

# COMMUNITY CONSCIENCE

SUPPORTING HUMAN SERVICES UNDER ONE ROOF

## Annual Nonprofit Report 2024



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## Mission

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

In 2024, the Human Services Center experienced changes with the departure of two long-term tenants. This created an opportunity for numerous Nonprofit organizations in our region to apply for rent-free space. As a result, the Trustees were able to prudently grant rent-free accommodation to two new Nonprofit organizations and allow a current tenant to expand its invaluable services.



Each year, our Nonprofit tenants complete a survey reporting that rent-free space is essential for their survival. Collectively, they save \$300,000 annually in rental costs. Without this support, many of them would have to close their doors or significantly reduce their programs and staff. They rely on Community Conscience to help maintain the Human Services Center.

As the demand for access to human services in our community has increased, so too have the programs available within the walls of the Human Services Center. Thanks to generous donations and sponsorship, here are some of the successes realized over the past year:

- 72 veterans received assistance with housing, food, transportation, and medical devices.
- 123 individuals with 30 different diagnoses of intellectual disabilities gained access to life skills training, volunteered in the community, and received employment services.
- 319 people received mental health and trauma treatment and support for family violence, child abuse, neglect, and sexual abuse.
- 50 low-income seniors received help with essential repairs, allowing them to remain safe in their homes.
- 3,397 uninsured and underinsured individuals received free medical, dental, and legal assistance.
- 3,500 people benefited from grief support and hospice services.
- 400 individuals with mental illness received support through advocacy and training.
- 1,375 people participated in kindness and inclusion workshops aimed at bullying prevention.
- 131 individuals received pregnancy support, including education, medical assistance, and infant supplies.

Our 14 tenants provide essential services all in one location. We extend our deepest gratitude to our generous supporters who ensure the Human Services Center is maintained and who make a difference in the lives of those seeking help in our community.

*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 14 human service Nonprofit 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 free 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 Nonprofit 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 delivered by the charities vary and provide them with the opportunity to refer clients to each other. The partnerships of the organizations are tremendously 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 must 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 Ventura County Human Services Agency as a tenant. A cooperative fair market lease agreement with the County of Ventura provides funds to Community Conscience. This agency makes available valuable services 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. The most requested services are help with paying rent, utility bills, and homeless services. 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.

## **Program Impacts**

In September 2024, Community Conscience conducted a survey that revealed that around 79,000 individuals received services provided by the agencies located at the Human Services Center. The Nonprofit organizations that operate within the building save approximately \$300,000 per year in rent, allowing them to pass on these savings to their clients in the form of services.

All the Nonprofit organizations that were surveyed reported that without rent-free office space, they would need to significantly reduce or eliminate their programs and staff in the Conejo Valley. The loss of rent-free space would have a severe impact on the delivery of their services. Therefore, Community Conscience aims to maximize the available space in the building to serve the community and make the biggest impact possible.

## **The organizations operating at the Human Services Center in 2024**

**Community Conscience**

**Conejo Free Clinic**

**Conejo Youth Employment Service**

**County of Ventura - Human Services Agency**

**Creative Steps – Aurelia Foundation**

**Fit 4 The Cause**

**Gold Coast Veterans Foundation**

**Holy Family Services**

**Hospice of the Conejo**

**Interface Children and Family Services**

**Lutheran Social Services of Southern California**

**NAMI Ventura County**

**Ohana Health**

**PACER's National Bullying Prevention Center**

**Senior Concerns Bargain Boutique**

**Villa Esperanza Services**

## 2024 Mardi Gras Ball King and Queen

Each year Community Conscience honors two individuals for their exemplary community service who are honored at our most successful fundraiser, the Mardi Gras Ball.

Queen Cristy Warner, an Agoura Hills native, is known for her community service and caring for others. She is a Reading Specialist at Weathersfield Elementary School, Thousand Oaks. She and her husband, Doug, have two grown sons. Among other activities, Cristy helped lead her local PTA and was the driving force behind the "Give Back" local basketball tournament. Cristy is a Thousand Oaks Kiwanis Club member, an advisor to the Westlake High School Key Club, and an organizer of the Weathersfield School K-Kids Club, a 100+ member service club of elementary school students. In recognition of her community service, Kiwanis named her Kiwanian of the Year for 2021-22. Cristy also has served as an organizer of the American Cancer Society's local Relay for Life event.



King David Catlin believes strongly in giving back to the community. David and his wife, Linda, give generously to many local charities, including Senior Concerns, the Boys and Girls Clubs of the Greater Conejo Valley, New West Symphony, Casa Pacifica, Safe Passage, Hospice of the Conejo, and the Cancer Support Community. David has served on the Board of Directors for Senior Concerns for 10 years, helping it meet the needs of an expanding senior population. In 2015, the Catlins opened the Linda and David Catlin Boys and Girls Club on the Campus of Lindero Canyon Middle School, ensuring children have a place to go after school for enriching and fulfilling activities.

