

CITY OF HAYWARD  
ANNUAL VOLUNTEER AWARDS



PRESENT

*hearts of*  
**HAYWARD**

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**VOLUNTEER  
AWARDS &  
RECOGNITION EVENT**

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**THURSDAY, APRIL 24, 2025**

Hayward City Hall Council Chambers







# Hayward Volunteer Recognition & Awards Event

Sponsored by the City of Hayward & Supervisor Elisa Márquez

April 24, 2025

## Welcome (Chambers)

Master of Ceremonies

Mayor Mark Salinas, City of Hayward  
Supervisor Elisa Márquez, County of Alameda

## Awards Program

### Introduction of Hearts of Hayward

By Hayward City Council members

Angela Andrews  
Julie Roche

Ray Bonilla Jr.  
George Syrop

Dan Goldstein  
Francisco Zermeño

### Mayor's Award

Presented by City of Hayward Mayor Mark Salinas  
Kamal Anandpuri and 5 Sikh Seva

### Supervisor's Award

Presented by Alameda County Supervisor Elisa Márquez  
Maria and Alicia Amaya

### John N. Pappas Humanitarian Award

Presented by City of Hayward Mayor Mark Salinas  
Lani Llamido

### Gail Steele Lifetime Achievement Award

Presented by Alameda County Supervisor Elisa Márquez  
Robert Sakai

### Concluding Remarks

Refreshments, Networking, Music, Photo Booth & Fun in the Rotunda





## Participating Community Agencies 2025

4Cs of Alameda County

A.R.T. Inc.

Community Resources for Independent Living (CRIL)

East Bay Youth Orchestras

ECHO Housing

FESCO

Friends of the Hayward Public Library

Hayward Animal Services

Hayward Area Historical Society

Hayward Arts Council

Hayward Concerned Citizens

Hayward Foundation for the Arts

Hayward Literacy Plus Council

Hayward Public Library

Hayward Rotary Club

Hayward Unified School District

Hill & Valley Club

Keep Hayward Clean and Green Task Force

Kids' Breakfast Club

League of Women Voters, Eden Area

Moreau Catholic High School

Scholarships, Inc.

SOS Meals on Wheels

Sun Gallery





## Special Thanks

Supervisor Elisa Márquez, County of Alameda, District 2  
Mayor Mark Salinas, City of Hayward

### Volunteer Event Committee Members

**Norma Dib**, Hayward Unified School District  
**Zachary Ebadi**, City of Hayward  
**Mariellen Faria**, Eden Health District Board Member  
**Barbara Halliday**, Mayor Emeritus, City of Hayward  
**Pat Hodges**, Community Member  
**Diane Laine**, Community Member  
**Rodney Loche**, Office of Supervisor Elisa Márquez  
**Patra Nesseth-Steffes**, Hayward Arts Council  
**Larry Ratto**, Community Member  
**Justin Redman**, City of Hayward  
**Lety Salinas**, Community Member

### Film Production, City of Hayward

**Chuck Finnie**, Communications and Marketing Officer, City of Hayward  
**Zachary Ebadi**, Community Partnership Manager, City of Hayward  
**Bolthar Garcia**, Audio Visual Specialist, City of Hayward  
**Nick Tabari**, Audio Visual Specialist, City of Hayward

### Caterer & Decor Services

Ric Serianni and Team, Splurge Catering & Special Events

### Certificates of Recognition Provided By:

Supervisor Elisa Márquez, County of Alameda, District 2  
Mayor Mark Salinas, City of Hayward









# History of the Hayward Volunteer Recognition and Awards Event

This year's celebration is part of a nearly 50-year city tradition that provides a cherished time each year for Hayward to honor outstanding volunteers who give their time and energy to benefit individuals, local human services, non-profits and other programs serving the community.

The tradition had its beginnings in 1977 when a civic club, Hayward First, sponsored an award in honor of former Mayor John Pappas. By 1983, Hayward First had dissolved, and a new community-based committee was formed to continue the awards program with an annual dinner, initially at the former Centennial Hall and later in a large tent raised each fall on the grounds of St. Rose Hospital. Over the years, the number of awardees grew to include not only the Pappas award, but also a lifetime achievement award along with recognitions by Hayward's Mayor and its representative to the Alameda County Board of Supervisors. Gail Steele, who had long been a part of the planning committee for the event as a member of Hayward City Council, continued her involvement after becoming the area's representative on the Alameda County Board of Supervisors in 1992 and officially joined the city as a sponsor. After she passed away in 2020, the Lifetime Achievement Award was named in her honor, and her successors, the late Richard Valle and current Supervisor Elisa Marquez, continued to partner with the city to sponsor this event. Over the years, more than 500 awards have been given to outstanding community volunteers.

