leader and second-generation family business



owner in the nail salon industry, Tam and his sister Linh established the Minh Tâm Nguyễn Endowment Fund for International Education at OCCF in partnership with Cal State Fullerton to honor the philanthropic legacy of their father following his passing last year. This endowed scholarship fund supports U.S. students wishing to study abroad as well as international students aiming to study in the U.S., reflecting a commitment to global educational access and cross-cultural exchange.

BUILDING A FOUNDATION FOR THE FUTURE

The Orange County Community Foundation's strategic approach to philanthropy marries the best of the head and the heart, blending informed strategy, deep community knowledge, and an enduring commitment as an exemplary philanthropic steward. By amplifying the results of donors' giving and partners' visions, OCCF mobilizes key players, applies community intelligence, and leverages enduring ties with visionaries and change-makers. With nearly \$700 million in charitable assets and more than \$1.1 billion in cumulative grantmaking, OCCF is setting impact into motion, not just in Orange County, but beyond. Innovative philanthropists are truly the engine powering the profound progress that our county, nation, and world depend on for a brighter future.

To learn more about OCCF, visit oc-cf.org.



Shelley M. Hoss

 Orange County
Community Foundation

Orange County Community Foundation

CELEBRATING

35

years

OF IMPACT

Leading Innovation in Philanthropy



Avanzar Board Leadership Program

41 participants have completed the three-month training program that helps build necessary skills to become confident board members and leaders for Orange County nonprofit organizations.



The Future is Working

Since 2019, this workforce development initiative has awarded nearly \$2.3 million to 14 projects that build talent pipelines for high-growth industries to meet the needs of local employers.



Promising Futures Orange County Fund

Launched in 2024, the first round of grants totaling \$385,000 were awarded to 16 organizations who aligned with the Fund's key values of advancing educational equity, community building, and economic opportunity.

Save the date for our 35th Anniversary Celebration!

Join us for an unforgettable evening as the Orange County Community Foundation celebrates 35 years of growing the good in Orange County and beyond!

Learn more at oc-cf.org

11.21.24

6:00 - 8:30 PM

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As we celebrate this year's 'Innovator of the Year,' Lugano acknowledges the crucial role innovation plays in driving business success. Innovation fosters creativity and forward-thinking strategies, helping businesses stay competitive in a rapidly changing market. It allows them to adapt to new trends and changing customer demands, ensuring long-term success in an ever-evolving business landscape.

At Lugano, innovation is woven into the fabric of our business, reflected in our steadfast commitment to originality and excellence. By consistently pushing the boundaries of design and craftsmanship, we continue to drive our own success.

The GOLDEN AGE *of*
INNOVATION

Lugano's Interchangeable Pear-Shape Diamond Lariat Necklace exemplifies innovation with its exceptional versatility and cutting-edge design. It features a breathtaking 3-carat pear-shaped diamond that serves as the centerpiece of the necklace and can transform into a statement ring by unclipping the central diamond and adding it to a ring set. When worn as a necklace, the piece showcases nearly 30 carats of diamonds, and as a ring, it highlights 4.5 carats, all set in 18K gold.



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Innovation – Mindset, Culture, and Strategy Matter

By Dawn S. Reese, Chief Executive Officer, The Wooden Floor

In an ever-changing world and community, I believe one of the ways to remain agile is to lead through the lens of innovation. Innovation is not just a process; it includes a mindset, culture and strategy in which CEOs can lead organizations to ensure they can respond to the changing needs of those they serve, both in the for-profit and nonprofit sectors.

Innovation Mindset

By having an innovation mindset, CEOs can learn to build empathy organization-wide, which can ensure they create a culture of internal curiosity, encourage respect and understanding, and hone critical thinking practices to look for ways to improve the products, services and/or the lives of those they serve; in the case of a nonprofit organization like The Wooden Floor. When leaders establish empathy as one of their core guiding principles, it helps create a space for high trust, candid conversations, and positive risk taking, which leads to innovative solutions and high performance.



Students and Family Services Case Manager Teresa Farias at The Wooden Floor's Empowerment Workshop, designed to prepare students for the social-emotional transitions between elementary to middle school, and middle school to high school. (June, 2024) Photography by The Wooden Floor. ©2024

Innovation Culture

There is a multitude of benefits to building empathy as part of the innovation mindset within organizations including creating a purpose-driven culture, increasing employee engagement, and improving employee retention, as evidenced by recognition of The Wooden Floor as an **Orange County Business Journal Best Places to Work** for 2024, 2023 and 2018. The Board and staff continually look for ways to drive social innovation for the students and families by leaning into innovation, finding ways to create opportunities to pilot new ideas, learning from new initiatives and ideas, and by evaluating which ones have merit to move forward. This innovative culture leads to significant transformation of the students we serve. **Since 2005, 100% of The Wooden Floor graduates have enrolled in higher education, as compared to 16% of their socio-economic peers.**

Innovation Strategy

The Wooden Floor, a creative youth development nonprofit, approaches our important work to move young people forward through our exploratory dance education approach, which is strategically integrated with academics, college and career readiness, and family services.

Since our founding in 1983, **The Wooden Floor has served nearly 100,000 young people through our year-round programs and community engagement efforts** called *Dance Free Weeks*. Our approach has evolved over the past 40 years into using a holistic youth development strategy to meet the changing needs of our students, families, and the community we serve through a focus on social, emotional, and academic wellbeing.

In 2009, we adopted a forward-looking and inclusive strategic planning process which includes an unconventional approach which has resulted in two, 10-Year Strategic Visions (2010-2020 and 2021-2031) by providing listening and learning sessions through interviews and focus groups with our students, parents, alumni, as well as board members, staff, supporters, and external stakeholders. Over the past 15 years, this strategic planning process has enabled us to grow the number of children we serve, deepen our services from elementary, middle and high school grades, start college planning from 6th to 12th grade, and scale our proven model both locally and nationally.

One of the ways we test some of these strategies is through piloting new ideas or programs. For example, this spring we piloted *Dance Uplifts* within the **Garden Grove Unified School District**. Our goals for this program were developed during our strategic visioning process in 2018 after we asked our key supporters, foundation partners, and external stakeholders about what they would like us to consider as we look for ways to increase our impact. **The resounding comments were for us to consider ways to serve more children, without diminishing the high quality we are known for as an organization.** At the time, we were scaling nationally through our Licensed Partner model and just opened our second location, and it did not seem like the right time to consider alternative means to grow. However, when the pandemic struck it became apparent that a new afterschool program could help children overcome the mental health challenges created by remote learning and isolation to help them build confidence through creative expression and share the values of The Wooden Floor: *Excellence, Respect, Community, and Stewardship*. Due to its resounding success, we will be expanding the program within Garden Grove School Unified School District this fall and will begin to look for ways to bring this program to other school districts in North Orange County soon.

Dance Is The Answer™

We believe when dance is used as a means of social change, innovation flourishes into courageous life-changing outcomes for the children we serve, and moves The Wooden Floor's exciting mission forward, which helps move our community forward. **Join us to learn more at TheWoodenFloor.org.**



Students and Accompanist Zaq Kenefick performing at The Wooden Floor's 41st Annual Concert. (May 2024) Photography by George Simian ©2024 The Wooden Floor.



Dawn S. Reese, Chief Executive Officer of The Wooden Floor, is a social innovator who leverages her unique blend of experience in business, technology, education, and the arts to propel young people forward. During Reese's 15-year tenure, The Wooden Floor has seen significant growth, including the opening of its second location in Santa Ana, and licensing of its model. Celebrating its 41st Anniversary, recent awards for The Wooden Floor include: 2024 and 2023 Best Places To Work from the **Orange County Business Journal**, 2022 *Nonprofit of the Year Award* Greater Irvine Chamber, 2021-2022 *AIM High Award* New York Life Foundation, and 2021 *Stand Up the Arts Award* from **Ovation TV/Charter Communications**. Reese's recent honors include: 2023 *Empowering Lives Award* by **Templo Calvario**, 2023 *Sam Estes Award for Community Leadership* from the **Santa Ana Task Force**, 2022

Orange County Visionary by the **Los Angeles Times Orange County**, and the 2020 *Women of Distinction Award* from **34th CA Senate District Tom Umberg**.

Reese serves on the Board of Directors for the **Passkeys Foundation** as Board Chair and OneOC as Audit Chair, as well as **Advisors in Philanthropy OC, OC Forum, Orange County Music and Dance**, and the **Santa Ana Chamber of Commerce**. She is on the Board of Advisors for the **Giles-O'Malley Center for Leadership - College of Business and Economics at California State University, Fullerton**. During the pandemic, Reese founded the **OC Nonprofit CEO Forum**. She began the first part of her career in management consulting specializing in the high technology sector. Currently, she is an evaluator and presenter for **OCTANE's Nonprofit Accelerator Program**.

DANCE IS THE ANSWER.®



MY DREAM IS

...to become an
**Environmental
Scientist**



We inspire and transform the lives of young people through **the power of dance and access to higher education.**

For over 40 years, The Wooden Floor has been one of the foremost creative youth development nonprofit organizations in the country. **100 percent of our graduates enroll in higher education since 2005**, as compared to about 50 percent of their socioeconomic peers.

Students at The Wooden Floor consistently academically exceed their peers nationally.



JOIN US IN MOVING MORE
YOUNG PEOPLE **FORWARD.**

Find out more by scanning the QR code.



INNOVATING PHILANTHROPY

Picture this: a muddy bank on the Wise River of Montana. An eclectic crew of men and women from all branches of the US military wade into shallow water with waist high rubber boots. They cast handpicked fly fishing lures into the slow moving water, in pursuit of the elusive and storied rainbow trout.

This may not look like a lifesaving exercise and it may not feel like philanthropy. But actually, it's both.

Set amidst some of America's most pristine and breathtaking scenery, The Freedom Ranch for Heroes is a philanthropically-funded initiative, built specifically to help injured veterans heal through the power of fly fishing. And the stacks of thank-you letters from vets saying this experience has literally saved their lives are proof of its power.

