



American Red Cross
Orange County

2023 ORANGE COUNTY HEROES AWARDS

Celebrate the Hero Within!

City National Grove of Anaheim
Friday, May 19, 2023



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Laura Nguyen

Shawna and Spencer Rinker

The 2023 Orange County Heroes Awards videos were produced by Hildreth Media Group, Inc.



WE CANNOT STOP CRISES, BUT WE CAN MAKE SURE PEOPLE NEVER FACE THEM ALONE.

This year's Orange County Heroes Awards will benefit Red Cross Disaster Relief.

The American Red Cross responds to an emergency every 8 minutes.

No one else does this: not the government, not other charities. Our purpose is to meet the immediate disaster-caused needs of individuals, families, and communities.

From small house fires to multi-state natural disasters, the Red Cross goes wherever we're needed, so people can have clean water, safe shelter, hot meals, health and mental health services, emergency supplies, recovery assistance and more when they need them most.

In Orange County, the Red Cross responds to hundreds of disasters each year, from devastating home fires affecting a single family to wildfires and flooding affecting entire communities. We need your financial support to continue this vital work.

The Red Cross honors donor intent and all donations earmarked for Disaster Relief will be used to help people affected by disasters, big and small. We're committed to being the very best stewards of our donors' dollar. The Red Cross keeps our expenses low and an average of **90 cents of every dollar** the Red Cross spends is invested in delivering care and comfort to those in need.



Learn more about how the American Red Cross helps in the event of a disaster.



Please consider donating today. Text the word **OCHEROES23** to **76278** or donate online.



A Little Help Foundation and The Caring Path Foundation Fund will match all donations made at today's event up to \$30,000.

When you donate to the American Red Cross, your donation is used efficiently. An average of **90 cents of every dollar** the Red Cross spends is invested in humanitarian services and programs. The American National Red Cross is registered as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Contributions to the American National Red Cross are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law. The Red Cross' tax identification number is 53-0196605.

EVENT PROGRAM

Registration and Networking

National Anthem

Katrina Pesek

Introduction and Welcome

Award Presentations

Spirit of Hope Award

Dr. John Cheng

Gift of Life Hero Award

Dottie Brown

Good Samaritan Hero Award

Andrew Belden

Animal Welfare Hero Award

Danielle Judd

FarmHouse Rescue

Disaster Services Hero Award

Peter Pham

Viet American Society

Service to the Armed Forces Hero Award

Irvine 2/11 Marine Adoption Committee

First Responder Hero Award

Nick Sibayan

Orange County Fire Authority

Corporate Hero Award

Kia America

Youth Hero Award

Tabitha Finamore

Closing Remarks

Event Co-Chairs

Lance Britt II ▪ David Engwall

2023 Orange County Heroes Selection Committee

Lance Britt II, David Engwall, Terry Bailey, Jill Dunn, Sara Garske, Farrah Khan, Neetu Khilnani, Jill Rawlinson-Baker, Dulce Rocha, Shishir Shah, and Denise Tafoya-McNevin



Chip Yost

Master of Ceremonies

Chip Yost started as a reporter with KTLA in 2007 and has since covered some of the biggest news events of our time. He was at the Vatican when Pope Francis was elected. He was at the 2016 Republican and Democratic National Conventions. He has reported live from hurricane zones in Florida, Texas and Hawaii, and from mass shooting scenes in Uvalde, Parkland, Dallas, Orlando and San Bernardino.

Chip also serves as KTLA's Orange County Bureau Chief, where he has covered wildfires, mudslides and the "snitch scandal" that derailed the prosecution of the man responsible for the worst mass shooting in county history.

Before joining KTLA, Chip worked as an investigative reporter at KUSA in Denver and a general assignment reporter at KOLD in Tucson, KYMA in Yuma, and KGET in San Diego. Chip's reporting has earned him numerous awards, including the duPont Silver Baton, Emmy and Golden Mike.

Chip received his master's degree from the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism in New York and his bachelor's degree from the University of Cincinnati College of Business, where he majored in marketing and real estate.



