

COMMUNITY CONSCIENCE

SUPPORTING HUMAN SERVICES UNDER ONE ROOF

Annual Non-Profit Report 2019



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Mission Statement of Community Conscience

The mission of Community Conscience is to provide a single location where human service programs are available and accessible at no cost to recipients and to maximize coordination among agencies.

Message from the Executive Director

As the need for access to human services has grown in our community, so too have the programs providing these services within the walls of the Human Services Center. Through your generous donations and support of our fundraisers, these are just some of the successes realized during this past year:



- 13 non-profit agencies diverted almost \$300,000 in saved rent to their programs.
- 39 homeless people were housed.
- 58 people were rescued from human trafficking.
- 125 disabled persons received life skills training for independence.
- 350 people were assisted with employment services.
- 2,000 vulnerable children, adults, and seniors received regular exercise programs from licensed trainers.
- 5,000 people received grief support and hospice services.
- 5,030 people learned to prevent bullying through kindness and inclusion workshops.
- Critical children and family services continued at no cost such as food security; financial assistance; mental health; parenting education; medical, dental, and legal services for over 50,000 people.

Our outstanding Board of Trustees remained very involved in planning, working on committees, and decision-making. As a result Community Conscience replaced major components of the building in 2019 to ensure resilience for the future.

Robin Britt

Executive Director

What is Community Conscience?

Community Conscience owns a 22,000 square foot building, the Human Services Center, where we provide rent-free space to 13 human service non-profit organizations. This allows charities to focus on their programs instead of raising funds to pay rent. It enables charities with main offices in other areas of California to have a branch office in Thousand Oaks, thereby extending their programs to the Conejo Valley. Along with no rent, the charities also have the benefit of landscaping, maintenance of public areas, janitorial services, security patrol, and the use of a conference room for meetings.



Each non-profit tenant is a 501(c) (3) organization and has its own governing board. They each have their own funding, missions, and programs. The programs and services provided by the charities vary and provide them with the opportunity to refer clients to each other. The partnerships of the organizations are truly successful. Working as allies, the organizations share resources and space in an effort to help as many people as possible.

The ability to receive services from multiple organizations at the same location is also of great benefit to clients of the charities. Many of the clients rely on public transportation, rides from others, or have to walk to obtain services. Traveling to multiple locations for help can be difficult or even impossible.

Another element that contributes to the success of the Human Services Center is the addition of a government agency. This works in two ways. A co-operative fair market lease agreement with the County of Ventura provides funds to Community Conscience. Ventura County Human Services Agency has valuable services available to many clients of the charities. Having the resources of these government programs such as CalFresh (food stamps), Medi-Cal, Cal/WIN, Cal/Works, Employment Services, and a job resource center is key to helping low-income individuals and families find assistance. The County of Ventura Human Services Agency also refers its clients to the charities in our building for additional assistance.

Community Conscience provides a telephone referral service that helps individuals and other charities locate needed services. On average we receive seven to ten phone calls per month. The most requested services are help with paying rent and water bills. In addition, two or three people come to our office per day seeking assistance referrals. We provide a brochure rack with information about agencies housed in our building as well as other relevant local assistance programs, classes, or events in the community.

Community Enhancement Grant

The City of Thousand Oaks granted Community Conscience funding to install eleven low flush toilets and repair a leaky faucet. Previously these eleven toilets used 7 gallons of water per flush. The new water conserving toilets use 1.26 gallons per flush. In 2018 during the months of June, July, and August we used 297 units of water. In June, July, and August of 2019 we used 281 units of water. One unit of water equals 748 gallons. This is a savings of 11,968 gallons of water in one three month time period. The average human adult needs to consume about one gallon a day to survive. That is enough water to sustain one person for 32 years!

An additional benefit is the savings in money Community Conscience is spending on water. The cost of water increased in 2019 by \$0.13 per unit over 2018's rates. Despite this increase, Community Conscience still spent \$743.26 less from June-August 2019. That is an estimated savings of \$2,973.04 in one year by conserving water.

Building Improvements

During the heavy rainstorms in January and February of 2019, the roof of the Human Services Center was judged officially beyond repair. The surface layer, which was over a gravel undercoating, had shattered into little pieces, turning the roof into a big sponge. Water would seep through to the interior, damaging ceiling tiles and making puddles in the upstairs non-profits every time it rained. We at Community Conscience knew we had no choice but to replace the roof entirely before the next rainy season.





We have a total of 16 HVAC units. Last year we replaced two of them when the units failed. The remaining 14 units varied between 10 and 20 years past their warranty. To replace the roof, the units needed to be lifted. We knew these worn units would most likely not survive this. It would have been folly not to replace them at the same time as the roof. Community Conscience was faced with the very large expense of doing both projects no later than the end of summer to avoid another rainy season. The new roof was completed in September and the new energy efficient HVAC units were replaced in the first week of October. The new roof comes with a 20-year warranty and the HVAC units have 10-year warranties. Going forward we will save an estimated 30-40% on energy costs.