This is philanthropy re-imagined, and it's not too surprising when you understand the ethos behind Anonymous Philanthropy.



It starts with curiosity

"Charity typically begins with a grant request," says Josh Stamer, Anonymous' Chief Strategy Officer. "We prefer to start with a conversation. We ask our clients questions like What's most important to you? Where do you find fulfillment? What keeps you up at night? By taking a beginner's mindset, we try to understand on a deep level the causes they care most about and the problems they want to solve. Then we get to work."

This approach has resonated with clients like Alisha Ballard, Executive Director of Living Legacy Foundation. "When I started working with Anonymous I didn't really have a clear vision of what my work was and what I was trying to achieve, but with their help I've really been able to find my purpose and find what makes me feel fulfilled and it's so great to achieve those goals and actually see the impact take place."

Added Stamer, "Whatever the issue, we dive into it with our eyes and minds wide open, relentlessly investigating it from every angle we can think of. We learn everything we can, then we engage the world's leading experts and learn a lot more."

Bringing the world's leading experts together

In addition to Anonymous' dedicated team of 30+ in-house experts, the company leverages a vast network of thought leaders, scientists, researchers, philanthropists, charities, change-makers, artists, and innovators to address complex problems.



Sometimes the answer to the problem is straightforward. It's as simple as identifying an existing charity or organization creating outsized, outlier impact, and teaming up to supercharge them with the resources they need to solve problems at scale.

More often than not, however, there's no clear solution. In these instances, Anonymous will build one from the ground up. The company will engage the brightest minds and leading organizations in a given field to develop a comprehensive, custom plan that serves the client's goals. Anonymous calls these plans Signature Philanthropic Initiatives, and it's this entrepreneurial approach that really sets them apart.

Strategies include the building of incentivized prizes, development of new technologies, integrated marketing and public awareness campaigns, and more. And none of it would be possible without the help of their trusted network of Subject Matter Experts.

Some of the experts are well known. Rock stars like Linda Perry, the multi-Grammy award winning singer/songwriter and super producer who partnered with a client on EqualizeHer, an initiative dedicated to bringing more women into the music industry.

Other experts, such as Dr. Ben Hoffman, President of the American Academy of Pediatrics, sit quietly atop their fields. Anonymous engaged Dr. Hoffman to help guide strategy for the Childhood Drowning Prevention Initiative, on behalf of a client who sought to put an end to the single leading cause of death for kids ages 1-4.

Genevieve Martin, a pioneer of the Second Chance Employment movement, helps steer Talent Nova, a groundbreaking career development platform that leverages an AI tech team and HR professionals to equip justice-impacted individuals with resumes, cover letters, coaching at no cost, giving them the confidence they need to succeed in the modern workforce.

How One Local Company is Disrupting Philanthropic Giving with a Deeply Creative, Collaborative, and Strategic Approach

"Our experts come from a wide range of backgrounds, but the one thing they all have in common is a deep desire to move the needle," says Dave Swartz, Anonymous' Chief Vision Officer. "These are people at the top of their game with the insight, expertise, and networks to create real change."

Impact is everything

While the company is renowned for its trailblazing approach to philanthropy, at the end of the day, the only metric that matters is impact.

"So many people use dollars given away as a measurement to track impact," says Noah McMahon, CEO, Anonymous Philanthropy. "But dollars don't actually measure what was achieved, just what was spent. We believe that true philanthropic measurement requires definition of real, measurable goals and constant, diligent attention toward achieving those goals."

What does impact created by an Anonymous-driven initiative look like? A childhood drowning prevention program that has unified hundreds of previously disparate organizations from the Red Cross to learn-to-swim schools to the American Academy of Pediatrics, bringing them all together with a single message that has earned billions of impressions reaching and educating parents, caregivers and communities.

Impact is a highly engaging YouTube series produced for millions of youth, celebrating skilled trades like carpentry, welding, and masonry, and inspiring an entire generation of Americans in order to address the skilled labor shortage and build a more prosperous future.

Impact is a revolutionary technology that helps justice-impacted individuals re-enter the job market and get on a meaningful career track.

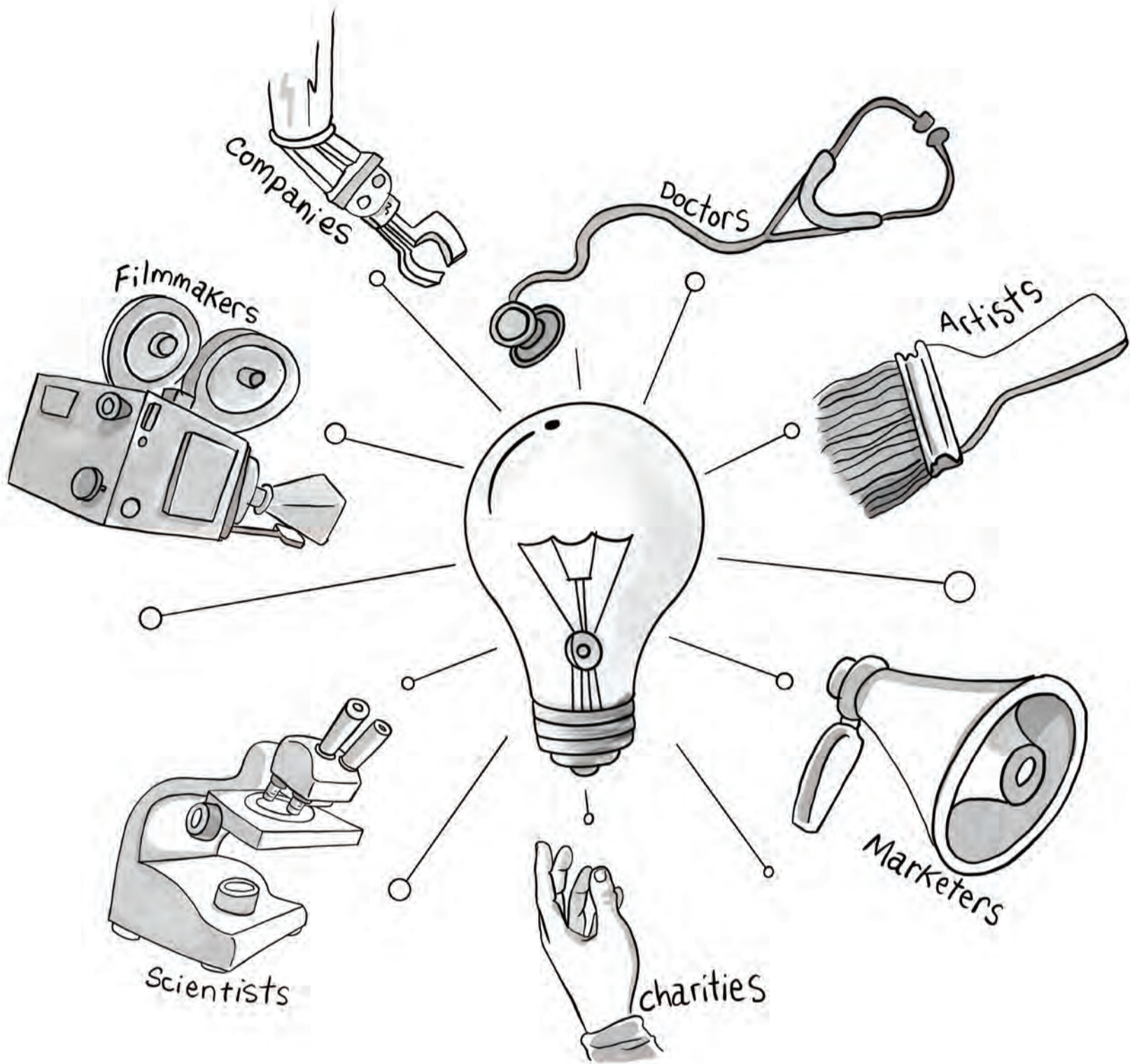
And yes, impact is a fly fishing ranch on a river in Montana, where injured vets go to heal.

Impact has taken many unique and surprising shapes and forms over the years, but if you ask anyone at Anonymous what they're most excited about, they'll say it's the work that lies ahead, and the challenges still waiting to be solved.



To contact Anonymous Philanthropy, visit [anonymousllc.com](https://www.anonymousllc.com) or email josh@anonymousllc.com





Are the world's leading experts helping you create big ideas to solve big problems?

At Anonymous Philanthropy, we work with highly successful individuals, families, and foundations to help solve some of the society's most pressing challenges. A key to our approach; an incredible network of thought leaders, organizations, celebrities, and incredible people with huge brains and even bigger hearts.



anonymousllc.com

2024 INNOVATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD NOMINEES

23point5, Laguna Beach*Pouria Maleki, Founder & CEO*

Pouria Maleki has always had a passion for innovating technologies within the textile and apparel industry, focusing on spectrophotometry and the electronic analysis of color. As his career progressed, he sought to address chronic issues in the apparel industry, such as enabling anyone to create a luxury apparel brand with zero startup costs, making luxury apparel accessible, and moving away from disposable fast fashion. After nearly five years of intense software and manufacturing development, Maleki and his team created 23point5. This platform seamlessly integrates software and manufacturing to enable unprecedented designs with an on-demand cut-and-sew model, eliminating the need for inventory. 23point5 stands as one of the world's most sustainable manufacturing platforms.

**AltaMed, Commerce***Vasu Sunkara, Medical Director - IPA*

Dr Sunkara has been a longstanding and dedicated physician-leader focused on the health of underserved populations across southern California. As the medical director of the AltaMed and Omnicare IPA, he has helped enhance health equity and improve community health in Orange County. From engaging with primary care clinics to help elevate performance, to working with specialists to enhance care, to creating interdisciplinary care teams to reduce hospital re-admissions and serve high-risk patients, his sustained drive to promote health equity and improve health outcomes has touched countless lives.