The names in this 2025 program form an honor roll of Hayward's finest residents and most selfless volunteers. They have helped to create the Hayward of today, and they inspire us to work for the future.

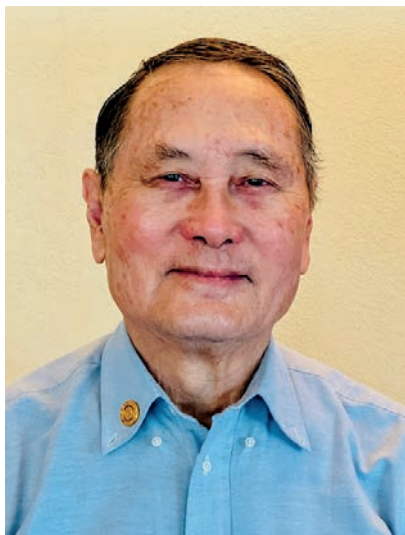
## History of the John N. Pappas Humanitarian Award

The Hayward Volunteer Recognition and Awards Dinner started with the establishment of the John N. Pappas Humanitarian Award. In recognition of his lifelong efforts, the award is presented every year to community volunteers who exemplify John's community spirit and ownership.

John Pappas became actively engaged in the City of Hayward in the 1950s. He served on the Mt. Eden School Board and the City's Planning Commission before being elected in 1960 to the Hayward City Council. John served for 16 years and was the last council appointed mayor in 1964. He played an important role in bringing California State University of Hayward, Chabot Community College and two BART stations to Hayward, and founded the George Weekes Branch Library and the Hayward Human Relations Commission. John was a volunteer as well, helping the St. Rose Hospital Building Commission, Eden Youth and Family Center, Hayward Area Historical Society and many more organizations. As an active community member and as a council member, John improved the relationship between the City and residents by encouraging volunteerism.

Until he passed away in 1999, John spoke at every dinner for 22 years to remind guests of the benefits of volunteering. John Pappas supported the volunteer efforts for the overall good of the community and ended with a simple reminder to us all: "People helping people - it's as simple as that."





## Robert Sakai

### ***Gail Steele Lifetime Achievement Award***

Robert Sakai may be a soft spoken man, but his “wicked” sense of humor and dedication to Hayward have made him a loved and respected member of the community for decades. The City is so grateful for Robert’s lifetime of service, and is very proud and excited to name him our Gail Steele Lifetime Achievement Award recipient.

A Bay Area native, Robert first moved to Hayward in 1948, graduating from Tennyson High School in 1963. After finishing law school at the University of California, Hastings College of the Law in 1974, he spent decades helping clients in the fields of real estate transactions, business, wills, trusts and probate. And as he has enjoyed working with clients, so too has he found joy serving the community.

As a young man, Robert saw Japanese American seniors struggle to find housing, so he co-founded East Bay Issei Housing Inc., formerly the Japanese American Services of the East Bay. There he helped house low-income Japanese American seniors, as well as raise money to establish a residence for elderly members of Hayward’s Japanese community. In addition, he served as the Chair of the Boy Scouts of America, Tres Ranchos District, is the former Director of California State University Hayward’s Foundation and was a director of the Hayward Education Foundation and served on the board of the Hayward Chamber of Commerce.

In April 2008, the Hayward Rotary Club awarded Robert with its highest honor, selecting him as the Outstanding Hayward Rotarian for 2007-2008. Some of Robert’s greatest contributions to Hayward came while serving the community with the Club. While serving as the Hayward Rotary Club President in 2006, Robert was “instrumental” in opening the remodeled Silva Pediatric Clinic at the Eden Youth and Family Center, which will eventually expand and serve a central role in the future Stack Center. As a member of the Investment Committee for the Hayward Rotary Foundation, he has helped grow the foundation’s assets to \$2 million, helping to build a stable and sustainable organization, ensuring that Rotary can serve the community in the coming years and decades.

If you want to congratulate Robert after the ceremony, you might find him at the dessert table – he famously loves sweets. In fact, he was the champion of the Hayward Rotary Club’s ice cream eating contest. “Where do you put it, Bob?” Pam Russo, one of his fellow Rotarians asks. And to that, we say that his capacity for ice cream is only matched by his capacity for kindness and generosity. Thank you for a lifetime of service to the Hayward community!







## Lani Llamido

### *John N. Pappas Humanitarian Award*

Lani Llamido's infectious smile and positive energy brighten up any room she's in, and her dedication to Hayward and willingness to lend a helping hand have made her a leader in community service. Lani's work to promote literacy and the arts, support Hayward students and uplift the Asian and Pacific Islander community has left an indelible impact on the community, and the City is proud to recognize her as this year's John N. Pappas Humanitarian Award recipient.

