# In 2001 Community Service Awards were presented to:

- Roland Cook, Palm Springs Firefighter September 11, 2001 World Trade Center Rescuer
- Nancy Blee, Palm Springs Human Rights Commission Charter Member
- Dallas Flicek, Palm Springs Assistant City Manager

### In 2002 Community Service Awards were presented to:

- Tom Swann, Legally-blind Veterans Activist
- Goldman Jacobs, Founding Chair of the Hate Crimes Task Force and worked to establish Domestic Partnership Benefits to City Hall Employees
- Jane Brewer, assisted in forming Palm Springs Unified School District's Rainbow Coalition

### In 2003 Community Service Awards were presented to:

- Rick Smedstad, founder and dedicated leader of the Gay Associated Youth organization
- Father Andrew Green, Senior Pastor at the Church of St. Paul in the Desert, advocating for and identifying funding sources for several housing and homeless-related programs

# In 2004 Community Service Awards were presented to:

- Dana Adkins, Host of the popular cable show "Yellow Brick Road"
- Mike and Carol Balasa, Co-Presidents of Palm Springs/Desert Communities Chapter of PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, Bisexuals and Transgendered persons)
- Sheila Grattan, Chairwoman of the Palm Springs Homeless Task Force
- Earl Greenburg, Chairman of Transactional Marketing Partners
- Palm Springs Police Commander Mike Hall
- Mark Hogan, Member of the Palm Springs Mounted Police
- Jackie Lee Houston, Owner of CBS Channel 2
- Bob Hoven, Publisher of MegaScene
- Holly Hunt, Student member of the Palm Springs Human Rights Commission
- Palm Springs Police Chief Gary Jeandron
- Dean Lockwood, Executive Director of the Mizell Senior Center
- Harold Matzner, Owner of Spencer's Restaurant
- David Peet, Marketing Director of Amerinet
- John Jeffrey Rackleff, Former Captain of the Palm Springs Mounted Police
- James Rougely, Director of the Desert Highland Unity Center
- Lori Sarner, President of Pegasus Riding Academy
- Jack Schloeder, President of Greater Palm Springs Pride, Inc.
- Mark and Alan Seymour, Owners of Hunters Video Bar
- Megan Smale and Kimberly Anderson, Founders of a Gay Straight Alliance student club on the Palm Springs High School campus

In 2005 Community Service Awards were presented to:

- Kris Benz, President of the American Chamber of Commerce
- Bill Feingold, Former Chair of the Palm Springs Human Rights Commission and the Hate Crimes Task Force
- Joseph Grandits, Director of the food program at Our Lady of Solitude Catholic Church
- Mel Haber, Owner of the Ingleside Inn and Melvyn's Restaurant
- Dr. Catherine Linn, Chairman of the Palm Springs High School English Department
- Dr. Wayne McKinny, President of Well in the Desert
- Sylvia Zelnys, Former Vice Chair of the Human Rights Commission and member of the Homeless Task Force

# In 2006 Community Service Awards were presented to:

- Joseph Beaver, Community Activist
- The late Albert L. Bousquet, Community Activist
- John Carlos, Olympian and Civil Rights Advocate
- Palm Springs Police Sgt. Walter Combs
- Jarvis Crawford, Community Center Manager, James O. Jessie Desert Highland Unity Center
- Dr. Christopher Flores, Physician
- Palm Springs Police Officer Bill Hanley
- Palm Springs Police Officer Anthony Harrison
- Clarence Nolan, Raymond Cree Middle School
- Arlene Rosenthal, Community Activist
- Melinda Tremaglio, President of the Palm Springs Area Chapter of NOW
- Rev. Dr. Nick Warner, Pastor of Desert Oasis Chapel
- Ricky Wright, Palm Springs High School Principal

2007 - 2008: It looks like the Commission moved the awards presentation from December to January with awards presented in January 2008 to:

- Joe Aguanno
- Dorothy Bowens
- Richard Cadarette
- Fran Chapman
- Dr. Terri Cobel
- Sharon Doty
- Wesley Eure
- Officer C.J. Hilton
- Dr. Michael Jardula
- Bill Jones
- Phil Kaplan
- Marshall Pearcy
- Douglass Woodmansee

# In 2009 Community Service Awards were presented to:

- The Well in the Desert
- Food In Need of Distribution (F.I.N.D.)
- American Veterans For Equal Rights
- Dr. Sharron Stroud, Founder of Interfaith Ministries Worldwide, Palm Springs
- Stephen Kelly, Host of the weekday radio program "Desert Today" on KPSI
- Dale E. Cook, Jr., Community Development Administrator for the City of Palm Springs
- Mario Lazcano, Member of the Committee Latino
- Dr. Robert C. Sneed, Pastor, Rebirth Temple of Faith in Palm Springs
- Sandra Austin, Executive Director of Family Health and Support Network, a foster care agency located in Palm Desert serving the Coachella Valley and Riverside County