**Alvarez Enterprises, Santa Ana***Gus Alvarez, Owner*

Alvarez Enterprises is an all-in-one healthcare service provider. Providing customized solutions to health plans, medical groups, providers, and Field Marketing Organizations across the country. Alvarez Enterprises employs over 500 employees.

**Axonics Inc., Irvine***Raymond W. Cohen, CEO*

Raymond W. Cohen has over 40 years of experience leading medical device companies and has served as CEO and director of Axonics since co-founding the company in 2013. Axonics recently ranked No. 2 on the 2023 Financial Times ranking of the fastest growing companies in the Americas after being ranked No. 1 in 2022. From 2010 to 2012, Mr. Cohen served as CEO of Vessix Vascular, a venture capital-backed renal denervation company that was acquired by Boston Scientific in 2012. Previously, Mr. Cohen spent nearly a decade as chairman and CEO of Nasdaq-listed Cardiac Science, which was ranked as the fourth fastest growing company in the U.S. in 2004. Mr. Cohen currently serves as a chairman of BiVACOR, a privately-held company developing a total artificial heart. Mr. Cohen is an accredited public company director and previously served on the boards of several publicly traded companies, including: BioLife Solutions; Spectrum Pharmaceuticals; LifeWatch; and Lombard Medical. He also previously served on the boards of several privately held companies, including: BioVentrix; DYSIS Medical; Synchroness; and Cardiogenesis.

**Big Health, Newport Beach***Arun Gupta, Executive Chairman*

Arun Gupta is executive chairman of the Board of Big Health, the leading provider of clinical grade, purely digital treatments for the most common mental health conditions. Big Health's three products - Sleepio for insomnia, Daylight for generalized anxiety disorder, and Spark for depression - are proven in over 80 peer-reviewed papers to deliver clinical outcomes on par with drugs and therapy but without any side effects and with instant scalability. Gupta joined Big Health's Board of Directors in 2019, then accepted the Board's nomination to serve as executive chairman in 2021 and as chief executive officer in addition from 2022 to 2024. Previously, Gupta founded Quartet Health, a technology and clinical services company scaling effective mental health access. He led Quartet through a significant scale-up in employees, patients served, and revenue delivered as well as raising over \$150 million. Earlier, Arun was a venture builder and general partner at Accretive where he participated in the building of over 10 industry-defining technology companies including several IPOs such as Accolade and R1. He also worked with Palantir Technologies during its commercial scale-up and held roles at McKinsey & Company and The World Bank earlier in his career. Gupta earned a Master's Degree from the Harvard Kennedy School where he was a Reynolds Fellow for Social Entrepreneurship and graduated with honors from Duke University. He serves on the Boards of iD Tech, an education technology company scaling year-round STEM learning opportunities for children around the world, and Autism Partnership Foundation, a clinical research body scaling high-quality early intervention services for children on the spectrum. Gupta additionally serves as an advisor to 8VC on early stage technology investing and Anthos on growth stage investing. Gupta and his wife, Dr. Mrinali Patel Gupta, are the proud parents of three spunky children.

**Blue C Creative Marketing Agency, Costa Mesa***Jeff Bentley, Co-Founder & Executive Creative Director*

Jeff is the co-founder and Executive Creative Director of Blue C, a leading creative marketing and brand strategy agency in Orange County. He developed BrandPWR, a proven brand clarity and marketing framework designed to help clients launch or reposition their brands to stay modern and relevant. Bentley's innovative approach enables brands to excel, achieve category dominance quickly, and establish a unique market position through strategic brand development and marketing. His expertise has benefitted high-profile clients including Honda, Acura, Coca-Cola, The Irvine Company, Monster Energy, Parcel Pending, and Segway. Bentley's strategies are known for driving brand success and fostering significant growth across various industries.

**BoozDNA LLC, Irvine***Hima Nippuleti, President*

BoozDNA, established in 2017, is a renowned consulting firm known for its deep expertise in strategic planning, digital transformation, and enterprise analytics. With a dedicated team of over 25 consultants, BoozDNA has successfully partnered with Fortune 500 companies and government entities to drive significant business improvements. The firm is particularly

celebrated for its innovative approach to complex problem-solving and its ability to deliver sustainable, scalable solutions. Under the leadership of its founder and CEO, Hima Nippuleti, BoozDNA has achieved remarkable growth, expanding its service offerings across multiple industries, including healthcare, finance, and technology. One of their most notable achievements is developing an engagement tracking application for the State of California Department of Technology in their efforts to help small businesses. This platform assists in managing customer interactions from initial contact through to their journey to securing their first contract, enhancing relationship management and streamlining the process for the State accurately and hence achieving their goals. BoozDNA continues to set benchmarks in the consulting industry, emphasizing ethical consulting practices and cutting-edge technological integration.

**BoozDNA LLC, Irvine***Ravi Nippuleti, Director of Technology*

Ravi Nippuleti is a project management professional (PMP) with a rich blend of technical acumen and business expertise, making him a vital asset to BoozDNA. With a robust background in technology, Nippuleti excels in areas such as software development, systems integration, and IT infrastructure management. His technical skills are complemented by a deep understanding of business processes and strategic planning, allowing him to bridge the gap between technical teams and business stakeholders effectively. At BoozDNA, Nippuleti has led numerous high-impact projects, driving innovation and efficiency across the organization. His ability to analyze complex technical challenges and develop practical, cost-effective solutions has been instrumental in the company's success. Nippuleti's business acumen extends to areas such as market analysis, operational optimization, and client relationship management, ensuring that BoozDNA not only meets but exceeds client expectations. His leadership and strategic vision have been pivotal in positioning BoozDNA as a leader in the industry, delivering exceptional value through both technological and business innovations.

**C/O Dragon Kim Foundation, Irvine***Anna Feng and Kevin Kaining, High school students and inventors*

The tens have established a student led 501(c)3 nonprofit to further their goals of educating young people about the dangers of plastic pollutants in our water. They are conducting workshops to bring the information directly to local youth this summer, and will be demonstrating their device that addresses the situation.

**Campus Clinic, Irvine***Thomas Shaffer, President*

Thomas Shaffer stands at the helm of Campus Clinic, holding the esteemed position of president. In this role, he spearheads a transformative healthcare initiative, providing school-based healthcare solutions that are revolutionizing healthcare access on campuses. With a robust professional background, Shaffer's journey into the realm of school-based healthcare is marked by his expertise as a healthcare consultant and his dedicated service as a Board Member for a Covid Clinic. Since its inception, Shaffer has been the driving force behind Campus Clinic, guiding the company's mission to broaden access to healthcare services within school environments. Campus Clinic's vision, perfectly aligned with Shaffer's, revolves around the radical transformation of healthcare accessibility on school campuses. Under Shaffer's leadership, the company actively engages with the community, collaborating with school districts to deliver high-quality healthcare services. His instrumental role in fostering these vital community initiatives reflects his commitment to enhancing healthcare accessibility and making a lasting impact on the lives of students. Through his dedication, Campus Clinic continues to pave the way for comprehensive and accessible healthcare within the educational landscape.

**Celluma By BioPhotas, Tustin***Patrick Johnson, Executive Chairman of the Board & Chief Innovation Officer*

Patrick Johnson, inventor of the Celluma SERIES, has spent his career working for local manufacturing companies in the motorsports, aircraft, dental and medical industries. Working full-time for Kawasaki Motors Corporation by his 18th birthday, Johnson methodically worked his way up the Operations ladder, starting in purchasing, moving into manufacturing and general management. Following the 2010 earthquake in Haiti, Johnson founded the World Bed Project, a non-profit humanitarian relief organization providing emergency field beds to the 1.2 million people displaced by the earthquake. With an extensive background in the medical device industry, Johnson saw the potential for bringing the significant therapeutic benefits of low-level light therapy affordably to the masses, leading to the founding of BioPhotas, the manufacturer of the award winning Celluma SERIES of Light Therapy devices, in 2012. Johnson currently serves as executive chairman of the Board and chief innovation officer. Prior to BioPhotas, his leadership experience includes 10 years with Pro-Dex, Inc., a publicly held medical device manufacturer, in the roles of chief business development officer, president and CEO, and Board Member.

**Chapman University, Orange***Pradip "P. K." Shukla The Shah Family Endowed Chair in Innovativeness*

Dr. Shukla serves as the Shah Family Endowed Chair in Innovativeness. This position prepares the next generation of high-thinking business leaders in low-tech industries nationally. Dr. Shukla teaches a Creativity and Innovation Corporate Entrepreneurship Course and he oversees an Innovative High-Tech Thinkers Speaker Series. Dr. Shukla also is the director of the annual awards program: The Shah Awards- Recognizing Leaders Applying High-Tech Thinking to Low-Tech Industries. Dr. Pradip K. Shukla previously served as Vice-Chancellor for Entrepreneurship at Chapman University. He received an Innovative Pedagogy Grant Award to develop a new course on The Rise of Asian American Leaders in Business. Dr. Shukla is working on an innovative project to capture multi-media oral histories on the history and experience of Asian Indians who immigrated to the United States.



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2024 INNOVATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD NOMINEES

City of Hope Orange County, Irvine

Richard Lee, Director and Chair of the Chemg Family Center for Integrative Oncology at City of Hope and Medical Director of the Supportive and Integrative Medicine Program at City of Hope Orange County

Richard T. Lee, M.D. FASCO is the medical visionary who leads City of Hope's first-of-its kind national integrative oncology program that brings together the best of Eastern and Western medicine to improve outcomes and quality of life for people with cancer. A pioneer in the evolving field of integrative oncology, Lee leads the most comprehensive effort to date to unlock the scientific potential behind integrative cancer therapies such as meditation, acupuncture and massage therapy with the goal of making them an evidence-based standard of care. He is accelerating the research, education and clinical care needed to ensure wider access to these safe, proven approaches, bringing scientific rigor to a field that has the potential to impact millions of patients each year. Lee, who practices at City of Hope Orange County Lennar Foundation Cancer Center in Irvine, is the first researcher in the country to receive NIH NCI funding to conduct a clinical trial evaluating the efficacy of cannabis for chemotherapy-induced neuropathy. He has more than 80 publications in peer-reviewed journals and published book chapters.



streamlining their digital plan reviewing processes using Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning technology utilizing Amazon Web Cloud Services. e-Plansoft has over 50,000 applicants using our software to apply for permit and plan review services throughout northern America, including City of Irvine.