Program Impacts

According to responses to a survey done by Community Conscience in June 2019 about 25,000 people visited the Human Services Building this year and were directly served by the programs offered on our premises. An additional 26,000 people depend on off-site programs around Ventura County that are funded and facilitated by organizations in the building. Examples of off-site programs include Meals on Wheels, Adult Day Care, Homeless Outreach, bullying prevention workshops, and community exercise classes. The non-profits in our building collectively save almost \$300,000.00 each year in rent. This savings can be passed on directly to their clients in the form of services.

All non-profit organizations housed in the Human Services Center reported in the survey that without rent-free office space they would have to drastically reduce or eliminate their programs and staff in the Conejo Valley. Losing an arrangement of rent-free space would severely affect delivery of their services.

The ongoing goal of Community Conscience is to maximize the available space in the building to serve the community and make the biggest impact possible.

Organizations operating at the Human Services Center in 2019

Autism Society Ventura County

Community Conscience

Conejo Free Clinic

Conejo Youth Employment Service

County of Ventura - Human Services Agency

Fit 4 The Cause

Holy Family Services

Hospice of the Conejo

Interface Children and Family Services

Lutheran Social Services of Southern California

Ohana Health

PACER's National Bullying Prevention Center

Senior Concerns Bargain Boutique

Villa Esperanza Services

Fundraising Events

The Mardi Gras Ball

The Mardi Gras Ball took place at the Hyatt Regency Westlake on February 23, 2019. The evening started with a champagne reception, silent auction, and the stylish music of the Riverboat Dixie Jazz Band, which was followed by a gourmet dinner and live auction. This year we honored Sherrill Hyink and Jerry Miller as the Queen and King for their decades of community service.



King, Jerry Miller



Queen, Sherrill Hyink

Sing for a Cause

Charity Karaoke "Sing for a Cause" took place on August 11, 2019 at the Canyon Club in Calabasas. Katherine Phillipson, daughter of Don Phillipson, Community Conscience Trustee, sang "Before He Cheats" by Carrie Underwood. Her performance was outstanding!



2019 Mardi Gras Ball Title Sponsor



Gold Sponsors

California Lutheran University

Hutchison, Mikkelsen, and Prescott Families

Manchester Financial

Montecito Bank & Trust

Ventura County Credit Union

Silver Sponsors

Barbaras Development, Inc – Bruce Rothwell

Fran Brough & Chuck Cunningham – Pat & Ron Grant

Greater Conejo Valley Chamber of Commerce

Judy & Harry Friedman

Cheryl Klepper – Jacque & Greg Lockwood

Larry & Roshan Marquart

Bronze Sponsors

Suzy Beaty

Cecilia and Frank Bellinghiere

Bob and Patty Biery

California American Water

Margaret Fieweger

Hillcrest Financial Group

Oak Asset Management

Barbaras Development – Bruce Rothwell

Maximum Coordination Among Agencies

In May, Community Conscience hosted a luncheon for the Directors and Presidents of the organizations housed in the Human Services Center. This year we asked the agencies housed in the Human Services Center to nominate an outstanding volunteer. Mical Mishan, a volunteer from PACER's National Bullying Prevention Center, received the award for the Human Services Agencies Volunteer of the Year.

In November Community Conscience hosted the annual "Giving Thanks" luncheon. The staff and volunteers of all the agencies housed in the building were invited to share a Thanksgiving banquet at the Human Services Center.



Lutheran Social Services Staff

The "Communications and Networking" bi-monthly meetings with the tenants continued to be well received by all. The goal is to raise awareness for needs in the community that are not being met and promote maximum coordination among agencies. The Executive Director and officers of Community Conscience, and one or two representatives from the agencies in the building were in attendance at these meetings.

Also invited were some special guests including Bob Harris from Gold Coast Veterans Foundation, Mario Diaz from Many Mansions, Vielka Cummings from a Volunteer Women's Group, Ashley Humes from the City of Thousand Oaks (Social Services Liaison), Justine L. Fischer - CENSUS/LA FED, and Tish Greenwood from California Museum of Art Thousand Oaks.

Each guest had information to share with the non-profit tenants and they in turn had an opportunity to find out more about the services being offered. As a consequence of these meetings, the tenants have an understanding that this is more than just a building. It is a collaboration of organizations that are truly able to make a bigger impact by being together in one place. As a result of these meetings, the relationships in the building are stronger than ever.

Organizational Governance

Community Conscience has a Board of Trustees which dedicates its time on a completely volunteer basis. The Executive Committee and Board of Trustees meet bi-monthly. All members are very active in the organization and participate by creating newsletters, updating our website and social media, fundraising, and projects. The following is a list of 2019 members.