## 2024 Mardi Gras Ball Major Sponsors

### Platinum

Athen's Services

### Gold

George & Jeannette Hutchison, Joanie & Richard Young  
California American Water, Emcore Services Mesa Energy Systems,  
Manchester Financial Inc., Montecito Bank and Trust, Ventura County Credit Union

### Silver

Larry Marquart, Margaret Fieweger McENEREY, Gordon Miller GPM

### Bronze

Fran Brough & Chuck Cunningham, Gerry & Laura Conway  
Ron & Pat Grant, Dr. Frank and Cheryl Dawson,  
John & Maria Prescott, Wayne & Phyllis Rickert, Interface Children & Family Services,  
Barbaras Development Inc., Hospice of the Conejo, Greg & Jacque Lockwood

## Youth Involvement



On September 28, 2024, Boy Scout Troop 765, under the leadership of Scout Luke Gublet, proudly completed an Eagle Scout project at the Human Services Center. This project aimed to enhance the center's welcoming atmosphere for community members who rely on its services.

The troop installed two sturdy, weather-resistant benches in the kindness garden, providing a comfortable space for individuals waiting for ride shares or simply taking a moment to rest. This thoughtful addition allows visitors to relax in a peaceful environment, fostering a sense of community and support.

Additionally, the scouts took the initiative to paint vibrant, cheerful rocks that now adorn the garden. These painted rocks serve as a reminder of kindness and positivity, brightening the spirits of visitors seeking assistance at the center. The project exemplified the values of Scouting, encouraging teamwork, service, and community engagement while leaving a lasting impact on the Human Services Center and those it serves.

## Combating the Opioid Crisis through Harm Reduction



On October 29th, the Conejo Valley officially welcomed its first Harm Reduction Vending Machine. This innovative initiative, spearheaded by Conejo Health—a key community partner—aims to address the critical issue of fentanyl overdoses in the region.

The machine is strategically stocked with essential harm-reduction supplies, including Narcan (naloxone), which is vital for reversing opioid overdoses. It also provides fentanyl test strips, allowing individuals to check substances for the presence of fentanyl, thereby reducing the risk of unintentional overdoses. Additionally, the machine includes packets designed to render unused medications inert before disposal, promoting safe disposal practices in the community.

Beyond these materials, the programming associated with the Harm Reduction Vending Machine features valuable information on how to schedule a medical detox. This holistic approach not only focuses on immediate harm reduction but also opens pathways for individuals seeking recovery.

The overarching goal of this initiative is to save lives, particularly in light of rising fentanyl-related overdose incidents. By making these resources readily available in the community, Conejo Health aims to empower individuals with the tools they need to protect themselves and others from the dangers associated with opioid use.

## New Nonprofit Tenants to Serve the Community

In 2024, the Human Services Center experienced changes with the departure of two long-term tenants: Senior Concerns and Lutheran Social Services. This created an opportunity for numerous Nonprofit organizations in our region to apply for rent-free space. As a result, in November, the Trustees were able to prudently grant rent-free accommodation to two new Nonprofit organizations and allow a current tenant to expand its invaluable services.

Community Action of Ventura County offers a pathway out of poverty by assisting individuals with utility bills, rent, and home insulation to enhance energy efficiency in their homes. They were allocated 262 square feet on the second floor in suites 205A and 205B. Previously, residents in the East County had to travel to Simi Valley or Oxnard to access these services. Now, this assistance is available in Thousand Oaks.

MANDO Youth Development Group is doing crucial work to uplift our youth and pave the way for a brighter future. Our community faces significant challenges—youth violence, gang involvement, and, unfortunately, incarceration. These issues can feel overwhelming, but MANDO is here to change that narrative. They connect with middle and high school students who are at risk and show them that a second chance is possible and available.

Community Conscience approved a plan to renovate suite #150, a spacious 1,750-square-foot area that will become their new headquarters. Currently, their program runs just two hours one day a week. This limited time doesn't truly allow them to reach the depth of intervention these young individuals need. With the new space, they can expand

programming to seven days a week. Their dedicated mentors are committed to breaking down negative barriers. They consistently foster positivity and encourage youth to redefine their lives and futures.

Last year, the Conejo Free Clinic provided free medical, dental, and legal assistance to 3,397 uninsured and underinsured individuals. Each year, it serves more people than it did the previous year. The clinic was granted additional space to expand its services. In 2025, they will pay for renovations to add two more medical exam rooms, one more dental operatory, and much-needed space for its ever-expanding network of doctors and nurses to perform their duties efficiently

## Maximizing Coordination of Services

Virtual Tenant Networking & Communications Meetings were held in 2024. These meetings have good attendance and provide new employees, staff, and volunteers with an opportunity to meet each other and the new tenants. Kirk Dewitt, a member of the Faith Community; Commissioner Tom Neary, Liaison to the Thousand Oaks Council on Aging; Matthew Pall, CEO of Conejo Health; and Sarah Mailes, representing the City of Thousand Oaks are also part of these meetings. Attendees reported that these meetings have helped them to build stronger relationships with service providers to better assist the people they serve. Many connections have been made among the agencies, and the meeting is seen as a vehicle to strengthen relations among them.