Originally from the Philippines, Lani has chosen Hayward as her home, and the entire community – but especially the staff of Hayward Unified School District – is incredibly thankful to have her here. She was one of 26 members of the inaugural HUSD Parent Ambassador Program and is still an active participant, highlighting school activities, events, programs and services to members of the HUSD community. In her capacity as a parent volunteer, Lani has traveled across the state and country championing HUSD's work. And as one of HUSD's leading parents in the Asian and Pacific Islander Community Initiative, Lani has helped create spaces to celebrate Asian and Pacific Islander culture and helped student organizations like the Winton Middle School Asian Pacific Islander Club thrive.

In 2021, she joined the Hayward Arts Council board of directors. Under Lani's guidance, HAC implemented the first international online exhibition showcasing the works of Palawan Heritage Center indigenous artist Leonard Ansiong in the Philippines. Since then, six international artists have appeared on the HAC website. Her work for the Hayward Literacy Council as a tutor, as well as her efforts to update the website, develop the organization's branding and logo and maintain a social media presence, have helped the Council reach the community and support both childhood and adult literacy.

A highlight of every autumn, Lani buys "giant, giant" bags of candy and books to fill her trunk for Hayward's Trunk or Treat event at the library. And though candy might attract the crowds, she usually runs out of books first. To us, that's emblematic of the gifts Lani has given to the community: Her passion for learning has inspired others to do the same.

And it all started with a community member asking for help, and Lani embracing the call to serve. For that, the City is so grateful, and our community benefits from her contributions every day.





## **Kamal Anandpuri and 5 Sikh Seva** ***City of Hayward Mayor's Award***

The Office of Hayward Mayor Mark Salinas is thrilled to announce that this year's Mayor of Hayward Volunteer Award goes to Kamal Anandpuri and his incredible colleagues at 5 Sikh Seva. Their outstanding dedication to the City of Hayward and Hayward Promise Neighborhoods has made a profound impact, ensuring that children and families have access to essential nutrition. 5 Sikh Seva has been an instrumental force in the fight against child hunger in Hayward, and their unwavering commitment to service is truly inspiring.

For years, 5 Sikh Seva has been a vital force in fighting food insecurity in Hayward, ensuring that children and families have access to nutritious meals. Three years ago, they formally partnered with Hayward Promise Neighborhoods to expand their mission, focusing on connecting more Hayward kids and their families to healthy food.

As a central partner in Hayward Promise Neighborhoods, 5 Sikh Seva consistently provides hot, nutritious meals twice a month in the Jackson Triangle neighborhood, serving as a crucial lifeline for families in need. Their commitment extends beyond regular meal distributions. They have also participated in the Hayward Promise Neighborhoods/Hayward Public Library Trunk-or-Treat event for the past five years. They have cooked and served meals for children to make sure they receive nourishment and support in a festive community setting.

Through their dedication, 5 Sikh Seva has cooked and distributed thousands of meals completely free of charge, directly benefiting Hayward's children and families. Their impact is driven by the generosity of donors, as all proceeds go directly toward providing food. Their work is powered by volunteers, including local neighborhood promotoras, who give their time to distribute meals and strengthen their community.

5 Sikh Seva has transformed food access in Hayward, creating a lasting impact on the well-being of local families. Their innovative and compassionate approach has made a difference where it's needed most.

The Mayor's Office is proud to recognize 5 Sikh Seva's unwavering commitment to feeding Hayward's children and families, and sends its heartfelt congratulations.





## Maria and Alicia Amaya

### *Alameda County Supervisor's Award*

The Office of Alameda County Supervisor Elisa Márquez is proud to recognize Maria Amaya and her daughter, Alicia, as this year's Supervisor's Awardees. Their boundless compassion and advocacy for their community truly reflect the Heart of Hayward.

Maria and Alicia, both raised in Hayward, love serving their community together. When Alicia was only a year old, she would go with her mom to pick up trash all over the city. She is now 8 and still enjoys doing clean-ups, but her dedication to her community now extends far beyond simply picking up trash.

When Alicia was told of the possible closure of St. Rose Hospital, she passionately asked her mom, "What will happen to all the sick people?" St. Rose is only minutes from their home, and both mother and daughter were born at the hospital. They know the vital role St. Rose plays for their community. So, mother and daughter jumped into the effort to stop the closure.

The Amayas are among the 30,000 patients, including thousands of low-income families, who depend on the vital healthcare services provided at St. Rose every year, including its emergency room. Maria has passionately shared her family's story with the media and the California Department of Justice to illustrate the critical importance of keeping the hospital open. In addition to Alicia receiving care for her asthma, both of Maria's parents received life-saving care at St. Rose during the height of the pandemic, where they were intubated for two months to treat collapsed lungs.