# In 2010 Community Service Awards were presented to:

- AIDS Assistance Program
- Desert AIDS Project
- Desert Samaritans for the Elderly
- Salvation Army
- Tolerance Education Center
- Arturo Montes, Fund-raiser for the Desert AIDS Project and other charity organizations
- Lois J. Carson, Executive Director of Community Action Partnership of Riverside County
- Father John S. Connor, Priest at Our Lady of Solitude Church in Coachella
- Stephen G. Hoffmann, Founding President and Chief Executive Officer of Canyon National Bank
- Martin Martinez, Former Director of the Reynaldo J. Carreon Foundation in Indo
- Eileen Stern, Founder of the Hike4Hope and now the 1st Annual Walk Against Hunger

#### In 2011 Community Service Awards were presented to:

- Sergio Carranza, for his work providing housing for the poor
- Golden Rainbow Center
- Elizabeth Miliband, spokesperson on behalf of people living with dementia
- Mizell Senior Center
- Eric Norland, long-time community volunteer
- Palm Springs SunUp Rotary Shoes The Fit program
- Fern Rudd, Advocate for children with autism
- SAFE Schools
- Phil Stafford, 35-year teacher, retired from Katherine Finchy Elementary School
- Holly Witlow, volunteer working with stroke patients to help them regain their speaking skills
- Sister Gabi Williams, for her work finding ways to provide educational means for the poor

### In 2012 Community Service Awards were presented to:

- Animal Samaritans of the Coachella Valley
- Christopher Campbell, client administrator, AIDS Assistance Program
- Coachella Valley Sexual Assault Services
- Coachella Valley Volunteers in Medicine
- Eduardo Contreras, Director of Bands at Raymond Cree Middle School
- Cora Crawford, community leader and educator
- Deaf Seniors Foundation -- Palm Springs
- Katherine Finchy Elementary School
- Gilda's Club Desert Cities
- Hidden Harvest
- Barbara and Jerry Keller, philanthropists and supporters of human rights causes throughout the Coachella Valley
- Rabbi Sally Olins of Temple Isaiah in Palm Springs
- Luciano Ramirez and Toñia Bustamante-Ramirez, supporters of human rights
- Ric and Rozene Supple, philanthropists and advocates for human rights

### In 2013 Community Service Awards were presented to:

- Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians
- Robert D. Ballance for his volunteer work for the LGBT Community Center
- Coachella Valley Repertory for its work on the topic of bullying
- Andrew Eisenmann, visual and performing arts director at Raymond Cree Middle School
- Equality California, a nonprofit civil rights group that advocates for same-sex marriage
- Andrew Green, pastor of St. Paul in the Desert Episcopal Church
- Doug Hairgrove and Warren "Woody" Wood for their Safe Schools initiative and work organizing the Gay Straight Alliances throughout the Coachella Valley
- William G. Kleindienst, former mayor, for his contributions to the City, especially his work with the African American community
- Mattie Leyden for her work on transgender issues
- Andy Linsky for his work both locally and nationally with the Human Rights Campaign and other organizations in the Palm Springs community
- Tracy Piper, Ed.D., Raymond Cree Middle School principal
- Shelter From The Storm

# In 2014 Community Service Awards were presented to:

- Roy's Desert Resource Center
- Denise Chappell, special education professional and advocate
- Veterans for Peace
- Trina Parks, actress, arts educator & philanthropist
- David Tallman, United Methodist Church Feed the Hungry Program
- Ophelia Project, Coachella Valley, mentors young girls
- Congressman Raul Ruiz, M.D., human rights & health care advocate
- YMCA After School Education and Safety Program
- The Desert Sun
- Sidney Craig, humanitarian & volunteer

### In 2015 Community Service Awards were presented to:

- Big Brothers and Big Sisters of the Desert
- Timothy Bradley, WBO welterweight Champion
- Tere Romero Britton, the volunteer Director of Coachella Valley BookPALS (Performing Artists for Literacy in Schools)
- Carolyn Caldwell, CEO of Desert Regional Medical Center
- Martha's Village and Kitchen, largest non-profit of homeless services in Coachella Valley
- Mika Moulton, founder of Christopher's Clubhouse in La Quinta
- NestEggg Food Bank (flagship initiative of the Palm Springs LGBT Center)
- Dio Ramirez, MD and Liz Ramirez, RN, Medical Professional volunteers
- Daniel Reynolds, Volunteer at the Braille Institute
- Michael Weems, Advocate for homeless Care Bags
- Thomas Smith, President of the Palm Springs Rotary Club

### In 2016 Community Service Awards were presented to:

- American Legion Post 519, a volunteer veterans service organization
- Thomi Clinton, active leader and advocate of transgender community.
- Olive Crest, Non-profit working in the prevention of child abuse.
- Dimitri Halkidis, Founder of Boo2bullying Inc
- Incight, Nonprofit Organization for its work in assisting people with disabilities
- Hank Plante, Emmy award winning Human Rights journalist
- Safe House of the Desert
- Mark Walthour for his work in Desert Highland/Gateway Estates and the Clinton Day of Action and Community Block Grant Program.