In May, we hosted a “Lunch & Learn” with the Ventura County Leadership Academy (VCLA), with Many Mansions as the keynote speaker. The topic was solutions for homelessness. The event was a well-attended by VCLA current cohort members and alumni. A presentation about what Community Conscience does was followed by an impactful video with a man who was homeless and got help at the Human Services Center and now lives in a Many Mansions property. We made some good connections with the attendees.



On October 16th, we celebrated Unity Day, which is PACER's National Bullying Prevention Day. To show our support for standing up against bullying, we wore orange and took a picture by the monument sign at the Human Services Center. Everyone was welcome to participate, and we all gathered at Community Conscience's entrance at 10 am. We had a great turnout, with most tenants taking part in the event.



In November, we hosted our annual Giving Thanks Luncheon to express our gratitude to the staff and volunteers who work tirelessly throughout the year to serve those in need. We served a full Thanksgiving dinner with smoked turkey, all the trimmings, and pie in suite #150, which was unoccupied. We had 90 attendees. This event provided an opportunity for our Major Sponsors, Trustees, Advisory Council, and tenants to get to know each other in a relaxed and casual setting. The tenants were delighted to have a delicious feast and enjoyed interacting with each other.



## 2024 Organizational Governance

Community Conscience has a Board of Trustees that dedicates its time on an entirely volunteer basis. The Board of Trustees meets bi-monthly. All members are highly active in the organization, participating in various activities such as networking, updating our website and social media, fundraising, and project development. The following is a list of 2023 members.

### Executive Committee

Woodrow Brokenburr, President  
 Larry Marquart, 1st Vice President  
 Mike Cox, Treasurer  
 Diane Milavetz, Asst. Treasurer  
 Fran Brough, Secretary  
 Dee Crawford, Past President

### Board of Trustees

|                  |                  |
|------------------|------------------|
| Susan Ahan       | Sherrill Hyink   |
| Barbara Ashcraft | Aaron Kitzman    |
| Dave Crawford    | Cheryl Klepper   |
| Laura Conway     | Mina Layba       |
| Mike Cox         | Don Phillipson   |
| Pat Grant        | Gabrielle Pittle |
| Stephen Hagey    | Jacque Turner    |

## 2024 Advisory Council

Community Conscience has an Advisory Council, comprising 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 meetings, where they hold a non-voting status. Members serve a one-year term and may be reappointed annually with no term limits imposed.

|                    |                  |                 |
|--------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Leonard Alexander  | June Glasmeier   | Maria Prescott  |
| Frank Bellinghiere | Susan Holt       | Phyllis Rickert |
| Danielle Borja     | George Hutchison | Hugo Roche      |
| Grant Brimhall     | Ricki Mikkelsen  | Ed Sahakian     |
| Chuck Cohen        | Peter Mogg       | Joan Young      |
| Frank Dawson M.D.  |                  |                 |

### Staff Members

Executive Director: Robin Britt  
 Administrative Assistant: Marlene MacAulay

### City of Thousand Oaks Liaison

Sarah Mailles

## Financial Information

Over the past few years, Community Conscience has relied on two primary sources of income: the Mardi Gras Ball and a lease agreement with the County of Ventura. Fortunately, thanks to the continued generosity of our supporters and the community, we were able to avoid tapping into our reserves.

Every Nonprofit organization that uses our facilities pays \$0.35 per square foot to help cover the cost of utilities. These contributions accounted for 66% of the total utility costs, while Community Conscience covered the remaining 34%.

### Income

|  |                  |            |
|--|------------------|------------|
| <b>Interest &amp; Dividends</b>            | <b>\$9,899</b>   | <b>3%</b>  |
| <b>Donations &amp; Grants</b>              | <b>\$15,396</b>  | <b>5%</b>  |
| <b>Ventura County Lease Agreement</b>      | <b>\$16,3944</b> | <b>45%</b> |
| <b>Utility Reimbursement Contributions</b> | <b>\$41,008</b>  | <b>11%</b> |
| <b>Mardi Gras Ball 2023</b>                | <b>\$116,865</b> | <b>32%</b> |
| <b>Other Fundraisers</b>                   | <b>\$ 14,033</b> | <b>4%</b>  |

### Expenses

|                                 |                  |            |
|---------------------------------|------------------|------------|
| <b>Payroll Related Expenses</b> | <b>\$114,710</b> | <b>31%</b> |
| <b>Administrative Costs</b>     | <b>\$ 28,320</b> | <b>10%</b> |
| <b>Building Insurance</b>       | <b>\$ 9,563</b>  | <b>1%</b>  |
| <b>Utilities</b>                | <b>\$ 62,309</b> | <b>11%</b> |
| <b>Building Maintenance</b>     | <b>\$105,041</b> | <b>28%</b> |
| <b>Fundraising Expenses</b>     | <b>\$ 2,962</b>  | <b>0%</b>  |
| <b>Mardi Gras Ball</b>          | <b>\$47327</b>   | <b>13%</b> |

## Ways You Can Help

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

**In Memorial 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.

**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 determine if your employer offers a matching gift program, please contact 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 is eligible to 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 may consider selling them and donating 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.