FluxWear, Santa Ana

Kamran Ansari, CEO

Kamran Ansari is the CEO and co-founder of FluxWear and the inventor of SHIFT, a non-invasive neuromodulation device designed as a discreet, wearable cap. Through his work, Ansari has discovered a novel mechanism that utilizes extremely low-intensity, multi-directional magnetic fields to rapidly reduce peripheral neuropathic pain via central stimulation. His groundbreaking work, which includes the development of novel microcoil arrays and activation algorithms, has resulted in six issued patents and four pending. Ansari's innovative approaches to medical device development and his creativity have earned him significant recognition. He is a two-time recipient of the Beckman-Chapman Young Scientist of the Year Award, an inductee into the National Gallery for America's Young Inventors, a recipient of the UCLA Brain Research Institute Award, and a nominee for last year's Orange County Business Journal's 2023 Innovator of the Year Award. His dedication to user-centered, aesthetically pleasing medical device design has not only benefited patients but also secured multiple international product design awards, including two Muse Design Awards and the prestigious New York Product Design Award.

**Codebreaker Technologies, San Clemente**

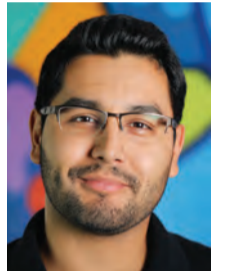
Cheri Tree, Founder & CEO

Cheri Tree is a best-selling author, professional keynote speaker, and world-renowned entrepreneur and innovator. She is the founder and CEO of Codebreaker Technologies, with Codebreakers in more than 100 countries worldwide. She is the creator of the revolutionary B.A.N.K. methodology and Codebreaker's patented Personality Coding Technology and Artificial Intelligence, designed to help her clients increase their influence, income, and impact in the world. Tree is a top in-demand speaker and has spoken to millions of entrepreneurs and professionals globally at some of the top business conferences in the world. She has been invited to speak at Harvard University, the University of California, Google, GoDaddy, and the United Nations. Tree is leading a technology and transformation revolution with her high tech, high touch Codebreaker company and community. She has been featured in numerous international publications including Forbes.com and has received numerous awards and nominations, including Woman of the Year, Female Thought Leaders of the Year, SaaS Company of the Year, Innovator of the Year, and Achievement in Technology Innovation.

**Foster Love, Brea**

Danny Mendoza, CEO

Danny Mendoza is a transformative force in child welfare, leveraging innovation and compassion to address foster youth's critical needs. As the founder and CEO of Foster Love, Mendoza has dedicated over 15 years to revolutionizing support and opportunities for children in foster care. His journey began with a personal experience of witnessing his young cousin's homelessness, igniting a passion for lasting change in the foster care system. Under his leadership, Foster Love has positively impacted over 155,000 foster youth annually across the United States through innovative programs and transformative experiences. Notable achievements include the Family Fellowship scholarship program, providing comprehensive support to transition-age foster youth, and the Rapid Response program, delivering crucial assistance within 72 hours to prevent homelessness, hunger, and school dropouts. Mendoza also established Techether, developing HIPAA-compliant software to record lifelong milestones for children in foster care.

**Complex Appellate Litigation Group, Newport Beach**

Mary-Christine (M.C.) Sungaila, Partner

M.C. Sungaila is the creator and host of the groundbreaking podcast for women in the law, The Portia Project. Currently in its second year, the podcast chronicles the storied careers of women judges, lawyers, and business leaders to serve as inspiration for its audience of young women coming up in the industry. It also led to an important nationwide study on women judges published in ALM. A distinguished appellate attorney, Sungaila has a decades-long track record of handling cases which shape underdeveloped areas within the law. She regularly files amicus briefs with appellate courts, often pro bono, on behalf of individuals and nonprofits which advocate for the rights of women and girls. Sungaila's filings frequently set new legal precedents and inform the final opinions handed down by courts in high-stakes cases, including those vital to the protection of victims of domestic violence. She has recently extended her thought leadership to space law. Her extensive community service currently includes serving on the board of directors for the Pacific Symphony and the John Wayne Airport Arts Commission.

**FutureStitch, San Clemente**

Taylor Shupe, Chief Executive Officer

Taylor Shupe is a visionary entrepreneur and CEO, renowned for his transformative contributions to the knitwear industry. Serving as the co-founder and chief product officer at Stance Inc from 2009 to 2018, he played a pivotal role in bringing life to a commoditized market, driving Stance to its position as the leader of the sock industry. In 2017, Shupe embraced a new venture, founding FutureStitch, where he currently serves as CEO. This innovative knitwear manufacturer operates in Southern California and China, creating premium, eco-conscious socks, sleeves, and knit footwear. What distinguishes FutureStitch is both its unwavering commitment to sustainability and its meaningful impact on the justice-impacted population, a testament to Shupe's unwavering commitment to creating positive change in both the fashion industry and in society's most vulnerable communities.

**CoverCrow Inc., Huntington Beach**

Cassandra Caldarella, Founder, President & CEO

Cassandra Caldarella is the founder and CEO of CoverCrow, Inc., a cloud-based SaaS software company with a companion mobile app that's devoted to helping fortify the stenography profession by helping to efficiently meet the demand for stenographic services nationwide and offers a FREE mentor matching service. It's a boot-strapping technology start-up built by court reporters for court reporters, agencies, students, government entities, and attorneys.

**Golden Eagle Vodka, Lake Forest**

Dakota Rader, CEO & Founder

Dakota Rader embodies a blend of tradition and innovation, rooted in the strong values of his Nebraskan upbringing and enriched by his diverse global experiences. As a dynamic and articulate business leader, Rader is dedicated to creating and developing Golden Eagle Vodka. Over the past three years since Golden Eagle Vodka's inception, Rader has worked tirelessly to perfect every detail of his brand's being. With Golden Eagle Vodka, Rader has meticulously curated every aspect of the brand, from the sourcing of the finest ingredients to the creation of a distinctive, memorable consumer experience. His vision is not just to build a successful product, but to establish a brand that resonates with quality, intention, and a commitment to making a positive impact. This has materialized into recent awards, in which they received a Gold Award from the 2024 SIP Awards, as well as a platinum medal from the 2024 L.A. Spirits Awards, and received 97 points from Tasting Panel.

**DemandSkill Inc., Irvine**

Amy Winchell, CEO

With more than a 30-year tenure in the industry, Amy Bartulis Winchell joined DemandSkill. She and the DemandSkill team are passionate about helping businesses grow their revenue and achieve their goals.

**Edwards Lifesciences, Irvine**

Larry Wood, Corporate Vice President and Group President, Transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacement and Surgical Structural Heart

Larry L. Wood has been corporate vice president, Transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacement (TAVR), since 2007, and has been responsible for key company R&D, operations, marketing, commercial, clinical and regulatory initiatives in transcatheter valve replacement around the globe since the program was a development project. In January 2023, he took on an expanded role as group president, with additional leadership responsibility for Surgical Structural Heart and other key company initiatives. Wood has more than 35 years of experience in the medical technology industry at both Edwards and Baxter International, and is a frequently invited faculty member at key interventional cardiology and cardiothoracic surgery scientific congresses.

**High School Inc. Academies Foundation, Irvine**

Felix Lugo, Executive Director

A visionary leader, Felix Lugo has a sterling track record of more than 15 years in both public and private middle and high school education. With a dynamic background encompassing such diverse domains as student life, community service, internships, enrollment, marketing, fundraising, and residential programs. Throughout his career, Lugo has not only led various administrative departments but has also been a driving force in establishing entire educational institutions from the ground up. His innovative contributions have extended far beyond individual schools, as he has played a crucial role in enhancing staff development and significantly boosting student enrollment in high schools across the United States. He holds a master's degree in management from Warner University and a bachelor's degree in health services administration from Monroe College. Eager to stay at the forefront of educational innovation, Lugo has pursued additional training at esteemed institutions including Rockhurst University, Love & Logic Institute, The Association of Boarding Schools and Cross-Country Education.

**e-PlanSoft, Irvine**

Michael Chegini, President & CEO

Michael Chegini is a true entrepreneur, inventor, and visionary. Educated from various universities in the U.S., he received his post doctorate work/certification from UC Irvine. Having created many companies throughout his career, as an architect and engineer, he has built businesses from the ground up in software, design, construction, compliance and energy. The most recent company he created is e-PlanSoft™. e-PlanSoft is a software company created to help construction industry, government and permitting agencies in

**Human Options, Irvine**

Maricela Rios-Faust, Chief Executive Officer

Maricela Rios-Faust provides vital leadership, support and vision to the continued growth and success of Human Options. Since 2006, she has capitalized on her 30-year experience working with vulnerable populations and been a key driver in Human Options, becoming the most comprehensive domestic violence service providers in Orange





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County. Her strategic leadership, nonprofit management, and fundraising skills led to budget growth from \$4.5 million to \$8 million, doubling access to high-need communities for survivors. Recognized as a sector leader, Rios-Faust serves on the Board of Directors for the Family Violence Appellate Project, Hoag Memorial Hospital, Blue Shield of California Foundation, and Orange County's Continuum of Care Governing Board. In 2022, Rios-Faust was named one of Orange County's Most Influential for partnering with the death review team and UCI to release a decade-long analysis of domestic violence and homicide cases in Orange County. This past year, Rios-Faust secured a \$1 million investment to launch innovation labs to design services for survivors with survivors.

