

Community Conscience Welcomes New Tenants to "Under One Roof" Human Services Center

Community Conscience is proud to welcome three new non-profit agencies to our family of tenants.

- **Fit 4 The Cause:** This brand new 501(c)(3) non-profit organization raises funds and awareness for health related causes. Cindy Rakowitz, Founder, President, and Chair, is a PR Guru and newly licensed fitness maven. "Fun-Raising" money and awareness for health needs are provided by staging exercise programs led by professional instructors. They also provide wellness education for groups, individuals and special populations. The concept was born out of the success of recent high energy group X charitable events. The Conejo Valley is saturated with rock star fitness instructors along with the most motivated, diverse, fitness oriented community on the planet. Participants love the flash mob feel that provides heart thumping live DJs spinning at up to 180 BPM along with party lights and fast paced movement. Learn more by visiting their website: <https://fit4thecause.org>

- **Life After Brain Injury:** A non-profit organization where survivors are encouraged to participate, belong, and grow. They are an Independent Living-based organization and provide free support services to the brain injury community in and around Ventura County. They provide education about brain injury and connections to needed social services and agencies. Also training for survivors in the use of tools, strategies and accommodations that can compensate for compromised abilities. All are invited to attend support meetings and social activities to experience the sense of community and belonging that they are known for. Appointments are available on a one-on-one basis to speak to their Executive Director, Cherie Phoenix, 805-490-8211. Web site: <http://www.lifeafterbraininjury.org/>

- **Kids & Families Together:** A not-for-profit support, education and counseling resource center to provide services for individuals and families in foster care, kinship care and adoption, for the preservation of families and the physical, emotional and mental health of children. They opened their doors on January 1, 2000 after various individuals in the foster, kinship and adoptive communities came together to discuss the gaps they saw in services throughout Ventura County. Kids & Families Together's mission is to strengthen relationships by providing safe, supportive help that keep family members emotionally connected to one another. Children who have experienced trauma, abuse, neglect, loss, grief and multiple placements often need extraordinary care, understanding and "attachment-focused" therapeutic interventions. Parents/caregivers need specialized education, support and strategies that will enhance their ability to raise safe, healthy and nurtured children.


What's New?

Community Conscience's 27th year of operating the building known as Under One Roof in Thousand Oaks has been extremely busy and very rewarding. A part of our mission is to promote maximum coordination among the agencies. Sharing information about the services each one provides ensures that their clients can take advantage of various services that are available.

We are proud to say that we recently updated our strategic plan, reviewed the usage of space and needs of the organizations located at Under One Roof and were able to have three new charities join our program.

LSS Community Care Center needed some more space two days a week for a volunteer to enter new clients into a computer tracking program. Conejo Youth Employment Services was happy to share their offices for this important task. Holy Family Services was able to share their office space with two new charities, Life After Brain Injury and Fit 4 The Cause, since each one only needed to see clients in Thousand Oaks a few days a week.

Hospice of the Conejo has been sharing their offices with Conejo Youth Employment for job interview training and Conejo Pregnancy Center for birthing classes. Villa Esperanza Services informed Community Conscience that if they had some more space they could close their Westlake Village office and combine all their services here. This would save their organization \$40,000 per year in rent, making a major impact on their ability to serve more clients. We were able to accommodate their request!

Aarron Kitman, Vice President of Adult Services at Villa Esperanza Services stated, *"At Villa Esperanza Services our goal is to allocate all of our available resources to enhance the lives of adults and children living with developmental disabilities. Our ongoing partnership with Community Conscience allows us to do just that by dramatically reducing our overhead and bringing together our staff Under One Roof! We can't thank them enough for their ongoing assistance and we hope that you will support them in their mission to assist community nonprofits in the Thousand Oaks area."*

This past year I have had the privilege and honor to work very closely with the charities, their staff, and volunteers. LSS Community Care Center hired Denise Cortes as their new Area Director, Conejo Pregnancy Center hired Teresa Menchaca as their Executive Director and Senior Concerns Thrift Store has been remodeled and has hired two new managers, Candy and Nes.

Funding for maintaining the building is met through donations made by individuals and businesses. Please use the enclosed envelope to donate, or visit our website www.communityconscience.org and use the PayPal option on our DONATE NOW page. Your donations will be used to further our ability to keep the exceptional flow of services available to those in need. We will provide a letter for tax purposes.

It is truly impressive to witness the strength in these partnerships. The dedication from all staff and volunteers to help those who are struggling is incredible. The Community Conscience "Under One Roof" Human Services Center continues to serve as a place where assistance is available to anyone who needs help.



