

2026 HONOREES



1. Education & Faith

HEATHER WATTERS-THOMAS Bernardo Heights Middle School

Heather has been a phenomenal supporter of our school for the past three years, serving as the Hospitality Chair of our PTSA. She has worked on our bylaws committee, chaperoned AVID field trips and supported concession sales at our Spring Movie Night.

ANDREW BANKSTON Meadowbrook Education Foundation

Andrew is Co-Chair of the Back-to-School Carnival, which is not only an evening of fun, but also raises significant funds. He is a Foundation Board Member and is the Cross-Country Coach for the school, training with 90 students twice a week, and coordinating all their meets.

BRETT GOLDSMITH Meadowbrook PTA

Brett has served as PTA President for two years, with the goals of increasing membership and promoting Meadowbrook to the school district. He is a parent volunteer for Boy Scout hiking adventures and previously ran the LEGO Robotics program at Morning Creek Elementary where he built the LEGO display table.

MELANIE MILINKEVICH Morning Creek Elementary PTA

Melanie is responsible for streamlining our finances and invigorating our Foundation by her creative suggestions for activities and fundraising, her ability to attract to the pool of volunteers many parents who are new to Morning Creek Elementary, and her updating of all things tech as it relates to our Foundation.

LUCILLE RABINOWITZ Continuing Education Center

As a board member Lucille has been a strong advocate for our adult education center and has helped publicize our classes to the community. She also welcomes students to our classes and makes herself available to answer questions about our curriculum.

SUSAN BOETTER Friends of the RB Library

As Vice President of Operations and Concerts Chair, Susan manages all of our income generating operations while at the same time ensuring that we continue to offer outstanding, free concerts to the community.

LOIS GOODMAN San Diego Oasis Tutoring

Lois has served as an Oasis tutor at Chaparral Elementary since 2007, inspiring students with her dedication, kindness, and commitment to their success.

STEPHANIE KNISH San Diego Oasis

Stephanie's artistic expertise has helped us discover and onboard dozens of art instructors, develop great classes, and significantly boost student enrollment, thereby strengthening Oasis's long-term sustainability.

LIZ SCHWARTZ RB High School Friends of the Library

Liz has been instrumental in securing much-needed funding for the Rancho Bernardo High School Library. Her efforts resulted in a newly enhanced Maker Space that all students can enjoy.

SHANNON CLARK RB High School PTSA

Shannon has been our Board Secretary for the past two years and has been the glue that keeps us organized. She is generous with her time and committed to Rancho Bernardo High School.

KATHY CLARK Rancho Bernardo Historical Society

Energetic Kathy Clark joined our board of directors in 2023, serves as a Museum docent and was the Assistant Chair for the Pancake Breakfast for two years.

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2. Safety, Health & Human Services

CARLA HERNANDEZ & ALEXANDER CHUCHOLOWSKI

Backyard Produce Project

Working together, Carla and Alex pick backyard fruit trees and donate the fruit to a food pantry to help low income residents in our community.

ROBIN KAUFMAN Friends of Fire Station No. 33

Robin has dedicated more than 20 years to raising funds for the station's complete renovation and items that the city does not provide our firefighters.

KIM LINNELL Gently Hugged

For eight years Kim has lovingly packed many bags of clothing for babies in need. She also helps with purchasing supplies, events, and final inspection.

GLORIA SOLTSTAD RB Neighborhood Watch

Gloria, a former board member and long-time block captain, has organized block parties and manages event notifications to her HOA. She assists at various events and is a great advocate for our organization. We appreciate all she does.



THE Remington Club AT RANCHO BERNARDO

Independent and Assisted Living in San Diego, CA

Situated on the outskirts of San Diego, The Remington Club is a vibrant, resort-style senior living community featuring independent and assisted living.

Rose gardens, palm trees, and mountain views, along with updated common spaces, provide the ideal place for enjoying a full calendar of activities and events with friends.

Enjoy delicious meals in our dining room, serving up old favorites as well as new surprises, or venture out to explore many local restaurants, shops, and cultural attractions.

Relax and let our dedicated, caring team members tend to the details so you can enjoy living every day to the fullest!

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JAMES DUNPHY Palomar Health Volunteer Services

Jim has proven to be tremendous asset to our volunteer program with a strong can-do attitude and selfless involvement.

RUTH THORPE Rancho Bernardo RSVP

Ruth delivers exceptional leadership, dedication, and compassion, strengthening Rancho Bernardo RSVP through tireless service, communication, and unwavering commitment to community safety and volunteer support.

SHERI HUGHES Ride Above Disability Therapeutic Riding Center

Sheri is a cornerstone of our community. Her background in education shines through as she mentors others and spearheads projects like our recent arena enhancements. She never misses a Saturday or an evening shift and her positivity and giving nature are the lifeblood of our program.



3. Seniors, Youth & Veterans

JUSTIN AND SONIA SOUZA Boy Scout Troop 685

Justin and Sonia have done an amazing job leading Troop 685's Annual Christmas Tree recycling fundraiser event for many years. Thank you, Justin and Sonia.

SUE GUPTA Ed Brown Center for Active Adults

Sue has formed an active bridge club and a knitting group and is a dynamic ambassador for EBC throughout the region.

BELINDA PULLETT Girl Scouts of Rancho Bernardo

Belinda has volunteered for Girl Scouts in Rancho Bernardo for 11 years as a troop leader and four years in



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