

2017 Man of the Year Nominees

Alan Ferdman

Retired, Aerospace Engineer

Nominated by Samuel Dixon Family Health Centers, Inc.

Samuel Dixon Family Health Centers (3 years)

- Chair, Rubber Ducky Festival

Canyon Country Advisory Committee (17 years)

- Chair, 15 years

Santa Clarita Community Council (5 years)

- Board member
- CEO

Santa Clarita Senior Center Advisory Council (2 years)

- Vice chair

City of Santa Clarita Adult Sports (13 years)

- Committee chair

Single Purpose Ad Hoc Committees:

- Bridge to Home Shelter Task Force
- LACO Emergency Winter Shelter Site Selection
- Santa Clarita Valley Open Space Committee
- College of the Canyons Canyon Country Site Selection Committee
- City of Santa Clarita Material Recycling Facility Site Selection

Others: Sunrise Rotary, Old Town Newhall Association, Whittaker-Bermite Citizens Advisory Group, North Oaks Park, Santa Clarita Elks, Mint Canyon Moose Lodge, E Clampus Vitus, Old West Masonic Lodge, Al Malaikah Shrine, American Motorcycle Association

Organization Impact

For the past two years, Alan has been chair of the planning committee for the Rubber Ducky Festival which raises fund to respond to the rising cost of healthcare and the Center's commitment to make accessible health-care services available to the most vulnerable in our community. Under his leadership, this event has raised over \$160,000, the most successful two years in the event's 14-year history. Alan's efforts allow us to offer affordable services regardless of an individual's ability to pay.

Alan Ferdman has been a resident of Canyon Country since 1965 and has been a committed and active member of the community. His volunteerism and memberships with many non-profits, service organizations, and committees has had a significant influence on the development of the SCV. Alan has been recognized as one Santa Clarita's 2014-15 Twenty-Two Who Do, 2012 and 2013 Top 51 Most Influential People, and was nominated for the 2008 SCV Press Club Newsmaker of the Year. He was also a nominee for the 2013 SCV Man of the Year. Alan and his wife Pamela have 2 grown children and 5 grandchildren. He holds a Master of Science degree in Software Engineering and a Bachelor of Science in computer science. During his aerospace career he held senior positions at Litton Guidance in Woodland Hills, the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, and an adjunct faculty member at National University. Alan volunteered for LACO Parks and Recreation, served on numerous City of Santa Clarita panels and committees, and is well known as CEO of the Santa Clarita Community Council and chair of the Canyon Country Advisory Committee. In that role, Alan has devoted hours to providing speakers and information on issues that impact the SCV.



Tom Hough

CPA

Nominated by Boy Scouts of America

Boys Scouts of America (31 years collectively, 16 years in SCV)

- Eagle Scout
- Scout Leader
- Leaders of Character committee
- District Committee
- Troop Committee

SCV Youth Project (16 years)

- Past co-president
- Treasurer
- Executive Board

Others: SCV Chamber of Commerce, Friends of SCV Libraries, 1in6, Inc., Zonta

Organization Impact

Tom Hough is a stalwart and dedicated Scout and Scouter. He has been instrumental in bringing financial oversight and viability to the Bill Hart District's most important fund-raiser, the annual Leaders of Character dinner. This event has not only provided major funding to our local scouts but has served as an example on a Scout Council level of fund-raising and community awareness opportunity for other regional scout districts. Tom's kind and careful approach to community leadership serves as a prime role model for young people rising in our community and in their careers.

Tom Hough is a Certified Public Accountant, specializing in providing tax and accounting services for non-profits, and small businesses and their owners in the Santa Clarita Valley and all across Southern California. He is an active member of the local community, helping with the Boy Scouts of America, the Santa Clarita Valley Chamber of Commerce, the Friends of the Libraries of the Santa Clarita Valley, 1in6, Inc.; and for the last ten years, has served on the SCV Youth Project board of directors as co-president and treasurer.

Tom and his wife Kris have lived in the SCV for over 32 years and have two daughters, Amy and Lindsay.

Taylor Kellstrom

Owner, SCV Book Exchange, HomeSmart Realtor

Nominated by Children's Hospital Los Angeles and Circle of Hope

Children's Hospital Los Angeles (4 years)

- Chair, Bowling for Kids
- Dancing with our Stars participant

Circle of Hope (3.5 years)

- Vice-president
- President-elect
- Event chair
- Public relations ambassador

Santa Clarita Junior Chamber of Commerce (3 years)

- 40 Under 40 Award winner

Organization Impact

Taylor Kellstrom he has been a committed and active supporter of the young patients and families at **Children's Hospital Los Angeles** since 2012. Every December, he has organized an annual fund-raiser called "Bowling



for Kids.” Each successive year, Bowling for Kids has raised more and more money, of which, 100 percent is donated to Children’s Hospital Los Angeles. Over the last four years, Taylor’s efforts have raised over ten thousand dollars. Additionally, Taylor has been a participant in “Dancing with our Stars” dedicating his charity of choice as Children’s Hospital Los Angeles, raising more additional and vital funds for the patients served at the special hospital. Taylor has visited the hospital in person, visiting with patients, and bringing with him special guests who delighted many of young children served at Children’s Hospital Los Angeles.