IHI Power Services Corporation, Aliso Viejo

John Keller, President & CEO

Since taking the helm as president and CEO of IHI Power Services Corp. (IPSC) in 2022, John Keller has been instrumental in steering the company toward unprecedented growth and operational excellence. Under his leadership, IPSC has expanded its leadership team, fostering a culture of innovation and dedication that drives exceptional business results and profitability. With a background managing over 20,000 MW across Conventional and Renewable Energy Investments, Keller brings a wealth of experience in optimizing asset performance and executing turnaround strategies that significantly enhance the company's bottom line. Keller's focus on ensuring the safe and optimal operation of customer assets is supported by IPSC's seasoned team of power generation professionals. His strategic vision for IPSC is not only to maintain its status as a leader in the power generation sector but also to pioneer advancements in renewable energies. His approach empowers teams to challenge conventional processes, encouraging the innovation of strategies that elevate operational standards and market performance.



indie Semiconductor, Aliso Viejo

Donald McClymont, Chief Executive Officer

Mr. Donald McClymont serves as chief executive officer and is responsible for formulating the strategic vision, ensuring execution of business plans and creating shareholder value. Prior to co-founding indie, he was a vice president of marketing at Axiom Microdevices tasked with driving company strategy, developing sales engagements and building key industry partnerships. Prior to Axiom, he was a product line director at Skyworks/Conexant and a marketing manager at Fujitsu. Previously, he was with Thesys, now Xfab/Melexis, and Wolfson, now Cirrus Logic, as a design engineer. Mr. McClymont holds five patents worldwide and earned a Masters in Engineering Electronics and Electrical from the University of Glasgow.



Jacuzzi Group Worldwide, Chino

Larry Ovalle, VP Innovation and Technology

Larry Ovalle is a pioneering innovator in water purification technology, renowned for his groundbreaking achievements. He is the visionary behind the creation of the world's first patented water purification system utilizing nanobubbles, an invention set to revolutionize water treatment globally. These nanobubbles, 2500 times smaller than a grain of salt, offer unparalleled efficiency in cleaning water with minimal maintenance requirements. Ovalle's system stands as a beacon of sustainability and efficacy, requiring no daily or weekly care while delivering unparalleled results. Notably, his technology represents a paradigm shift in hot tub sanitation, utilizing the least amount of traditional sanitizers ever recorded, even less than drinking water standards. Larry Ovalle's dedication to innovation and environmental stewardship has earned him widespread acclaim and positioned him as a trailblazer in the field of water purification.



Kantata, Irvine

Jennifer Schutz, Senior Vice President of Business Operations

As senior vice president of business operations at Kantata, Jennifer Schutz is pivotal in overseeing various critical functions, including Go-To-Market (GTM) Operations, GTM Systems, Analytics, Deal Desk, and License Operations. With a career spanning multiple leadership roles, Schutz brings a wealth of experience and expertise to her position. Previously, she served as vice president of operations at Kantata, instrumental in establishing Sales Operations and Deal Desk functions. Her role also included managing Analytics and GTM Systems teams, reinforcing her acumen in operational efficiency and data-driven decision-making. Before Kantata, Schutz honed her skills in Sales Enablement and Corporate Events at Kofax, where she successfully led diverse teams to meet and exceed organizational goals.



Liberty1 Financial, Irvine

Jeannette Preston, Co-Founder and Managing Director

Jennette Preston is the co-founder and managing director of Liberty1 Financial and has guided the company since its inception in 2008. Liberty1 Financial specializes in innovative personal loans, debt restructuring, and debt consolidation, aiming to educate clients for better financial outcomes. The knowledge of understanding the struggles that clients are experiencing, has led Preston to become an activist and philanthropist focusing on helping families struggling with providing basic necessities for their families. Liberty1 Financial boasts an A+ rating from the Better Business Bureau and a nomination for the BBB Torch Award for Ethics, highlighting its innovative financial services and compassionate business culture. Liberty1 Financial stands out by combining quick loan approvals with a strong emphasis on financial education, enabling clients to make informed decisions and achieve long-term financial stability.



Liberty1 Financial, Irvine

Todd Betlejewski, Co-Founder and Managing Director

Todd Betlejewski, co-founder and managing director of Liberty1 Financial, leads the company in offering personal loans and debt consolidation to help clients reduce their credit card and loan payments. He has developed innovative programs to assist clients in achieving their financial goals. Betlejewski has initiated philanthropic efforts to support community programs for those in need, demonstrating a strong commitment to giving back. The Liberty1 Financial support initiatives help individuals manage their finances and

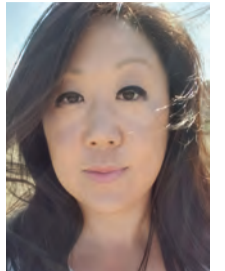


contribute to broader community support through creative charitable programs. The combined efforts ensure that clients receive financial assistance and benefit from initiatives that foster long-term financial stability and community well-being.

Live Good Inc., Irvine

Jennifer Chi, Founder & CEO

Jennifer Chi has devoted her entire career to working on human rights matters. Born in Detroit, Michigan to a Taiwanese American family, Chi received her B.A. from Stanford University, focusing on International Relations and Philosophy. During her undergraduate studies, she assisted scholars at the Hoover Research Institution think tank in analyzing disease migration in developing nations. Her first job out of college was at a public interest law firm where she counseled detained children who had been trafficked into the country. Chi spent time at the U.S. Department of Education in Washington D.C. working on policy issues concerning school construction and safety in the post Columbine era. She earned her law degree from George Washington University before becoming an investigator examining factory production in Asia and working on human rights cases. As a human rights investigator, Chi observed countless workers overseas get sick from toxic materials while laboring excessively long hours for minimal compensation. Through her international experiences, Chi formed a vision of a new mode of commerce that would prioritize human and environmental health.



ModeOne, Tustin

Matt Rasmussen, CEO & Founder

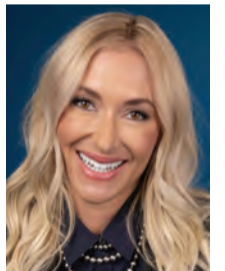
Matt Rasmussen is the founder and CEO of ModeOne, the industry's first selective collection, truly remote, mobile device data collection solution. He founded ModeOne to evolve the litigation technology market by creating a full-function solution to a modern evidence management problem. With over two decades of experience implementing cutting-edge technology solutions to navigate complex, high-volume litigation, Rasmussen's expertise covers the broad spectrum of services and requirements in eDiscovery, privacy, security and information governance. He is a legal-services veteran with a track record delivering efficiency and cost-certainty working for prestigious law firms, Fortune 500 companies, and litigation services providers including O'Melveny & Myers, Bingham McCutchen, UnitedLex, and many others.



NEP Services, Newport Beach

Stacy Yudin, CEO

Stacey Yudin is chief executive officer of NEP Services. Yudin has turned NEP into a digital force, implementing and deploying technological assets to support NEP's mission and help clients dominate in the 21st Century tech and social media space. This includes the development of an entirely new division tasked with developing websites and mobile apps, along with providing an avenue for digital donations and data collection. Yudin spearheaded the successful development and rollout of NEP's proprietary communications platform, NEP Connect and the subsequent NEP Connect Plus+ mobile app that have revolutionized internal communications for unions and nonprofits. With NEP, clients have strengthened their internal communications and overall operational efficiency by using the platform as a one stop shop to communicate with members and keep them just a click away from resources they need as union members. At NEP, Yudin has also been instrumental in creating a world-class team that celebrates gender diversity and female empowerment, including five female directors and a strong presence of female developers and coders.



OnPoint Vision Inc, Aliso Viejo

Kevin Cady, President & CEO

Kevin Cady is the CEO and founder of OnPoint Vision, a refractive company that designs, develops & manufactures intraocular lens implants, most specifically the AccuraSee Intraocular Pseudophakic Contact Lens (AKA: CadyLens) designed to fine-tune the refractive error of the pseudophakic eye as well as deliver vision recovery for patients who have experienced a decline in vision due to age-related retinal pathologies. Prior to forming OnPoint Vision, Mr. Cady joined Refocus Group in 2015 as vice president of marketing & business development. From 2011 to 2014, Mr. Cady was the regional business director for WaveTec Vision Systems, where he was responsible for the marketplace expansion of the Optiwave Refractive Analysis (ORA) system to ophthalmic surgeons. Prior to joining WaveTec Vision Systems, Mr. Cady was the area vice president of sales for Bausch Lomb Surgical, after the company acquired Eyeonics. Mr. Cady has over 30 years in the ophthalmic industry theatre with extensive knowledge and experience in both the development of ophthalmic pharmacologic agents and medical device product line.



Outside the Lines, Anaheim

J. Wickham Zimmerman, CEO

Wickham Zimmerman is the CEO and co-founder of Outside the Lines, Inc. (OTL), a specialty construction company that designs and builds spectacular water features, rockwork, and themed environments for many of the most loved public spaces, resorts, and theme parks in the world. An accomplished and innovative leader with deep expertise in amenities for the built environment and outdoor spaces, Zimmerman has been at the helm of the firm's exceptional growth from a single start-up in 2007 to a multi-locational success with projects in 24 U.S. states and several international destinations. A degreed civil engineer with a passion for business and law, Zimmerman has more than three decades of experience in construction and financial management, with a career trajectory that includes executive positions representing owners, general contractors and specialty contractors, including industry powerhouses such as ValleyCrest Companies, and KHS&S Contractors, among others. Zimmerman combines his extensive technical acumen with a highly creative artistic sensibility that affords him a unique perspective on the intersection of business and aesthetics and makes him a true innovator.



PatientFi, Irvine

Todd Watts, CEO, President & Co-Founder

Todd Watts is an experienced C-level executive, entrepreneur and investor in the healthcare and financial technology. Watts is currently the co-founder, chief executive officer, president and board director of PatientFi, a financial technology company focused on providing patients with more affordable point of care payment alternatives for out-of-pocket healthcare treatments and procedures. Prior to PatientFi, Watts was the SVP & Head of Operations at

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"We are honored to be named a nominee in the OCBJ Innovation Awards. At BioPhotas, we see innovation as the cross-roads of entrepreneurship and strategy. Innovation isn't just technological advancement. It's asking the question: 'Can it be done differently and better?' And then doing it. That's what we strive for every day."