During proceedings on the fate of the hospital, Alicia chimed in with her own 3-word speech directly into the microphone, "Save St. Rose!" which became a powerful chant of the regional coalition. Ultimately, their efforts were successful, and both Maria and Alicia are proud to have played a key role in keeping southern Alameda County's only safety-net hospital open.

Maria has done so much to preserve a lifeline in our community; her heart is truly here in Hayward where she has lived her whole life. When she isn't helping to save hospitals, Maria works for the Raising Leaders Program here in Hayward and serves as an unofficial representative for her neighbors with limited access to English.

"I love Hayward," she always says, "I don't think I could ever leave."

And for that, the Supervisor's Office is so grateful for Maria and Alicia's many contributions to our community.







The following volunteers were chosen by their accompanied organization and are receiving the "Hearts of Hayward" Award.

The Hearts of Hayward is a tribute to the City's slogan "Heart of the Bay" and signifies the importance of volunteer work to the city.

Volunteers play an essential role in making Hayward a productive, vibrant community. We thank this year's recipients and the organizations they represent for their past and ongoing efforts.



## Olasubomi “Shubbie” Aishida *Hayward Rotary Club*

In 2020, Shubbie Aishida, who owns the Golden Safari restaurant in downtown Hayward, launched the Peace Haven, a non-profit helping to provide food and meals to families, individuals and organizations including first responders, healthcare workers and seniors, free of charge. Originally a delivery service, the Peace Haven opened a physical location, the Freedom Store, to meet the community’s needs during the Covid-19 pandemic. Whether it be children’s and adult’s apparel in the back corner, tampons and allergy medicines on the far-right shelves, or frozen chicken, meat and food in the freezer, everything in the store is free to the community.

## Stanley Robert Cardera *SOS Meals on Wheels*

Stanley Robert Cardera has been a dedicated volunteer delivery driver with SOS Meals on Wheels (SOSMOW) since 2016. The 67-year-old Hayward resident was an older-adult college student when he had to pause school and volunteer work to undergo cancer treatment. To help with recovery, a counselor suggested he try an art class. There, Stanley developed a new passion for painting, which he’s now using to benefit others. He continues to give back, selling his paintings at flea markets and donating the proceeds to SOSMOW. And while he no longer delivers meals, he has since returned to SOSMOW, where he packages meals in their kitchen.



“My legs and back can’t handle the ups and downs of getting in and out of the car and going up and down stairs anymore. But I wanted to go back because I love the people, the energy. Everybody’s nice,” he said. “I can’t do it every day, but maybe I can do a day or two a week. I like to do something positive. I love the atmosphere, so I just look at the brighter side.”





## **Robert Dalby** *Hayward Public Library*

The Lawyer in the Library program provided free legal consultations to library patrons; volunteers came and went, but Robert Dalby – an attorney with Berg Injury Lawyers and a Golden Gate University School of Law alum – was always the most reliable, patient and good-humored attorney we worked with. The service Robert provided is hard to overrate. He helped immigrants, low-income seniors, families, entrepreneurs and so many people with limited resources navigate our legal system. He provided reassurance, referrals and good, solid advice on where folks might stand with regard to the law. While this valuable service has come to an end, the Library and its staff are immeasurably grateful to Robert Dalby for all the hours, thought, patience and tremendous heart he put into his volunteer work.

## **Tom Ferreira** *Hayward Concerned Citizens*

Affectionately known as “The Donut Guy,” Tom Ferreira is the definition of a Heart of Hayward. Tom’s kindness, dedication and willingness to serve others can be found in all he does. Tom helped found Hayward Concerned Citizens because he saw the need in our city to give everyone the opportunity to voice their concerns, to provide a source of information for all of its residents and to encourage the volunteerism of others. He has also been a long-term member of the Keep Hayward Clean and Green Task Force, an ambassador for the Chamber of Commerce and has served on the Hayward Rotary Club Board of Directors. If you have driven around the city, you may have caught a glimpse of Tom picking up trash on his own time, often accompanied by one of his children.



## **Hector Garcia** *Hayward Foundation for the Arts*

When Hector Garcia joined Hayward Foundation for the Arts (HFA) two years ago, he became its Treasurer. He developed a payroll deduction that enables HUSD faculty to make monthly contributions to HFA. He educated many of his personal friends about the way HUSD's arts program teaches students to think like professionals and prepares them for careers that will call upon their creativity and that they will love. He also recruits friends to support HFA and volunteer for the organization. Hector's warm personality and knowledge of HUSD's students and community make him a powerfully effective volunteer for HFA and a towering example of the kind of volunteer who makes Hayward a great place to live.