Executive Committee

Fran Brough, President
Margaret Fieweger, 1st Vice President
Sal Sandoval, Treasurer
Larry Marquart, Asst. Treasurer
Ricki Mikkelsen, Secretary
Judy Friedman, Asst. Secretary
Phyllis Rickert, Past President



Board of Trustees

Barbara Ashcraft	Louise Evenson	Peter Mogg
Justin Barkhuff	June Glasmeier	Don Phillipson
Cara Cohen	Pat Grant	Ed Sahakian
Dave Crawford	Susan Kelly	Jean Saunders
Dee Crawford	Cheryl Klepper	Jacque Turner

2019 Advisory Council

Community Conscience has an Advisory Council which is comprised of community leaders. The purpose of the Advisory Council is to provide guidance and direction appropriate to the mission and operations of the organization. Advisory Council members are invited to participate in the organization's activities and events including Board of Trustees meetings where non-voting status is granted. Members serve a one-year term and may be reappointed annually with no term limits imposed.

Leonard Alexander	Frank Dawson M.D.	Jill Lederer
Frank Bellinghiere	Susan Holt	Jerry Miller
Bob Biery	Larry Horner	Maria Prescott
Grant Brimhall	George Hutchison	Hugo Roche
Chuck Cohen	Dr. Chris Kimball	Doris Rufener
		Tex Ward

Staff Members

Executive Director: Robin Britt
Administrative Assistant: Marlene MacAulay

City of Thousand Oaks Liaison:

Francine Sprigel

Honors and Award

- The City of Thousand Oaks Council on Aging held a Dinner and Award Ceremony to honor Ricki Mikkelsen as Senior of the Year.
- Margaret Fieweger, Vice President, was honored as one of 50 over 50 outstanding people in the community at People Media P.C. Info Dine event.

Financial Information

The primary sources of income received by Community Conscience are proceeds from the Mardi Gras Ball and from the lease agreement with the County of Ventura. The non-profit organizations each contributed \$0.35 per square foot to offset the utility costs. In 2018 due to the rising costs of utilities and inefficiency of outdated HVAC, these reimbursements only covered 59% of the costs and Community Conscience covered the other 41%. In 2019 capital improvements included replacing the HVAC units and installing water-conserving toilets. The utility reimbursements covered 100% of the costs.

Income		
Interest & Dividends	\$81.00	0%
Donations, Fundraisers & Grants	\$31,802.95	8%
Ventura County Lease Agreement	\$112, 16.50	29%
Utility Reimbursement Contributions	\$58,728.40	15%
Mardi Gras Ball (Fiscal)	\$184,593.99	48%

Expenses		
Wages & Salaries	\$63,127.27	12%
Organization Administrative Costs	\$51,761.62	9%
Building Insurance	\$5,807.50	1%
Utilities	\$56,916.13	10%
Building Maintenance	\$91,796.66	17%
Capital Improvement	\$210,138.14	38%
Fundraising Expenses	\$2934.70	1%
Mardi Gras Ball (Fiscal)	\$64,126.70	12%

Ways You Can Help

There are many ways to support Community Conscience, a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization, TIN #95-3310410. **Please check with your tax advisor.**

In Memoriam and Honor Gifts: Your charitable gift is given to honor the memory or perpetuate the memory of a loved one. Following this donation, a letter will be sent to the designated person or family notifying them of your caring contribution. The amount of the gift is always confidential.

Donations of Cash: Your gift of cash, check, or via credit card payment can put your money to work immediately to help people in our community who are in need. This help is through programs offered at the Community Conscience building. You will be provided with a letter for income tax purposes.

Matching Gifts: Double or triple your gift through company matching gift programs for employees and retirees. To find out if your employer has a matching gift program, speak to the Human Resources Department. You can maximize the value of your donation by following the company's procedures and identifying Community Conscience as the recipient.

Donations of Stock: Contribute stock that has appreciated in value and receive a tax deduction for the full market value. This will eliminate the capital gains taxes you would have incurred from a routine stock sale. The stocks must have been held for at least one year. If you own stocks or other investments that have decreased in value, you could sell them and donate the proceeds. You may be able to deduct the loss from other income for additional tax savings. Together the two deductions may be worth more than the current value of the investment. Please check with your tax advisor.

Real Estate Donations: Gift a second home or other real estate to Community Conscience either outright or by bequest. You can preserve your cash assets, receive significant tax and income advantages, and make a charitable gift at the same time. The gift of a remainder trust of your property allows you to continue to live in the residence for the rest of your life.

Donations of Tax-Deferred Retirement Plans and Life Insurance Policies: Donating retirement assets is one of the best ways to avoid costly income and estate taxes for your heirs. Naming Community Conscience as a beneficiary (or contingent beneficiary after the death of your spouse) of all or a specified percentage of any retirement plan assets can save your estate both income and federal estate taxes. You may also designate Community Conscience as the sole, partial, or contingent beneficiary of a new life insurance policy or one you and your family no longer require.

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