Patrick Johnson

BioPhotas Founder & Executive Chairman



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- And still the only one delivering all of the above therapeutic benefits both at-home and for professional service use

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Alphaeon, a technology company serving medical providers in the elective healthcare segment with patient financing and medical device products. Before joining the healthcare technology industry as an operator, Watts spent several years in financial services. At the NY office at J.P. Morgan Investment Bank, Watts advised companies with comprehensive strategic advice, capital raising and risk management expertise as a member of the Consumer, Healthcare and Retail Investment Banking Coverage Group. Prior to J.P. Morgan, Watts was an Associate in the Wilshire Hedge Fund of Funds Management Group at Wilshire Associates. Watts has also serves on several boards, including the OC Sheriff's Advisory Board and YPO. Watts earned his MBA from Yale University and a B.S. from the University of Southern California.

**Planet Innovation, Irvine**

Mona Elkebir, VP Commercial Operations

Mona Elkebir is a senior executive in the medical device sector who leads the commercialization of world-first, groundbreaking medtech products and has led innovative corporate growth strategies through her work at Planet Innovation and previously at BIT Group. Elkebir works at multiple levels including at a product commercialization level and a corporate level. At a product level, one example of Elkebir's achievements includes the commercialization of a medtech device that supports ER facilities which diagnose life-threatening diseases. She subsequently enabled the deployment of this product in developing nations to save newborns at risk due to disease. At a corporate level, Elkebir managed the successful merger of her company BIT, with a competitor, Planet Innovation, that doubled her business' size. Over the course of her time at BIT and Planet Innovation, Elkebir has seen revenues grow from a modest \$1.5 million to nearly \$100 million.

**PowerTap Hydrogen Fueling Corp., Aliso Viejo**

Salim Rahemtulla, President & CEO

Salim Rahemtulla, a USC undergraduate and USC Marshall MBA, has been involved in renewable energy projects for almost 15 years in conjunction with his career in residential, multi-family, industrial, and military real estate development and asset management. He is the co-founder of PowerTap, which, since 2020, holds intellectual property for small-footprint, zero-emission hydrogen production and storage units at fuel stations to meet light, medium, and heavy duty zero emission transportation fueling requirements. These fueling requirements are expected to grow considerably in the next few years in the global effort to decarbonize. In 2021, PowerTap partnered with the Andretti Group to deploy PowerTap units on their 100+ fueling stations and the Andretti Group's deep network of major oil companies, chain retailers, cardlock operators, and independent fueling stations. In 2023, PowerTap established hydrogen purchase agreements with major fuel cell truck original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) and is currently in the process of deploying heavy duty fuel stations to meet this demand. The company is on a path to deploy hundreds of hydrogen fuel stations in North America in the next few years.

**Pretika MedTech Corporation, Irvine**

Thomas Nichols, CEO

In just three year's since in founding, Pretika MedTech Corporation has is reimagining in-patient and out-patient care with Connected Wound Care Technology, a non-invasive connected wound care technology to provide imaging and sensor data for clinicians to monitor post-surgery, wound and disease healing remotely or in-person without having to remove dressings, bandages, wraps or casts. Digital Health Meets Wound Care through a non-invasive imaging device embedded within dressings, wireless enabled to the patient record in the EHR. Connected digital technologies in the cloud provides on demand or continuous imaging, for clinicians to monitor post-surgery, wound and disease healing remotely or in-patient allowing clinicians to capture complications before they become serious.

**Project Access Resource Centers, Orange**

Kristin Byrnes, Chief Executive Officer & President

Kristin Byrnes is chief executive officer and president of Project Access, the country's leading provider of vital on-site health, education, and employment services, resulting in over 103 thriving affordable housing communities in 18 states nationwide. She joined Project Access 2004 to oversee, build, expand, and improve the service model, business development strategy, and HR policies and procedures. She also developed and meticulously tracked the positive social impact to showcase the services' value. In 2010, she was elevated to CEO and president of Project Access. Ms. Byrnes' nearly two decades at Project Access have been marked by growth and transformation. With an impressive history of visionary leadership, she has championed cultivating strong communities, making positive changes, and creating hopeful futures for at-risk families by using emerging best practices to drive expansion and improve the resident and client experience. These efforts have happened concurrently while Byrnes has led her team to develop and implement innovative business models, which has led to new revenue streams to achieve business objectives and sustain long-term growth.

**Revive Real Estate, Irvine**

Dalip Jaggi, Chief Operating Officer

Dalip Jaggi is an individual whose career and innovations significantly impact the technology landscape. As the chief operating officer and co-founder of Revive Real Estate, Dalip Jaggi has redefined the integration of technology in real estate, making sophisticated house-flipping tools accessible and profitable nationwide. His smart and strategic use of technology at Revive has propelled the company into a leading position within the PropTech sector. Jaggi entered the real estate market with a tech-first approach as the CTO at Rich Uncles, where he was instrumental in the company's transformation and success, culminating in its public listing as Modiv. This role sharpened his expertise in real estate investment and underscored his belief in technology's transformative power. A key innovation under Jaggi's leadership has been the development of Revive Vision AI, which revolutionizes how real estate transactions are enhanced through technology. This innovation really demonstrates his forward-thinking vision and commitment to leveraging technology for industry advancement.

**Revive Real Estate, Irvine**

Mansoor Bahramand, Chief Technology Officer

Mansoor Bahramand, chief technology officer at Revive Real Estate, stands out as a leading

innovator in the PropTech industry. Transitioning from a background in biology to becoming a self-taught leader in technology, Bahramand's journey is marked by continuous learning and a relentless pursuit of excellence. His tenure at Revive Real Estate has been the key the company needed to continue to innovate and grow, introducing groundbreaking technologies such as the Revive Real Estate Mobile App, the Consumer Experience Dashboard, and Revive Vision AI, which have revolutionized how real estate decisions are made by agents and homeowners alike.

Under his leadership, Bahramand has excelled in attracting and developing high-caliber teams that push the boundaries of technology and set new industry standards. His achievements extend beyond corporate success; he has significantly enhanced productivity and operational efficiency across various departments within Revive.

**Revive Real Estate, Irvine**

Michael Alladawi, Founder & CEO

Michael Alladawi, CEO of Revive Real Estate, embodies the true definition of innovation and strategic brilliance in the Southern California real estate market. With a career catalyzed by the 2008 financial crisis, Alladawi adeptly transitioned his family's investments into real estate, setting a foundation for future entrepreneurial success. In 2009, he founded Umbrella Capital Group with former Blackstone colleagues, focusing on astute, value-oriented real estate investments and development projects. This venture laid the groundwork for his 2013 establishment of The Plaza Group Realty, where he shifted from home flipping to pioneering new construction methodologies. The zenith of his career came in 2019 with the inception of Revive Real Estate. Collaborating with tech entrepreneur Dalip Jaggi, Alladawi introduced scalable pre-sale renovation models that revolutionized traditional home renovation practices. This innovative approach not only boosts property values but also significantly enhances homeowner financial stability, impacting lives profoundly—a testament to Alladawi's dedication to transformative, life-altering innovations.

**Revolv3, Laguna Beach**

Frank Arellano, CEO & Founder

Frank Arellano has a rich business history, with experience in both startups and corporations. Over his 25+ year career, Arellano strategically led a multi-billion dollar acquisition integration program, established a global technology management office, and devised plans to enhance internal processes for better performance. His innovative spirit and passion for innovation have been evident throughout his career, actively seeking out startup opportunities and founding successful ventures. With a diverse and versatile team, Arellano is guiding Revolv3 to play in the big leagues, bringing a versatile product to market for corporate entities and scaling subscription businesses alike. Despite facing tough competition, Arellano's business acumen and innovative ideas have driven positive financial performance for Revolv3. His investment in attracting and developing a diverse mix of talent has fostered creativity and enabled the company to identify new opportunities and develop innovative solutions. Under Arellano's guidance, Revolv3 has emerged as a young leader in the PayTech industry, providing businesses with a reliable, efficient, and scalable platform to optimize their subscription payments. Arellano's mission is to disrupt the payment ecosystem with innovative breakthrough technology and provide unique insights for the betterment of merchants. With Revolv3, merchants and ISVs receive ongoing support and recommendations from an experienced payment orchestration and optimization partner.

**Rezvani Motors, Irvine**

Ferris Rezvani, CEO

As a young boy, founder Ferris Rezvani aspired to become a fighter pilot just like his father. In order to develop a thrill similar to flying an F-4 fighter jet, Mr. Rezvani set out to create an extreme sports car that gave drivers the opportunity to experience the same exhilaration and g-forces behind the wheel. This is represented in the Rezvani emblem, with wings representing his roots in aviation and steering wheel and racing stripes representing the brand's dedication to driving. With the goal of redefining vehicles to their full potential, Mr. Rezvani assembled a strong team of designers, manufacturers, racing engineers, and high-performance engine experts. The team developed one of the most unique, extreme vehicles on the planet.

**serviceMob, Irvine**

Anuj Bhalla, Founder & CEO

Anuj Bhalla is an entrepreneur, data scientist, MIT Sloan Fellow, and blue-chip consultant with more than 15 years of experience consulting the customer service industry. Bhalla lead the Service Analytics practice at Accenture where he worked with some of the largest companies in the world. Being a graduate of UC Berkeley with a Bachelor's in Applied Mathematics, Bhalla is a data scientist and mathematician at heart. Before founding serviceMob, Bhalla graduated from MIT Sloan with an MBA and was honored with the Sloan Fellowship. Bhalla was featured in Entrepreneur magazine, Forbes, and was recognized by MIT as a Top 25 MIT startup founder. Bhalla brings his decades of industry and technology experience to serviceMob where he is redefining the world of customer service and is making all of our service experiences better as a result.