## Jeancarlo Garfias Cebrero

### *Kids' Breakfast Club*

Jeancarlo has been a dedicated volunteer with The Kids' Breakfast Club (TKBC) for four incredible years. A Senior at Mt. Eden High School, Jeancarlo has consistently gone above and beyond, giving up his spring and winter breaks to serve his community. Rising as early as 6 a.m., he arrives at TKBC by 7 a.m., ready to cook and serve breakfast to Hayward kids and their families. Throughout the years, Jeancarlo has mastered every aspect of the program. Whether registering families, coordinating volunteers in the kitchen or leading fun and engaging activities for children, he has done it all with professionalism, empathy and a positive spirit. TKBC serves hundreds of kids each program season, and Jeancarlo has been an essential part of that success. Volunteers like him make all the difference, ensuring that Hayward kids receive not just a meal but also a warm, welcoming experience. His dedication and selflessness truly embody the spirit of service and the Heart of Hayward!

## Carl Gorringer

### *Sun Gallery*

Carl Gorringer grew up in Hayward, moved away, then moved back in 2013 for good. He became active in the community, supporting efforts to save Ruby Meadows, advocating with Bike Hayward, organizing free concerts with the Odd Fellows, joining the Library Commission and co-founding the Hayward Lit Hop. With the Hayward Techies & Makers club, Carl proposed creating a Makerspace at the Sun Gallery as a People's Budget project in 2022. He made a video and conducted outreach to win the community's vote, then joined the Board and managed the project throughout 2023. Since Carl's return, now as Treasurer, he has worked tirelessly to bring the Gallery onto a sustainable financial path forward. Carl Gorringer truly embodies the Heart of Hayward.



## Mary Haro

### *Hayward Area Historical Society*

Mary Haro is a true Heart of Hayward. Mary volunteers in many departments in the Hayward Area Historical Society. You can find Mary at Meek Mansion, where she serves as a docent once a month and assists with guided tours. You can also find her in the Historical Society's archives, cataloging and processing new accessions that help manage its growing collection. If there is an event or last-minute project, Mary is there to help, and if you have ever visited McConaghy House or Meek Mansion at Christmas time, she had a hand in creating the magic you experienced. Beyond her contributions to the organization, Mary is a wonderful friend who offers staff and fellow volunteers emotional support, creative ideas and wisdom.







## Rita Herb

### *Hayward Animal Services*

A little over 25 years ago, Rita Herb became aware of the number of kittens born to free-roaming community cats, and she decided to act. She began to humanely trap the cats, take them to a veterinary clinic to get spayed or neutered and vaccinated, and return them to their community. A process referred to today as Trap, Neuter, Vaccinate and Return, or TNVR. TNVR is the most effective method for controlling and reducing cat populations. By addressing the root cause of overpopulation and supporting the well-being of cats, Rita has improved the lives of both the animals and the people who care for them. Rita's legacy in Hayward is a reminder of how one person's compassion and action can create a lasting, positive change for both animals and the people around them.

## Nicole Hunt

### *ECHO Housing*

Nicole has been a guest speaker at ECHO Housing's Homebuyer Education workshops for over five years, volunteering her time to provide education to the communities ECHO Housing serves. Specifically, she teaches the "realtor" topics for the workshop, discussing types of sales, the purchase agreement, types of properties, contingencies and many other topics. A realtor since 2017, Nicole has a true passion for helping families become homeowners.



## Pat Keathley

### *Hill and Valley Club*

Pat Keathley is the definition of the word "dynamo." She is the energy which keeps the Hill and Valley Club going. Pat joined the club in 2016 and has been a major contributor for all that we do. Pat is the club's treasurer, but her energy and enthusiasm powers the whole organization. Pat is the person who knows where everything is, how to get things done and who takes over when no one else steps up to help. She has led the club through several successful fundraisers. When the organization's Rental Chair had to step aside during a health emergency, Pat stepped up and filled the position for half a year. Pat's dedication to service as a member of the Hill and Valley Club represents the Heart of Hayward.





## Anita Ki

### *East Bay Youth Orchestras*

In Anita Ki's three years as an EBYO board member, her volunteer work has strengthened EBYO as an organization, benefiting many Hayward students in the process. After her first full year with EBYO, Anita volunteered to be on the search committee for a new business manager. She set up an account for EYBO on Indeed, gave invaluable advice during the search, and served on the interview committee. Anita responded to the call for help with the annual ACCFB food drive in November 2022. In the two subsequent years, she headed up the food drive, picking up bags, bringing them to rehearsal to pass out and then scrutinizing donations for expiration dates and suitability. Last November, she filled her car to the brim with 507 pounds of food and handed them off to the food bank in person. Anita's thoroughness and dedication to EBYO epitomizes the Heart of Hayward.