2023 ORANGE COUNTY HEROES HONOREES

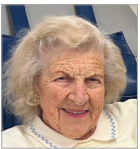


Dr. John Cheng *Spirit of Hope Award*

Last May, tragedy struck at the Geneva Presbyterian Church in Laguna Woods, California. The Orange County church was hosting a congregation of the Irvine Taiwanese Presbyterian Church for Sunday services. During the service, a gunman attacked parishioners. Dr.

John Cheng, who was among those seated in the congregation, immediately jumped into action. He tackled the gunman and attempted to disarm him, which allowed parishioners to step in and help to subdue the gunman. During the struggle, Dr. Cheng was shot multiple times, and died at the scene. A beloved and respected member of the community, Dr. Cheng is hailed as a true hero, whose selfless actions undoubtedly saved many lives that day. The American Red Cross of Orange County is honored to present Dr. Cheng with the Spirit of Hope Award, which is presented posthumously to someone who made a significant contribution to the community through acts of courage or selflessness, or to someone who demonstrated heroism in attempt to save lives.

Presented by **Councilmember Ross Chun, City of Aliso Viejo**



Dottie Brown *Gift of Life Hero*

At 100-years-young, Dottie Brown doesn't have any plans to stop donating blood. She is a whole blood donor at the Red Cross Santa Ana Blood Donation Center where the staff know her for her warm smile and generous spirit. Dottie started donating blood at least 70 years ago. She remains committed to giving blood and makes it a point to donate every 56 days, scheduling her next appointment at each visit. She is active in her community and donating blood is part of the routine of helping others. "It's the one thing that I can do to help other people," says Dottie. She jokes that she is 100-and-three-quarters-old, with her 101st birthday approaching in June, and plans to continue donating. Many of the staff and fellow donors at the Santa Ana Blood Donation Center know her as a superstar and look forward to celebrating this milestone with her.

Presented by  **The CARING PATH**



Andrew Belden *Good Samaritan Hero*

In February 2022, a police helicopter from the Huntington Beach Police Department crashed into the water off the coast of Newport Beach. Andrew Belden, a 20-year Newport Beach lifeguard who was off-duty, witnessed the helicopter crash from a nearby boat and immediately sprang into action. He was the first person in the water. Andrew jumped off the dock and into the cold water, swimming out to the wreckage of the helicopter. Despite hazardous conditions, Andrew was able to pull one of the two officers who had been aboard the helicopter to safety on a nearby dock. His heroism serves as a reminder of the bravery and selflessness of everyday citizens who step up in times of crisis to help those in need.

Presented by **Dr. Shawna Rinker**



Danielle Judd, FarmHouse Rescue *Animal Welfare Hero*

After fighting and conquering life-threatening illness during her pregnancy, Danielle Judd resolved that she would spend the rest of her life helping others. As the founder of FarmHouse Rescue, Danielle now devotes her time and talents to helping people and animals in need. The mission of FarmHouse rescue is to save the lives of animals, as well as provide a sense of purpose and hope to people in need. Today, FarmHouse Rescue provides sanctuary for animals and humans alike and provides life-changing healing and therapeutic opportunities.

Presented by



Peter Pham, Viet American Society *Disaster Services Hero*

During the COVID-19 pandemic, many seniors in the area of Little Saigon, Orange County were unable to leave their homes to access food. To support these seniors, Peter Pham, through his nonprofit organization Viet American Society, began a hot meal delivery program. What started as a few hundred deliveries per week grew to 2,700 deliveries per week, feeding 1,350 people. The popular hot meal delivery program continues to be an essential source of food for many seniors in need. Peter's nonprofit has also partnered with Abound Food Care to address the increasing need for food assistance and emergency capacity for food and water storage. Thanks to Peter and the Viet American Society's work through Abound Food Care, Orange County will be better prepared to feed people in the early stages of future crises.

Presented by



Irvine 2/11 Marine Adoption Committee *Service to the Armed Forces Hero*

For more than 15 years, the Irvine 2/11 Marine Adoption Committee, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, has been providing unwavering support to active-duty Marines and Sailors based at Camp Pendleton. The Irvine 2/11 Marine Adoption Committee is made up entirely by volunteers who have dedicated their time and resources for the sole purpose of providing valuable programs and generous financial and fundraising support to the 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines with 1st Marine Division. The Committee hosts a series of annual events and programs that include “welcome home” and “deployment” care packages, a bedding drive, baby shower drive, holiday toy drive, Sponsor-A-Marine program, and seasonal and holiday events. Their selfless service and tireless efforts have made a significant impact, ensuring that the service and sacrifice of 2/11 Marines and their families is appreciated and honored.

