

The Communicator

COMMUNITY CONSCIENCE

SUPPORTING HUMAN SERVICES UNDER ONE ROOF

Spring/Summer 2017 Issue

Official Newsletter of Community Conscience

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THE GOOD TIMES ROLLED at the 2017 MARDI GRAS BALL



Once again the Mardi Gras Ball, the major annual fundraiser for Community Conscience, was a huge success. Guests arrived to the sounds of The Riverboat Dixie Jazz Band at North Ranch Country Club in the early evening of March 4th. Delicious hors d'oeuvres and flutes of champagne were passed to them as they wandered through a room filled with silent auction items and an entry hall lined with a preview of exciting live auction items. Guests were then offered an opportunity to pose with Mardi Gras masks, hats and beads in a photo booth and received their souvenir photo seconds after exiting the booth.

Everyone entered the ballroom at 6:30 pm to await the grand entrance of the 2017 King and Queen, Hugh Cassar and Keets Cassar who were ushered in to the sounds of Pipe Major Bill Boetticher. Mardi Gras Ball Co-Chair Fran Brough described the many accomplishments of Hugh and Keets who graciously accepted the honor bestowed upon them, stating how much they love this community and enjoy giving back to the region where they raised their family.



Kenny Shirey of California Coast Auctions conducted the live auction and "Keep the Lights On" segment of the program. Guests had the chance to bid on three different travel opportunities, gourmet dining experiences, VIP tours at Sony Studios, and more. "Keep the Lights On" raised additional funds as many donated from their hearts. Funds raised this year will assure that the tenant charities can continue to operate rent free at the Human Services Center.



An event of this magnitude would not be possible without the generous donation of time and energy from an army of volunteers, a dedicated board of trustees, major sponsors, live auction and in-kind donors, and the many goods and services donated from friends in the community to create the silent auction. Please make note of our generous donors and sponsors who are listed in this newsletter.



Fran Brough,
Mardi Gras Ball
Co-Chair

**Mark your calendars!
We look forward to doing it all over again
on March 3, 2018
at the Hyatt Regency Westlake!**



**Save the Date!
2018 Mardi Gras Ball
March 3**

Are you an Amazon Shopper?

Amazon will donate 0.5% of your purchases to Community Conscience. It costs you nothing and helps us with funds to support our cause of providing RENT-FREE space to thirteen non-profit organizations.

It is really easy!

Shop at AmazonSmile

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Please visit our website
www.communityconscience.org
and click on "DONATE NOW" to access our Amazon Smile Link.

2017 Title Sponsor Mardi Gras Ball



www.communityconscience.org

Thanks to the City of Thousand Oaks!



In December of 2016, Community Conscience received a Community Enhancement Grant from the City of Thousand Oaks. Our grant proposal included changing the irrigation to a water conserving drip line and adding flowering plants and milkweed plants that will attract Monarch butterflies to our butterfly garden (*see note below). The project had been on hold due to the heavy rains this year.

Community Conscience shares a property line with the City of Thousand Oaks where a public thoroughfare is located. The Oleander bushes that were growing there had developed Oleander Leaf Scorch. In addition, they were overgrown, partially dead, and becoming an eyesore. This is a fairly large strip of landscaping that runs along the entire back parking lot on our property and we have been irrigating it for decades. In the interest of cleaning up the thoroughfare, the City of Thousand Oaks completely cleared out the bushes including the root systems.

On Friday, April 14th, American Heritage Landscaping finished the project. The City of Thousand Oaks generously donated the mulch. It makes such a difference to have attractive landscaping where there used to be diseased bushes! We respect that some of the clients visiting our building may be going through a difficult time in their lives. Friendly flowers and butterflies will make a nice welcome.



The City of Thousand Oaks has always been supportive of our organization. Community Conscience would like to extend our heartfelt appreciation for the work that was done on this project by city landscaping employees. Also, we are grateful to the Public Works Department, our Mayor, and City Council members for granting the money needed to accomplish this new butterfly garden for all to enjoy.



*Note about the Monarch butterfly garden:

Monarchs cannot survive without milkweed. Adult monarchs will drink the nectar of many flowers in addition to milkweed; in fact they need sources of nectar to nourish them throughout the entire growing season. In March and April the eggs are laid on milkweed plants. They hatch into baby caterpillars, also called the larvae. It takes about four days for the eggs to hatch. Then the baby caterpillar doesn't do much more than eat the milkweed in order to grow. After about two weeks, the caterpillar will be fully-grown and find a place to attach itself so that it can start the process of metamorphosis. It will attach itself to a stem or a leaf using silk and transform into a chrysalis. Within the chrysalis the old body parts of the caterpillar are undergoing a remarkable transformation, called metamorphosis, to become the beautiful parts that make up the butterfly that will emerge. The monarch butterfly will emerge from the pupa and fly away, feeding on flowers and just enjoying the short life it has left, which is only about two to six weeks. This first generation monarch butterfly will then die after laying eggs for generation number two. The second generation of monarch butterflies is born in May and June, and then the third generation will be born in July and August.