**Ship & Shore Environmental Inc., Signal Hill**

Anoosheh Oskouian, President & CEO

In its 23 years since inception, Ship & Shore Environmental has emerged as a dedicated provider of cutting-edge clean air technologies dedicated to enhancing our air quality and environmental well-being. Anoosheh Oskouian, serving as the president and CEO, guides the overall corporate strategy encompassing engineering, product development, sales, and fabrication. Oskouian advocates for a harmonious coexistence between sustaining the manufacturing industry and preserving a clean air and environment. As a pioneering figure in the sector, she has trailblazed various professional milestones, establishing fresh benchmarks, introducing innovative concepts, and consistently exploring novel approaches to deliver inventive solutions for clean air. Under her leadership, Ship & Shore has expanded its global footprint, catering to a diverse array of industries including automotive, aerospace, food processing, and pharmaceuticals. Ship & Shore's commitment to excellence has garnered numerous awards, recognizing its impactful contributions to clean air and sustainability initiatives. Oskouian remains an influential voice in environmental policy advocacy, participating in various industry panels and forums to promote sustainable industrial practices.



Meet the Judges:



Margita Blattner - Senior Director of Philanthropic Strategy, Orange County Community Foundation

Margita Blattner is a forward-thinking, strategic leader with over 20 years of experience in organizational growth, business development, digital transformation and philanthropy. Her achievements have spanned developing market strategies, developing new products and services, launching new business models and technologies, enhancing business value and services, diversifying revenue streams, increasing profitability, and improving internal business systems and operations for Fortune 500 businesses and non-profits. As sr. director of philanthropic strategy, Blattner partners with individuals, families, corporations, nonprofits, and the professional advisor community to craft strategies for amplified charitable giving in Orange County. She leads a development team who provide guidance on current and planned giving options, handling of illiquid assets such as real estate and private business holdings, and support the establishment of charitable funds for enduring philanthropic impact.



Victor Guerrero - President & Chief Operating Officer, Infinity Bank

Victor Guerrero has dedicated over 35 years to serving the Los Angeles/Orange County communities in banking. Starting out as a teller at Bank of America in 1988, he's worked in many roles in the industry, from operations to sales, credit, and finance. Since 2018, Guerrero has been the founding executive at Infinity Bank, where he serves as president and chief operating officer, and previously served as the founding CFO of Orange County Business Bank. Guerrero finds his greatest joy in helping people achieve their dreams and goals as a banker, advisor, and partner. With 33 years of marriage and two adult sons, Guerrero's family keeps him humble and generally grounded, but never quiet!



Scott Joslyn - Chief Innovation Officer & Senior Vice President, UCI Health

Scott Joslyn is responsible for innovation and UCI Health Ventures. In his capacity as innovation leader, Joslyn is involved with helping the organization to creatively solve organizational challenges and pursue new opportunities that advance and differentiate the organization. Joslyn formerly held the dual role of chief information officer and chief innovation officer. Joslyn oversees UCI Health Ventures, a \$50 million capital investment fund in partnership with UC Investments. The fund invests in young companies focused on healthcare information technology and healthcare services, and also medical devices and biologics. Joslyn has been active in the ventures space for a dozen years, including board positions and partnerships with Summation Health Ventures, TechStars, and General Catalyst. Joslyn holds a Doctor of Pharmacy Degree from the University of the Pacific, and a Master of Business Administration from UCLA.



Gordon S. MacLean - CPA, Partner in Charge, Director of Audit Services, RJI CPAs

Gordon S. MacLean joined RJI CPAs in 2011 and specializes in audits of publicly traded and privately held businesses in the manufacturing, technology, medical device, real estate, distribution and professional services industries. MacLean has been in public accounting for over 37 years and spent 20 years at KPMG LLP's Orange County office, including seven years as an audit partner. In addition, he spent five years as an audit partner for a large regional accounting firm located in Irvine, CA. MacLean's extensive experience includes interaction with corporate BOD's and Audit Committees. He has been involved in numerous SEC public offerings and filings, including initial public offerings, secondary offerings, spin-off transactions, public debt offerings, and private placements. He has navigated various clients through business acquisitions and divestitures and has performed due diligence for both buy-side and sell-side transactions, including quality of earnings. MacLean's background includes performing audit services for companies ranging from start-up to international, multi-billion-dollar corporations.



Khurram S. Mir - Director of Innovation and Health Ventures, UCI Health

Khurram S. Mir is a seasoned leader in corporate venture and innovation, currently overseeing a \$50 million venture arm at UCI Health System in Orange County, California. With a focus on leveraging emerging technologies, he has been instrumental in enhancing patient, clinician, and staff experiences. Before UCI Health, he was a managing director, consulting on digital transformation for health systems nationwide. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Public Health, a Master of Science in Biomedical/Health Informatics and has completed a Venture Capital Executive Program at UC Berkeley. Certified as a healthcare chief information officer and digital healthcare executive, Mir also serves on various boards and advisory panels for healthcare startups, guiding them towards impactful innovations. His commitment to improving healthcare delivery is reflected in his strategic leadership and collaborative approach.



Ivo Tjan - Chairman, President & Chief Executive Officer, CommerceWest Bank

Ivo A. Tjan is the founder of CommerceWest Bank. He is currently the chairman, president and CEO of CW Bancorp and CommerceWest Bank. Founded in 2001 and headquartered in Irvine, CA, the Bank caters to businesses throughout the state of California with our digital banking platform. The Bank offers a wide range of commercial banking services, including remote deposit solutions, online & mobile banking, M&A/working capital loans, commercial real estate loans, SBA loans and treasury management services. Tjan previously held a wide range of management roles at Eldorado Bank, Home Savings of America and Great Western Bank. He was named among Orange County's Most Influential Business Leaders on the "OC500" List and as both a 2023 and 2022 Orange County Visionary by the Los Angeles Times. He was honored as the Robert Ross Founders Award Recipient from the MDA. Tjan was recognized as one of Vivid Magazine's Annual Top 10 Asian American Entrepreneurs and was also named one of OC Metro's Hottest 25 People of Orange County, California. Tjan holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Business Administration from California State Fullerton University.

2024 INNOVATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD NOMINEES

Taber Company, Irvine*Brian Taber, Founder & President*

Brian Taber is the founder and owner of Taber Company. With extensive experience in various facets of the cabinetry and woodworking industry—including estimating, project management, custom woodwork, installing, purchasing and sales—Brian decided to establish Taber Company in 2002. Starting with a small shop in Santa Ana and a team of fewer than 10 employees, Taber personally handled the sales and estimating during the early days. Initially, Taber Company was known as a p-lam shop, but wasn't positioned as a high-end custom millworker. A pivotal moment came about a decade ago when Taber Company secured the Newport Beach Country Club project through CW Driver. This project marked a turning point transforming Taber into a renowned name in the custom millwork industry. Taber has always been a people person, attributing his success to the encouragement, help and support from the around him, including his dedicated employees. Under his leadership and example, Taber Company has evolved to specialize in high-end, custom commercial millwork, reflecting his dedication, expertise, and the strong community he built along the way.

**The Innovation Institute, Brea***Michael McKinnon, President & CEO*

When The Innovation Institute was formed in 2013, the vision was to build a new kind of innovation platform. A dynamic collaborative that would attract, develop and commercialize ideas from healthcare professionals to improve patient outcomes, lower healthcare costs and bring real community benefit. The model was unique because it did not require continuous financial donations or support from its members or external investors to operate—meaning it was economically self-sustainable on day one. Today, The Innovation Institute has six health system members, dozens of strategic partnerships and relationships with over 200,000 caregivers across 21 states. The Innovation Lab has assessed over 4,100 ideas and commercialized 22 innovations that are in use in a variety of healthcare settings. The model has proven to be financially successful for both its investors and stakeholders. A key aspect of the Company's journey forward will be centered around leveraging its strengths as a "convener" to foster deep collaboration between its innovators, health systems and strategic partners to transform healthcare together. The Company's strives to advance healthcare innovation through collaboration and bring to market transformative solutions that do more, with less, for more people.

**The Priority Center, Santa Ana***Lisa Fujimoto, Executive Director & CEO*

Lisa Fujimoto brings more than 35 years of corporate and nonprofit experience to her position. She previously served for 18 years as the executive director of the Change a Life Foundation, based in Orange, California. The foundation sunset in December 2018 after providing \$41 million in grants to over 250 charitable organizations throughout California along with \$8 million in collegiate scholarships to low income, high risk youth along with former foster youth/emancipated youth. Prior to the Change a Life Foundation, Fujimoto worked in the child welfare arena with Olive Crest and Children's Bureau, as well as with Orange County Rescue Mission working with the less fortunate and impoverished here in Orange County. Lisa also had the opportunity to manage the community relations and public affairs team at the happiest place on earth, the Disneyland Resort. Her expertise is in building and strengthening organizations, board development, team building, and collaborations with the public and private sectors and creation of strong partnerships and alliances. She has served on 20 charitable boards over her tenure in the nonprofit sector.

**The Wooden Floor, Santa Ana***Dawn S. Reese, CEO*

Dawn S. Reese, CFRE is the chief executive officer of The Wooden Floor. She is a social innovator with experience in business, technology, education, and the arts to propel young people forward. The Wooden Floor's mission is to inspire and transform the lives of young people through the power of dance and access to higher education. Since 2005, 100% of the students who graduate from The Wooden Floor immediately enroll in higher education. Reese serves on the Board of Directors for: the Passkeys Foundation as Board Chair; OneOC as Audit Chair and Santa Ana Chamber of Commerce as Board Chair-Elect; as well as board member at large for Advisors in Philanthropy, OC Forum, OC Music and Dance, and The Wooden Floor. Reese is the Chair of the Santa Ana Youth Mental Health Sub-Committee of the Santa Ana Task Force. She is a presenter and evaluator for OCTANE's Nonprofit Accelerator.