## Patricia "PJ" Loveland

### *CRIL*

Patricia "PJ" Loveland's positivity, resilience and unwavering commitment to helping the blind and deaf community truly embodies the "Heart of Hayward." This year, PJ has volunteered for over 100 hours with CRIL Blind Services, assisting individuals with visual impairments through arts and crafts, cooking classes, field trips and peer support groups. She also supports deaf and blind students in Chabot College's DSPS program, helping with class registration, resources and on-campus tours. Even while facing personal challenges, PJ remains an empathetic and patient volunteer. She learned ASL to support her hearing-impaired family members and is now working toward ASL certification to further assist the community. She is a vital part of CRIL and an inspiration to all who know her; and her selflessness and ever cheerful attitude are a treasure to Hayward.



## Savitha Moorthy

### *4Cs of Alameda County*

In Savitha's own words, "I have always wanted to leave the world (at least) a little bit better than I found it." Not only does Savitha talk the talk, she walks the walk. For many years, Savitha Moorthy has been a pillar of the Hayward community and a coveted member of the 4Cs of Alameda County Board of Directors since 2022. Lending her expertise to the leadership team, Savitha has been a pivotal member of the Board and the Programs Committee. She has facilitated the donation of thousands of books for Hayward children. Savitha is always available to volunteer at 4Cs' events and always raises her hand when extra support is needed. The City of Hayward – and 4Cs of Alameda County – are extraordinarily lucky to have volunteers like Savitha.





## Penny Peck

### *League of Women Voters Eden Area*

LWVEA is indeed fortunate to have Penny Peck as an active member. She has served in many important jobs in the Eden Area, but her volunteer work over the years in the League shines brightly. She has held the roles of chapter President, Newsletter Editor and Social Media Chair, as well as taking on other tasks. Most recently, she helped to curate questions for and moderate many LWVEA candidate forums. Her dedication to education and equity as well as her warmth and openness in Hayward and surrounding areas show how her heart beats for our community.

## Dwight Ruddell

### *FESCO*

Dwight embodies the true spirit of community service. As Community Support Chair and Vice President of the Friends of FESCO Committee, has made an extraordinary impact in just two years with the organization. Despite his relatively short tenure, Dwight has become an indispensable member of the FESCO family, participating in all fundraising events and taking on critical volunteer roles that demonstrate his unwavering commitment to the organization's mission. His work has been instrumental in key projects like the FESCO Backpack Drive, Adopt a Family and the FESCO Shuffle, helping homeless families move towards self-sufficiency. With his patience, compassion and infectious smile, Dwight has not only supported FESCO's organizational goals but has also inspired others to get involved. He is a true Heart of Hayward.



## Marge Sakai

### *Friends of the Hayward Public Library*

As a book lover and public library fan, Marge has supported Hayward's library for many years in many ways. A long-time member of Friends of Hayward Library, she visits the library often to browse, borrow, volunteer or donate. As major donors to the city's main library downtown, completed in 2019, she and her family have helped bring Hayward library facilities up to 21st-century standards. Marge can often be seen on Saturday mornings volunteering behind the counter in the Friends of the Library bookstore, where she recently played a role in a library-promoting TikTok video that drew millions of viewers.

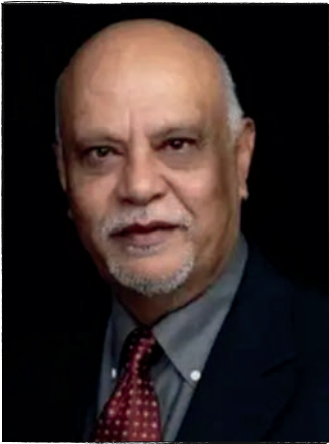




## Jayendra Singh

### ***Hayward Literacy Plus Council***

In 2017, Jay joined the Hayward Literacy Plus Program as a tutor. He was assigned by the Library Program Coordinator Michelle Gee to teach English Conversation Circle learners at the Matt Jimenez Community Center. Michelle saw how dedicated Jay was to the program and thus invited him to join the Hayward Literacy Plus Council (HLPC) so that he could help advance the Literacy Plus Programs to the underprivileged in the Hayward community. Jay has assisted the HLPC in helping the newsletter team produce and mail the newsletters, maintain the directory, the receipts and payments, develop the strategies for the Literacy Plus Programs and participate in fundraising activities. In 2019, when the HLPC treasurer resigned, Jay was appointed Treasurer by the Council. His trustworthiness and dependability have been indispensable for the organization, and reflect the true Heart of Hayward.