*Source: <http://www.monarch-butterfly.com/>; <http://monarchjointventure.org/get-involved/create-habitat-for-monarchs>



Message from the President - Phyllis Rickert

The Community Conscience Board of Trustees has, for many years, hosted two annual luncheons in our Board room for our tenants. We have a Thanksgiving event in November for all the staff and volunteers working in our building to show our appreciation for their work and dedication to aid those who need it most in our community. In May we have a luncheon for the lead person of each organization. In the past this was the only organized time when our tenants could interact to learn more about the services offered within our building.

As part of our strategic plan, we started a new program last year to enhance our mission of providing maximum coordination among charities. In July 2016 the Thousand Oaks Sheriff's department provided an "active shooter" training program to our tenants. All staff and volunteers were invited. A month after receiving positive feedback about the presentation from the entire group, the Tenants' Communication and Networking meetings were started. Robin and I have been meeting bi-monthly with at least one representative from each agency in our building for round table discussions about services being provided, what might still be needed, and how we can work as a team to offer help. Recently we have invited guest speakers from outside non-profits who offer services that complement the programs provided to clients of the Human Services Center to further enhance their ability to serve the community.



I am pleased to announce a new gift giving option for our supporters called "Monthly Giving." We can now set up monthly, quarterly, or annual donations to be automatically deducted from your credit card to be deposited directly to Community Conscience. We have added a box on the remit envelope which can be checked if interested. You will then be contacted to start your giving plan. We depend on your support to help us continue providing rent-free space to our 13 nonprofits and the exceptional programs provided at the Human Services Center.



Community Conscience Trustee, Pat Grant - 2017 Thousand Oaks Senior of the Year Nominee!

On June 8, 2017, the City of Thousand Oaks Council on Aging will honor eight seniors for their exemplary service to our community. One of the nominees being honored is Patricia Grant, a Community Conscience Trustee. **Congratulations Pat and thank you for your contributions!**



Fun at the 2017 Mardi Gras Ball!



Community Conscience Commemorative Brick Campaign

Do you know someone you would like to recognize with a once in a lifetime donation?

Please support the Commemorative Bricks Project from Community Conscience. With the words you choose to have engraved on these bricks, you can **honor and remember ones you love and celebrate those who are important to you**. They also make great holiday and birthday presents. By purchasing an engraved brick, you will be leaving a highly visible legacy at the Human Services Center, located at 80 E Hillcrest Drive, Thousand Oaks.

Net proceeds from your purchase go directly to operating and maintaining our building where we provide rent-free office space to 13 non-profit human service agencies. It is our mission to ensure these organizations will always have a facility to provide their exceptional services to those in need. Many thousands of lives in our community have been changed and touched by the efforts of the agencies in our building. Community Conscience receives funding for the building through fundraisers such as our Commemorative Bricks, public and business donations, and the annual Mardi Gras Ball.

We will permanently place each of these engraved bricks in the garden around the memorial flag pole in front of our building. **The bricks are 4" x 8" and cost \$100 each with 3 lines and 18 characters per line.**

Help us pave the way to a better future for members of our community who are in need.

All bricks purchased by July 15, 2017 will be installed at the end of the summer.



**There is a link on our website to order bricks.
Visit us at: www.communityconscience.org**

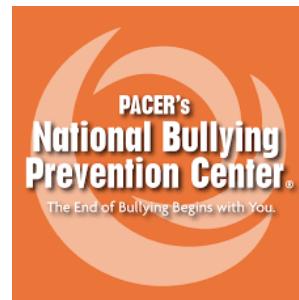
Community Conscience Welcomes a New Tenant at the Human Services Center

Joining us upstairs in #203 is **PACER's National Bullying Prevention Center** (NBPC), Los Angeles, staffed by Judy French. NBPC, was founded in 2006 to actively lead social change so that bullying is no longer considered an accepted childhood rite of passage. The NBPC is an initiative of PACER Center (pacer.org) based in Minnesota.

NBPC is primarily known for its free, innovative, digital-based resources for parents, schools, teens, and youth through three websites: pacer.org/bullying, for parents and educators; pacerteensagainstbullying.org, for middle and high school students; and pacerkidsagainstbullying.org, for elementary school students.

The office also does outreach to students, parents, educators, schools, and communities through presentations, assistance, and resources to bring awareness to this serious issue that impacts the safety and well-being of students everywhere.

One of NBPC's goals in joining Community Conscience's group of human services tenants is to integrate its services throughout the Conejo Valley in as many schools and community organizations as possible. Judy is available to lead information sessions that offer strategies to create safe and supportive schools, help students involved in bullying situations, and provide resources to address bullying. She can be contacted at judy.french@pacer.org.