**UCI ANTreprenuer Center, Irvine***Ryan Foland, Director, UCI ANTreprenuer Center*

Since 2022, Ryan Foland has served as the dynamic Director of the ANTreprenuer Center at the University of California, Irvine (UCI). Under his guidance, the Center has become the cornerstone of innovation at UCI, offering resources, training, and funding for student entrepreneurs, forging critical connections between students and the local business ecosystem, and serving as a model for innovative initiatives that redefine the impact that a university entrepreneurship program can have on the broader community. Foland's mission at the ANTreprenuer Center is three-fold: offer opportunities to explore entrepreneurship, support students in launching their startups, and foster relationships between students and Orange County's business network to promote student professional development and inject fresh ideas and talent into the local economy. To achieve these goals, Foland has led many initiatives, including organizing Irvine Tech Week, establishing the Self-Starter Micro-Internship Program, launching the Entrepreneurial Faculty Advisor Program, founding the ANTreprenuer Center Executive Leadership Board, and hosting a series of student entrepreneurship challenges like the Sustainability, Mental Health Innovation, AI Innovation, and the Side Hustle Challenges.

**UCI Health/UC Irvine School of Medicine, Orange***Susan Huang, MD, MPH, Chancellor's Professor of Medicine, UC Irvine; Medical Director of Epidemiology and Infection Prevention, UCI Health*

For 20 years, Dr. Susan Huang has studied how contagious pathogens are spread and prevented in healthcare. She has led multiple national clinical trials that have shown that antiseptic bathing and nasal ointments can successfully reduce a wide range of infections, hospitalizations, and antibiotic-resistant bacteria when provided to patients in hospitals and nursing homes. These trials have



transformed the standard of care in U.S. hospitals and around the world. In her role as medical director of Epidemiology and Infection Prevention at UCI Health, Dr. Huang oversaw the COVID-19 prevention and response efforts for UCI Health and led the Orange County Nursing Home COVID-19 Prevention Team on behalf of OC Health Care Agency and CalOptima. Dr. Huang has more than 200 publications, has received a Top 10 Clinical Research Achievement Award from the Clinical Research Forum and has served on numerous national committees for the prevention of infectious diseases. Dr. Huang completed her Infectious Diseases fellowship at Massachusetts General Hospital and Brigham & Women's Hospital. She was faculty at Harvard Medical School prior to joining UC Irvine in 2007.

University Lab Partners, Irvine*Karin Koch, Executive Director*

Karin Koch is an experienced impact leader with a demonstrated history of working in economic development and venture acceleration. After a successful exit from her first start-up in the cosmetics industry early on in her career, Koch has worked intensively with multiple Fortune 500s until she found her passion through public service. She transitioned into the management of local economic and workforce development programs for the County of Orange, overseeing the U.S. Economic Development Administration's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy 2019-2023 and Business Services for the Orange County region. After 11 years of public service, she joined the Beall Family Foundation in 2019 to serve as the executive director of University Lab Partners (ULP), the first nonprofit life sciences wet lab incubator in Orange County, California, enabling life science innovation through access to state-of-the-art research capabilities and a network of technical and business resources. Today, she oversees the incubation and acceleration of over 45+ life science start-ups, including the newly launched International Consortium for Research, Engineering, Acceleration of Technology Excellence (I-CREATE), the global BARDA Accelerator Network hub for medical devices and diagnostics.

**VanSpeed, Westminster***Duran Morley, CEO*

As the founder and chief executive officer of Van Speed, Duran Morley leads the charge in managing the operations both VanSpeed and Thevanmart.com, an innovative online accessory distribution platform. VanSpeed is a premier Mercedes-Benz van Upfitters and RVIAA Certified, offering a comprehensive lifestyle solution for conversion of vans. The company takes pride in its in-house capabilities, encompassing full-fledged fabrication, upholstery, off-grid electrical systems, installation, and custom production. Notably, Vanspeed distinguishes itself by delivering personalized vans within an impressive 8-9 week timeframe, a substantial improvement over the industry standard of 6-9 months. In addition to its van customization services, Thevanmart.com is an online e-commerce platform that caters to a global audience. It provides a diverse range of Vanspeed parts and DIY components for customer conversions. Both entities also extend their services to business to business channels through a dealer portal. Duran Morley's entrepreneurial journey has propelled VanSpeed and TheVanMart.com into a thriving enterprise, boasting a team of over 30 employees and operating from an impressive 26,000 square foot manufacturing and customization facility, along with a 10,000 square feet shipping and receiving area in Westminster, California.

**ViridiSTOR LLC, Tustin***Terry Mullin, CEO*

Terry Mullin is an active innovator and business builder in Orange County. He has formed and lead teams in market leading companies that have brought first in class software and hardware to the market. Within his latest venture, ViridiSTOR, Mullin has launched a new era in compact content management systems to deliver information to the over one trillion dollar event, conference, and tradeshow industry. His innovations not only make sense, but reduce monetary costs and environmental costs. At the same time, Mullin has innovated and patented other products including an oral irrigation system that will aid millions in the recovery from oral surgery. Mullin has other patents pending in the area of wireless networking, retail management, Alzheimer's memory retention systems, educational technology solutions and sustainable products. Mullin stays active within the community volunteering instructing audio engineering to middle and high school students in addition to instructing Project Management practices based upon his book "The Project Management Paradox" and on finance with his "AYBONI™ Economics" e-book.

**Westcliff University, Irvine***Dr. Anthony Lee, President & CEO*

Since becoming president and CEO, Dr. Anthony Lee has transformed Westcliff University from a modest institution with 30 students into a dynamic hub of global education offering over 40 programs including certificates, bachelor's and doctoral degrees to nearly 6,000 learners from 100+ countries. Dr. Lee swiftly implements pioneering new programs and curricula, equipping students with real-world skills to thrive as innovators and business leaders. Under his visionary leadership, Westcliff has expanded its presence with multiple locations throughout the U.S. and a variety of partnerships around the world with educators from Vietnam, Nepal, Jordan, Egypt and beyond. His strategic direction led to the acquisition of Western State College of Law, Orange County's oldest law school. Initiatives such as the SMART™ capstone program and partnership with Tech Coast Angels highlight his commitment to entrepreneurship. His dedication to integrating cutting-edge technology like generative AI into curricula and driving educational innovation continues to position Westcliff as a leader in making high-quality education accessible and transformative for students worldwide.

**WJK Development Co., Rancho Mission Viejo***Grant Keene, President*

Mr. Keene, as president of WJK Development Co., is currently developing or general contracting over 125 new single-family homes/small lot subdivisions and over 350 units of multifamily, as of Q2, 2023—In aggregate, these projects have a valuation in excess of \$400 million. Mr. Keene manages Development and Construction Management duties of both Principal owned and General Construction projects, including: all project acquisition, land entitlement work, high level construction management, contract negotiation, municipality coordination and all oversight of construction/project management team members. Specialized Project Scope related to these projects includes: Subterranean parking, public works right-of-way and storm water restructuring, structural steel, retaining work, shoring, shotcrete, structural foundations, methane barriers, etc.



THE 10TH ANNUAL
INNOVATOR
 of the YEAR AWARDS

**CONGRATULATIONS
 2024 NOMINEES!**

23point5 / Pouria Maleki
AltaMed / Vasu Sunkara
Alvarez Enterprises / Gus Alvarez
Axonics Inc. / Raymond Cohen
Big Health / Arun Gupta
Blue C Creative Marketing Agency / Jeff Bentley
BoozDNA LLC / Ravi Nippuleti
BoozDNA Technology / Hima Nippuleti
C/O Dragon Kim Foundation /
 Anna Feng and Kaining Yuan
Campus Clinic / Thomas Shaffer
Celluma By BioPhotas / Patrick Johnson
Chapman University / Pradip "P.K." Shukla
City of Hope Orange County / Richard Lee
Codebreaker Technologies / Cheri Tree
Complex Appellate Litigation Group /
 Mary Christine (M.C.) Sungaila
CoverCrow Inc. / Cassandra Caldarella
DemandSkill Inc. / Amy Winchell
Edwards Lifesciences / Larry Wood
e-PlanSoft / Michael Chegini
Fluxwear / Kamran Ansari
Foster Love / Danny Mendoza
FutureStitch / Taylor Shupe
Golden Eagle Vodka / Dakota Rader
High School Inc. Academies Foundation / Felix Lugo
Human Options / Maricela Rios-Faust
IHI Power Services Corporation / John Keller
indie Semiconductor / Donald McClymont
Jacuzzi Group Worldwide / Larry Ovalle
Kantata / Jennifer Schutz

Liberty1 Financial / Todd Bettlejewski
Liberty1 Financial / Jeannette Preston
Live Good Inc. / Jennifer Chi
ModeOne Technologies / Matt Rasmussen
NEP Services / Stacy Yudin
OnPoint Vision / Kevin Cady
Outside the Lines / J. Wickham Zimmerman
PatientFi / Todd Watts
Planet Innovation / Mona Elkebir
PowerTap Hydrogen Fueling Corp. / Salim Rahemtulla
Pretika MedTech Corporation / Thomas Nichols
Project Access Resource Centers / Kristin Byrnes
Revive Real Estate / Michael Alladawi
Revive Real Estate / Mansoor Bahramand
Revive Real Estate / Dalip Jaggi
Revolv3 / Frank Arellano
Rezvani Motors / Ferris Rezvani
serviceMob / Anuj Bhalla
Ship & Shore Environmental Inc. / Anoosheh Oskouian
Taber Company / Brian Taber
The Innovation Institute / Michael McKinnon
The Priority Center / Lisa Fujimoto
The Wooden Floor / Dawn S. Reese
UCI ANEntrepreneur Center / Ryan Foland
UCI Health/UC Irvine School of Medicine /
 Susan Huang, MD, MPH
University Lab Partners / Karin Koch
VanSpeed / Duran Morley
ViridiSTOR / Terry Mullin
Westcliff University / Dr. Anthony Lee
WJK Development Co. / Grant Keene

Luncheon & Awards Program

September 12, 2024
 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
 Tickets*: \$185
 Table of Ten: \$1750



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