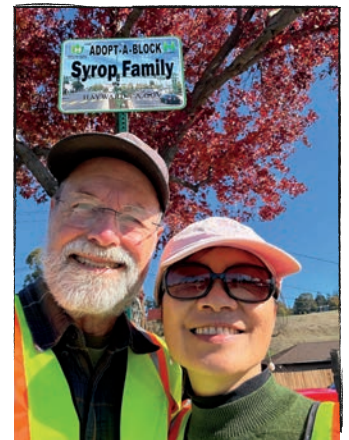
### ***Scholarships Inc.***

Jay is the newest member of Scholarships, Inc, having served on the group for approximately five years. Jay has helped Scholarships, Inc. join the Hayward Chamber of Commerce, is familiar with grant writing and attends meetings and functions. He was able to give Scholarships, Inc.'s President an address list of Hayward businesses to send their first newsletter to. His extensive knowledge of and connections in the Hayward community have made him an incredible asset to the organization.

## Jeff Syrop

### ***Keep Hayward Clean & Green Task Force***

Mr. Jeff Syrop participates in the Adopt-a-Block program, cleaning the public right-of-way along Carlos Bee. Since joining the program in 2022, Mr. Syrop has submitted over 150 requests in Access Hayward. You can find Mr. Syrop out and about picking up trash and debris any day of the week, rain or shine. He's not just picking up and reporting trash and debris, he's also reporting graffiti and other community blight issues. If you're in the area of Carlos Bee, please keep an eye out for him, and if you see him, wave or give him a thumbs up! It's community members like Mr. Syrop that contribute to making our community a great place to live, work and play. This is what makes Mr. Syrop a Heart of Hayward!





## Ruey Syrop

### Hayward Arts Council

Ruey Lin Syrop is a visual artist and has been an active member of the Hayward Arts Council since 1994. During her tenure as a board member for the Hayward Arts Council, she implemented online programs to increase the visibility of the exhibitions presented in the galleries. Ruey continually reaches out to and connects with community members who hail from diverse backgrounds and age groups; she has been instrumental in keeping people connected and continuing to provide opportunities for artists to show their work. In 2023, Ruey created the Family Fun Free Art Classes in partnership with the Hayward Arts Council, the Hayward Public Library and Friends of the Library. These series of art classes allow children and caregivers to work together in an inclusive and friendly environment, learning art techniques and exploring their creativity.

## Gerald Thompson

### A.R.T. Inc.



Gerald is an award-winning oil painter whose art chronicles his world travel. In 2018, he received the Alameda County Arts Leadership Award for keeping art alive in the greater Hayward area with his volunteerism. Gerald is a founding member of the H.A.R.D. Foundation Legacy Program. He has been on the A.R.T. Inc. Board of Directors and was instrumental in creating the Memorandum of Understanding with C.V.U.S.D. for using the Adobe Art Gallery. In 2024, he helped design the A.R.T. Inc. website. In 2024, Gerald revived and curated the Area Artist's Annual Exhibit after a 6-year hiatus, with sponsorship from the H.A.R.D. Foundation. 42 Artists participated and \$1,250 in awards were presented, including awards donated by Gerald and Winifred Thompson in the honor of their artistic mothers, Eupha Thompson and Margaret Robbins.



## Michelle Thompson

### Moreau Catholic High School

Michelle Thompson has volunteered at Moreau Catholic for over 10 years, including as a Booster member, a Parent Ambassador, a team parent and an alumni representative on the Mission Integration Committee of the Board of Trustees. Michelle is reliable and generous - she makes the students and families Moreau serves and the school's staff feel genuinely supported. She communicates respectfully and candidly to help Moreau best serve its students and plan a successful future. Michelle is a gem who truly cares and does the work to show it. She reflects the Heart of Hayward and the heart of Moreau Catholic High School.





## Victoria Vivaldo

### *Hayward Unified School District*

For more than ten years, Victoria Vivaldo has volunteered her time, energy and love to support students and families in the Hayward Unified School District (HUSD). Victoria is a proud mother of two HUSD students. Her mission as a parent is to set an example for her children that focuses on serving and advocating for the needs of her community. She serves as an active Parent Ambassador for Cherryland Elementary, often volunteering at school events, supports the coordination of a school food pantry, is on the leadership team for Padres Unidos and serves on the School Site Council and Community Schools Committee. She is a prime example of a Heart of Hayward, always seeking ways to get involved, be a supportive mother and role model for her children and to inspire others around her.