Occupants of the Community Conscience Human Services Center

- **Community Conscience**
- **Conejo Free Clinic**
- **Conejo Pregnancy Center - O'Hana Health**
- **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**
- **Life After Brain Injury**
- **Lutheran Social Services of Southern California**
- **PACER's National Bullying Prevention Center**
- **Senior Concerns Bargain Boutique**
- **Villa Esperanza Services**

In Memory of Frances Prince

Frances Prince served as the first woman mayor of Thousand Oaks and was dedicated to seeing that the city developed into an attractive, scenic, and culturally rich community. Her civic achievements were significant and her leadership helped to shape the city. There is probably no one who had more impact than Frances on the public life of Thousand Oaks from 1969 to 1984. She had long promoted the arts, volunteer community organizations and nonprofits and had been a part of many. She worked as an attorney in the Los Angeles area for 15 years and then became the Executive Director of Senior Concerns in Thousand Oaks where she worked for ten years. She served on the Community Conscience Board of Trustees for many years and was an integral part of Mardi Gras Ball planning committees. Most recently Frances was a member of the Community Conscience Advisory Council.



October 24, 1937 -
February 6, 2017

In 2014, Frances was honored as the Queen of the Mardi Gras Ball for her many years of community service. She was presented the Otto Stoll Award in 2001, the Ventura County Commission on Women Community Service Award in 1995, Doña Triunfo for the Conejo Valley Historical Society in 1988, the Dedicated Service Award from the City of Thousand Oaks in 1984, the Award of Merit from Los Robles Medical Center in 1980, and Woman of the Year awarded by the Conejo Valley Chamber of Commerce in 1988. Frances was truly been a moving force in the community including being a founding member of the Thousand Oaks Library Foundation, Co-chair of the Thousand Oaks Bicentennial where she secured funding for the building of the Tri-Village at the Stagecoach Inn, and a founding member of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy. Frances will truly be missed by all who knew her.

Community Conscience is the recipient of a Conejo Cottontail!

Conejo Cottontails is a collaborative project created by the non-profit organizations Art Trek, Inc. and the Arts Council of the Conejo Valley to establish Conejo Public Art.

Community Conscience is very grateful to be one of the lucky recipients of a special Conejo Cottontail donated by a generous individual. It will be placed in front of the Human Services Center building facing Hillcrest Drive. Our Conejo Cottontail, named "*Maria Antonia Juliana Carillo de la Guerra*," was created by artist Shelley Dale Corwin.

This outdoor, family-oriented public art project will showcase the fiberglass cottontail rabbits painted by local artists, and purchased by local businesses, organizations and individuals to be placed at various locations throughout the Conejo Valley. Maps showing the cottontails' locations will include sponsors' and purchasers' names, recognizing the goodwill of donors and investors. Funding these projects serves as a colorful way to direct funds towards arts education in the community, opening up educational opportunities to teach students in the Conejo Valley Unified School District about their home's history and rabbit themed lore.

These 5'6" whimsical sculptures, originally constructed by Cate Hartenstein, serve as the canvases for unique designs by the myriad of local artists involved.

The opportunity for different artists to get involved not only raises support for the arts in Southern California, but establishes an understanding of the community identity. Most Conejo Valley residents are not even aware that they live in a valley identified by furry folk. Conejo means "rabbit" in Spanish, so there is no better plan by which to celebrate the Conejo Valley than with larger than life sculptures of cottontails.

More about the Community Conscience Conejo Cottontail - Created by Artist Shelley Dale Corwin "Maria Antonia Juliana Carillo de la Guerra"

Maria Antonia Juliana Carrillo de la Guerra, 1786-1843; was the wife of Jose Julian Antonio De la Guerra y Noriega, or *El Capitan*, commandant of Santa Barbara 1827-42. **His portrait is on the necklace on the Conejo Cottontail.**

They held the 1/2 million acre land grant containing Rancho El Conejo. They're buried in the church crypt at Mission Santa Barbara and their house, Casa de la Guerra, is an historic landmark of Santa Barbara.



Artist:
Shelley Dale Corwin

OUR MISSION
Ensuring that public assistance/welfare programs are available and accessible for the basic relief of those in need of such services in the Greater Conejo Valley.



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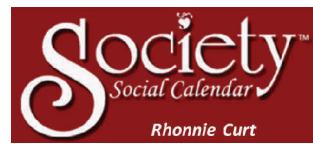
Conejo Photobooth



STUDENT ATHLETE
 MOVERS



Rick Quinn &
 David Nichols



Rhonnie Curt



Wayne Olson

We acknowledge the following for their contributions:

Cindy Brand and Robin Britt, Community Conscience staff, for their tireless efforts;
 North Ranch Country Club: Jenelle Kagay – Catering Manager;
 Karl Holst – Executive Chef; Jodi Foss – Director of Food and Beverage;
 Jenny Duce – General Manager; Staff of North Ranch Country Club.

Thanks To Our Many Volunteers

Our gratitude to the following for providing volunteers:

Conejo Pregnancy Center, Hospice of the Conejo, Kiwanis Club of Thousand Oaks, Lutheran Social Services of Southern California, Montecito Bank & Trust, Soroptimist International of the Conejo, Temple Adat Elohim, Thousand Oaks Youth Commission, Westlake High School.

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Mardi Gras Ball**



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