Presented by





Nick Sibayan, Orange County Fire Authority *First Responder Hero*

After responding to a medical call, Orange County Fire Authority Firefighter/Paramedic Nick Sibayan escorted a patient from the medical call to a local hospital. While waiting for a room to become available for the patient, Nick witnessed another patient pushing an emergency room nurse. Nick made sure the nurse was okay, and the patient locked himself in a room. The Fountain Valley Police were requested to respond, and soon after a single Fountain Valley Police Officer arrived at the crowded emergency room. When the patient saw the police officer, he rushed out of the room and punched the officer. Nick grabbed the assailant and was able to contain him, allowing the officer to go free. The officer was then able to subdue the patient and place the patient in restraints. Due to his quick thinking and selfless actions, Firefighter/Paramedic Sibayan helped the Fountain Valley Police Officer bring the patient into custody and keep everyone in the emergency room safe.

Presented by  **Atkinson, Andelson
Loya, Ruud & Romo**
A Professional Law Corporation



Kia America *Corporate Hero*

Kia America has been a generous partner of the American Red Cross, impacting its mission in numerous ways, including disaster relief, program support and volunteerism. Since 2017, Kia America has donated over \$1.25 million in support of the Red Cross mission. Their support has aided those affected by disasters—including Hurricane Ian, Hurricane Ida, Hurricane Harvey and more—helping the Red Cross provide shelter, food and comfort to those affected. Kia America’s support of the Red Cross is the latest extension of its “Accelerate the Good” initiative, in which the Red Cross is one of eight charities that dealerships across the nation can choose to support.

Presented by  **ANTIS**
www.antis.com



Tabitha Finamore *Youth Hero*

Motivated, determined and caring are a few words to describe 17-year-old Tabitha Finamore. After learning that her 7-year-old cousin Quincy was diagnosed with leukemia and needed blood products, Tabitha looked for ways to help cancer warriors like her cousin. Cancer patients use nearly one-fourth of the blood supply—more than patients fighting any other disease. Tabitha approached local school district officials and received permission to host a blood drive at her former grade school, Villa Park Elementary, in honor of childhood cancer warriors. The blood drive took on additional meaning when Tabitha learned there was a young student at the elementary school fighting cancer. Thanks to a great response from the community, the blood drive collected 46 units of blood, achieving 131 percent of the goal. “I am so thankful for the Red Cross for making my dream possible and allowing my community to come together to make a difference,” shares Tabitha.

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the
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PATH



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to all the Red Cross
Heroes making an impact
in the community!

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Schedule your appointment at
www.redcrossblood.org/give
Enter code "Antis"

Congratulations 2023 Orange County Heroes!

Thank you for supporting
our community with
compassion and purpose.
We celebrate you and your
commitment
to making our
community
stronger.



#OCHeroes

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Instagram: [@socalredcross](https://instagram.com/socalredcross)

Videos at YouTube.com/SoCalRedCross

Photos from today's event will be shared at Flickr.com/SoCalRedCross

Nominations are accepted year-round at redcross.org/ocheroes

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Malinda McDonald
Chief Operating Officer

Glenn Maddalon
Regional Chief Development Officer

Debbie Leahy
Regional Disaster Program Officer

Jason Brand
Regional Service to the
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Christine Welch
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THANK YOU!

Valued Community Partners



**American
Red Cross**

Mission

The American Red Cross prevents and alleviates human suffering in the face of emergencies by mobilizing the power of volunteers and the generosity of donors.

Diversity Vision Statement

The American Red Cross aspires to be an organization fully committed to diversity and inclusion by creating and maintaining a diverse, high-performing workforce of employees and volunteers who reflect all communities we serve; by cultivating a collaborative, inclusive and respectful work environment that empowers all contributors; and by leveraging diverse partnerships — all of which helps to ensure culturally competent service delivery supported by effective community leadership and engagement.