*Thank you*

*A BIG Thank You to all our volunteers*

*You're the BEST*





# *Volunteers are the heart of our City*

If you are interested in being a volunteer  
in the City of Hayward, please call (510) 583-3911 or visit  
[www.hayward-ca.gov/residents/get-involved](http://www.hayward-ca.gov/residents/get-involved)





# Past Hayward Volunteer Award Winners

## Gail Steele Lifetime Achievement Award Winners

- |      |                                 |      |                             |
|------|---------------------------------|------|-----------------------------|
| 1990 | John Sandoval                   | 2007 | John Guinee                 |
| 1991 | Dr. Hyrum Crockett              | 2008 | Delmo Della Dora            |
| 1992 | Hayward Area Historical Society | 2009 | Doris Rodriquez             |
| 1993 | Rev. Charles Bennett            | 2010 | Betty DeForest              |
| 1994 | Jean Falkowski                  | 2011 | Evelyn Cormier              |
| 1995 | Betty Spees                     | 2012 | Bishop J. Macklin           |
| 1997 | Julio Bras                      | 2013 | Willian Vandenberg          |
| 1998 | Duncan Buchanan                 | 2014 | Carl & Marilyn Baker-Madsen |
| 1999 | Helen Ketcham                   | 2015 | Eileen Weinreb              |
| 2000 | Virginia MacKenzie              | 2016 | Gloria Grant Wilson         |
| 2001 | Sherman Balch                   | 2017 | Rene Besold                 |
| 2002 | Banning Fenton                  | 2018 | Judy Harrison               |
| 2003 | Joan Seavey Thomas              | 2019 | Larry Ratto                 |
| 2004 | Rev. Lee Williamson             | 2021 | Michael Sweeney             |
| 2005 | Paul Russo                      | 2023 | Audrey LePell               |
| 2006 | Marlene Teel-Heim               | 2024 | Valerie Caveglia            |





## John N. Pappas Humanitarian Award Winners

- |   |                                      |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| 1977 Alice P. Johnson   | 1999 Janet Minami                    |
| 1978 Dorothy Cox  | 2000 Jim Forsyth                     |
| 1979 Ken Price  | 2001 Bishop J.W. Macklin             |
| 1980 Marjorie McCartor  | 2002 Elizabeth & Robert Bathgate     |
| 1981 Elizabeth Lee  | 2003 Helen Wu                        |
| 1982 Sheila Martinson   | 2004 Winnie Thompson                 |
| 1983 Irv & Frankie Frankl   | 2005 Eugenia Livanos Lester          |
| 1984 Irv & Frankie Frankl   | 2006 Mariellen Faria                 |
| 1985 John O' Lague  | 2008 Jackie & Allen Bertillion       |
| 1986 Resti Zaballos   | 2009 Ed Mullins                      |
| 1987 Sara Conner  | 2010 George Pacheco Jr.              |
| 1988 Albert Lepore  | 2011 Mike Mahoney                    |
| 1989 Gregory Michaels   | 2012 Dave McKeown                    |
| 1990 Priscilla Dunlap, Carolyn Green<br>Bridget Lacky & Mary Stuard | 2013 Freddy Davis                    |
| 1991 William Vandenburg   | 2014 Robert Sakai                    |
| 1992 Alison Lewis   | 2015 Jeanne Gocker & Steve Sapontsis |
| 1993 Niel Carew   | 2016 Phil & Pat Gordon               |
| 1994 Mohammad Nusratty  | 2017 Kenneth Rawdon                  |
| 1995 John Guinee  | 2018 Ralph Morales                   |
| 1996 Francisco Zermeño  | 2019 Frank Garcia                    |
| 1997 Paul Frumkin II  | 2021 Arlene Nehring                  |
| 1998 Harry & Maryann Francis  | 2023 Frank Goulart                   |

## Supervisor's Award Winners

- |                      |                        |                              |
|----------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|
| 2011 Joyce Dobro     | 2015 Obray Van Buren   | 2019 Davida Scott            |
| 2012 Dr. Maria Ochoa | 2016 Gabriel Hernandez | 2021 Chief Garrett Contreras |
| 2013 Felix Galaviz   | 2017 Paul Frumkin III  | 2023 Lupe Nunez              |
| 2014 Mariellen Faria | 2018 Harry Scott       | 2024 Elena Lepe              |

## Mayor's Award Winners

- |  |                       |                            |
|--|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| 2008 Keep Hayward Clean<br>& Green Taskforce | 2013 Odessa Staggers  | 2019 Downtown Streets Team |
| 2009 Sam & Juanita Nava                      | 2014 Tracy Diaz       | 2021 Hayward Rotary Club   |
| 2010 Greg Galati                             | 2015 Kay Thomas       | 2023 Elgin Lowe            |
| 2011 Mimi Bauer                              | 2016 Chuck Horner     | 2024 Marc Johnson          |
| 2012 Larry Ratto                             | 2017 Julieta Martinez |                            |
|  | 2018 Kari McAllister  |                            |





*hearts of*  
**HAYWARD**