(Continued from page 1)

Kids & Families Together is a contractor for Ventura County Human Services Agency and Ventura County Behavioral Health, providing counseling and support services for children's health as well as the success and longevity of their placements. Web site: <http://www.kidsandfamilies.org/>

2016 Mardi Gras Ball Sponsorships

If you are interested in becoming a Sponsor for the 2016 Mardi Gras Ball, please contact Robin at 805.494.3543 or email at robin@communityconscience.org

Tickets & Table Sponsors

For more information about buying tickets or hosting a table please contact us at 805 494-3543 or email info@communityconscience.org.

Other Ways to Donate



Ralphs Community Contribution Program allows you to contribute to Community Conscience automatically as you shop for your groceries... and it doesn't cost you a cent!

To get started with the Ralphs Community Contribution Program, you can register online at: www.ralphs.com
(Questions: contact Robin Britt, Executive Director, 805-494-3543)

- Be sure to have your Ralphs REWARDS card handy as part of the online registration process.
- If you do not yet have a Ralphs REWARDS card, they are available at the customer service desk at any Ralphs.
- Most participants are new online customers, so they must click on 'Create an Account'.
- Follow the easy step-by-step instructions to create an account.
- After you create your online account, then click on 'MY ACCOUNT' scroll down to Community Rewards - Enroll.
- Type your NPO number (**81193**) or name of organization (**Community Conscience**) and complete your enrollment process.
- REMEMBER, purchases will not count for our group until after you register your card.
- Always swipe your registered Ralphs REWARDS card or use the phone number that is linked to your registered Ralphs REWARDS card when shopping for each purchase to count.

Donate to Community Conscience by shopping through Amazon Smile

Using the link provided below you may select Community Conscience as the charity to receive proceeds when you shop at Amazon.com. When you are shopping on Amazon please remember to start by using this link.

<http://www.communityconscience.org/Donate/tabid/516/Default.aspx>



Once you have selected Community Conscience, Amazon will begin donating 0.5% of your purchases to our organization when you shop.

Shop at AmazonSmile

and Amazon will make
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Get started

amazon smile

Don't forget to bookmark Amazon once you are there. You have to login through this special link to credit Community Conscience.



Message from the President - Cheryl Klepper

It has been my pleasure to serve as President of the Community Conscience Board of Trustees these past two years.

We have accomplished a lot in that time and I know that Community Conscience will continue to find ways to better serve our community in the future. I would like to thank the Trustees, Staff, volunteers and all those who have worked so hard to help Community Conscience succeed in its mission.

This summer we were sad to learn of the passing of Community Conscience Founding Father Fred Wilson. Fred, along with several like-minded citizens, came up with the idea that became Community Conscience. It was his guidance, hard work, and



perseverance that led to the building of the Under One Roof Human Services Center that today offers rent-free space to 13 non-profit human services agencies. Fred continued to be involved with Community Conscience even after he left its Board, serving most recently on our Advisory Council. He will be missed greatly.

Our Trustees and Staff are beginning to get ready for Mardi Gras Ball 2016. I am pleased to announce that our Mardi Gras Co-chairs for 2016 are Trustees Fran Brough and Luayne Valestrino. They are planning an exciting and fun event that you will not want to miss! Further information and news about the event can be found elsewhere in this issue. We expect Mardi Gras Ball 2016 to be a fun and successful event and we hope to see you all on February 20, 2016!

24th Annual Mardi Gras Ball 2016!
February 20, 2016 at Hyatt Westlake Plaza
Title Sponsor: Union Bank



*Mardi Gras Ball Co-Chairs
Fran Brough &
Luayne Valestrino*

2016 Mardi Gras Ball Co-chairs, Fran Brough and Luayne Valestrino have been busy coordinating the planning activities for the February 20, 2016 event!

Community Conscience is pleased to announce that we are already off to a great start with a \$10,000 commitment by **Union Bank** to be the **2016 Mardi Gras Ball Title Sponsor!**

Major sponsors opportunities are available for several levels of sponsorship. Platinum \$5,000; Gold \$3,000; Silver \$2,000 and Bronze \$1,000. For more information, please contact Robin at 805.494.3543 or email at

robin@communityconscience.org.

Fran and Luayne are also excited that this year's 2016 Mardi Gras Ball dance band will be **Captain Cardiac and the Coronaries**. They have been one of this country's premier party rock and roll shows for over three decades. Their high voltage performances have been enjoyed worldwide. They will perform 1950's and 1960's classic party rock and roll, including tunes from Motown, British Invasion, Doo-Wop, Rockabilly, Surf, and more!

Nominations for the 2016 King and Queen are due by October 30, 2015. The nominees should be individuals who have made a significant difference in the local community during the year 2015. Applications are available at <http://www.communityconscience.org> or can be obtained from the Community Conscience office by contacting Robin Britt at robin@communityconscience.org. Barbara Ashcraft can be contacted at 805-497-3469 with any questions or you may also contact Community Conscience at 805-494-3543.