### In 2017 Community Service Awards were presented to:

- Lesley Zerebny, Palm Springs Police Officer, ultimate sacrifice, killed in line of duty.
- Jose "Gil" Vega, Palm Springs Police Officer, ultimate sacrifice, killed in line of duty.
- Bianca Rae, TV News Anchor, Philanthropist Bianca Rae foundation
- Will Paige, Publisher Desert Daily Guide.
- Lisa Middleton, active Transgender community leader
- Some Fabulous Leos
- The Victory Squadron, a volunteer team from the PS Air Museum
- Negro Academic Scholarship Fund
- Xavier College Preparatory High School

### In 2018 Community Service Awards were presented to:

- Lucy Debardelaben & Gail Christian Humanitarians, world class female musicians
- Ruth Debra Community organizer and lifelong civil rights advocate.
- Brad Fuhr Founder and publisher of the Gay Desert Guide.
- Goldie Jacoby Holocaust survivor and volunteer at the Tolerance Education Center.
- Mike Radford Founder of the California Highway Patrol toy drive for kids.
- Senior Advocates of the Desert

Metropolitan Community Church of the Coachella Valley (MCCCV)

In 2019 Community Service Awards were presented to:

- Gloria Kapp, educator and academic advocate
- Kate Concannon Castle, Advocate on women's issues, and social change leader.
- Rev Kevin A. Johnson, advocate and co-founded Bloom in the Desert Ministries
- California Voting Rights Act Working Group, Aftab Dada, Ed Dube, Grace Garner, Dixie Miller, Stephen Moses, and Co-chairs Alexis Ortega, Kathy Weremiuk and Tobias Wolff: Community Leaders who advanced equality, diversity and inclusion in the city.
- Tony Marchese, local restaurateur, donor, and supporter of the community and DAP.
- The V Palm Springs, hotel host to 200 firefighters during Cranston blaze.

### In 2020 Community Service Community Service Awards were presented to:

- Joy Brown Meredith, leader in civic involvement in the community and businesses.
- Brothers of the Desert
- Ginny Foat, 13-year Councilmember and Executive Director of Mizell Senior Center
- Rabbi David Lazar, Spiritual Leader of Or Hamidbar, Jewish educator and active leader.
- Katherine V. Forrest, author and prolific editor for lesbian fiction and coming out stories.
- Brian Reyes, Chief of Police, Palm Springs Police Department.
- Ron Eden, First African American and openly gay man elected to lead a California city.
- Brian Wanzek, Known as Bella da Ball, Over 20 years of active community involvement.

#### In 2021 Community Service Community Service Awards were presented to:

- Find Food Bank, providing food resources during COVID-19
- Young Justice Advocates, young adult teenagers Hina Malik, Areli Galvez, and Jazlina Morgan, for giving a voice to those who cannot speak for themselves.
- Lee Wilson Jr., Marine Veteran, and educator, honoring military servicemen and women.
- Jane Garrison, for her leadership to saving Oswit Canyon.
- David Powell, for his volunteerism which serves as the backbone of many organizations.
- Keisha D Mimms, known as Keisha D, musician who created the Keisha D Scholarship.

### In 2022 Community Service Community Service Awards were presented to:

- Anne Shefer, providing leadership with the City of Palm Springs Public Arts Commission
- Vaccinate Inland Empire (VAXIE), a volunteer grassroots organization.
- Chad Gardner, restaurant owner, for his partnerships and addressing community needs.
- Nikki Stone for her stellar volunteerism with 10 years of service in human rights efforts.
- Jimmy Boegle, for keeping honest, ethical, independent local journalism alive.
- Vincent Corrales, for his sincerity in serving others during the height of the COVID-19.
- Dean Lavine, business owner, for contributing his leadership during COVID-19.

### In 2023 Community Service Community Service Awards were presented to:

- Bettye Cotton 20 years of volunteer service helping others in the American Legion Post.
- Tori St. Johns, advocating for LGBTQ+ youth in the Coachella Valley for three decades.

- Dan Gore, Oscar's Palm Springs owner, for hosting an annual Christmas Cheer feast.
- PFLAG Palm Springs/Desert Communities largest organization advocating for LGBTQ+.
- Jase Nagaia, Founder of Endeavor, creates a diverse fitness environment that is inclusive.
- Brett Klein for his partnerships with business and community leaders for over 30 years.
- Gary Moline, for forming the Palm Springs Desert Winds Freedom Band in 2021.

### In 2024 Community Service Community Service Awards were presented to:

- Brad Prescott, for gifting what is now a preserve for open space enjoyed by everyone.
- Dee Dee Wilson Barton, for her philanthropic work of inclusivity in the community.
- Coachella Valley Filipino Festival Committee, for promoting cultural heritage.
- LGBTQ+ History & Archives of the Desert, for documenting LGBTQ+ community history.
- Rabbi Dr. Jules King, for his congregation's inclusivity with the community/world.
- Tom Oliver and Matthew Stocker for volunteering their time to improve lives of others.
- Tommie Rose, for his volunteerism and advocacy over the years on LGBTQ, USO, SOS.
- Willie Rhine, for being socially responsible and involved in the community.