Thanks to our 2015 Mardi Gras Ball Major Sponsors!



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Ensuring that public assistance programs are available and accessible for the basic relief of those in need in our community.

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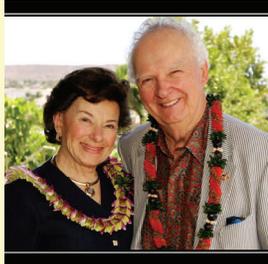
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2015 Mardi Gras Ball
 King & Queen:
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Occupants of the Community Conscience "Under One Roof" Human Services Center

- Community Conscience
- Conejo Free Clinic
- Conejo Pregnancy Center
- Conejo Youth Employment Service
- County of Ventura Human Services Agency
- Fit 4 The Cause
- Holy Family Services
- Hospice of the Conejo
- Interface Children & Family Services
- Kids & Families Together
- Life After Brain Injury
- LSS Community Care Centers
- Senior Concerns Bargain Boutique
- Villa Esperanza Services

In Memory of Fred Wilson, Founder of Community Conscience

Fred Pierce Wilson, 87, founder of Community Conscience "Under One Roof" Human Services Center passed away on July 27, 2015 in Thousand Oaks California, where he had lived for 52 years. Fred was born in Philo, Illinois and grew up during the depression. He joined the Army and upon his return from service he attended and graduated from the University of Illinois. Next he began a career in public accounting. In 1953, he married Carol Blades. They moved to California and had three children, David, Elizabeth and Diane. Sadly, Carol passed away in 1983.

In 1963 Fred became Controller and then Chief Financial Officer for the Janss Development Corporation. At that time they were the drivers of the growth of the Conejo Valley. Later he opened his own accounting firm which supported much of the commercial development and wealth of his community. One of Fred's greatest legacies is the way he helped to develop the human and social capital of the Conejo. He served on many boards, including Los Robles Hospital and Gregor Mendel Botanic Foundation, and was president of the Conejo Future Foundation. He helped to found the Westlake Village Rotary club and was instrumental in linking with its sister club in Moscow.

In the 1980's, Fred was feeling frustrated by the reduced funding for community-based social service projects. He discovered that although there were many agencies in the community helping people in need those agencies were spread out all over the Conejo Valley. That meant those individuals would have to travel from place to place for services. Many of these individuals did not have any transportation.



Groundbreaking ceremony

In 1981 Fred, along with his son David and other concerned citizens, decided to help these organizations by reducing rent and consolidating services. Fred realized that what was needed was a place where these agencies could be centralized. So the seed was planted by these community leaders and this seed would grow into the 20,000 sq. ft. "Under One Roof" building. Today there are 13 non-profit organizations all receiving rent-free office space in the human services center building at 80 E. Hillcrest Drive in Thousand Oaks.

Fred's amazing contributions to the health of the city have been recognized by many. The City Council named a Chamber seat in his honor and in 1984 he was named Chamber of Commerce's Man of the Year. That same year Marjorie Musick was honored as Woman of the Year. The two civic leaders were married in 1987 and together became leading citizens of the Conejo. They led very full social and philanthropic lives that definitely followed Fred's advice: "Live it Up!"



Fred & Marge sharing stories at the 25th Anniversary of the Community Conscience "Under One Roof" Human Services Center



Fred & Marge at the Thanksgiving luncheon 2014

Fred Pierce Wilson will be missed by his family and many of us in the community he loved. He is survived by his wife Marjorie, his three children, eleven grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

Over the past several years, Fred also served on the Advisory Council for Community Conscience.

Community Conscience at Rotary Street Fair - October 18, 2015



While staffing our booth at the Rotary Street Fair, Fran Brough explains to a visitor the mission of the Community Conscience "Under One Roof" organization. Also staffing the booth throughout the day were: Irish John Gore, President Cheryl Klepper, Jerry Miller, Margaret Fieweger, June Glasmeier, Suzy Beaty, and Dee & Dave Crawford, and volunteer Chuck Cunningham. Two volunteers from the Conejo Valley Masonic Lodge #807, Joseph Acalzar and Jeff Gambino, provided help and transportation needed to set up the booth.



Board of Trustee Secretary, Fran Brough demonstrates to the fair crowd how to pose!



Community Conscience staff & board members posed with the photo-op character boards that were used at the October 18th Thousand Oaks Rotary Street Fair. Pictured from left: Robin Britt, Executive Director; Phyllis Rickert, current VP and incoming President; June Glasmeier, trustee; Dee Crawford, trustee; Dave Crawford, trustee.

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Save the Date!
Mardi Gras Ball
Saturday, February 20, 2016

COMMUNITY CONSCIENCE
UNDER ONE ROOF
HUMAN SERVICES CENTER



Ensuring that public assistance programs are available and accessible for the basic relief of those in need in our community.

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