Taylor has brought enthusiasm and insight to the **Circle of Hope** board. Ambitious and passionate, he is generous with his time and sets a positive example for his peers. Taylor provides support and directives on how Circle of Hope can better serve its clients. He has been deeply affected by cancer and is committed to helping those now fighting the disease.

Taylor Kellstrom is a 26-year-old entrepreneur, philanthropist, real estate agent, and motivational speaker. He and his father started The SCV Book Exchange, an off-campus college textbook store that sells college textbooks to students at College of the Canyons at a much lower prices, saving students hundreds of dollars. He has also been vice president for the Circle of Hope the past two years. He holds an annual charity event, with all proceeds benefiting the Children’s Hospital Los Angeles, and he is a motivational speaker at high schools and colleges. In 2013, Taylor hosted an event called “Bands for Boston,” an event set up to help the victims of the Boston bombings at the Boston Marathon. Taylor was nominated each year 2013-2016 for Santa Clarita Valley Man of the Year for his business and philanthropy work, the youngest man ever nominated for the award. He has also won Young Business Person of the Year 2014 at the SCV Leadership Awards hosted by the SCV Chamber of Commerce. In 2016, Taylor received The Signal’s “51” award in the Emerging Leader category. Taylor has hosted several events for CHLA including participating in the Magazine of Santa Clarita’s “Dancing with our Stars” in 2015. Taylor was born and raised in Santa Clarita and is a West Ranch High School and College of the Canyons graduate. He became a professional motor-cross racer at the age of 14, but was forced into an early retirement by injuries. Taylor is currently the chair for Circle of Hope’s “Vine 2 Wine” and “Bowling for Hope” fund-raisers. He will become president of Circle of Hope in June 2017.

Jonathan Kraut
President, Net Check Investigations and
CFO, Secure Net Protection
Nominated by Domestic Violence Center
of Santa Clarita Valley

Domestic Violence Center (4 years)

- State-trained advocate
- Board member

SCV Interfaith Council (10 years)

- Past president

SCV Human Relations Forum (11 years)

California Advocacy Project (2 years)



Organization Impact

Jonathan is the first male to graduate from our 40-hour Domestic Violence Advocate Training. He volunteers to work on family law and domestic cases for selected clients for free, including taking clients to court for support at their hearings, serving subpoenas, and coaching clients regarding how to address the court. Jonathan volunteers weekly to teach meditation to DV clients, helping our clients reduce post traumatic stress and anxiety. He also trains additional volunteers to facilitate meditation in his absence. Jonathan attends all DVC fund-raisers and educational forums and he is a wealth of information regarding legal issues and issues related to stalking and abusive personalities. At the local level, Jonathan has written articles in The Signal newspaper about stand-

ing up to domestic violence and advocates for the DVC at numerous events in our valley. Statewide, he holds lectures and seminars on domestic violence detection and prevention, and is invited as guest speaker for both county agencies and socially active organizations. A published author, his book's website offers free and anonymous domestic violence surveys entitled "Signs of an Abuser" and "Signs of a Victim" that have been accessed by thousands nationwide. He has also worked with law enforcement regarding options that help detect and adapt to various forms of abuse by recognizing abusive traits, helping making law enforcement interactions safer.

Born and raised in Hollywood, Jonathan served as a US Army Officer specializing in combat operations after earning his bachelor's from UCLA. Returning to civilian life he earned a Pepperdine MBA, then engaged in criminal justice analysis. He eventually became a college professor and dean. He moved to Santa Clarita in 1998 and founded a private investigations firm specializing in employment screening, criminal defense, and domestic violence cases. For more than 10 years he has served on the Santa Clarita Human Relations Forum with the SCV Interfaith Council, of which he is now president, and has written political columns for The Signal newspaper. He also founded a local Latin dance chapter with over 200 participants.

Nick Lentini

Managing Partner, Lentini Financial Advisory

***Nominated by Rotary Club of Santa Clarita Valley and
SCV Child & Family Center***



Rotary Club of SCV (18 years)

- Past president
- Active board member
- Chair, Community Service
- Chair, Fundraising Committee
- 2012 Santa Clarita Valley Rotarian of the Year
- Chair, International Drinking Water Project

College of the Canyons Foundation (7 years)

- Board member
- Chair, Measures M and E Oversight Committees
- Co-chair, Silver Spur
- 2016 COC Alumnus of the Year Award

Child and Family Center (8 years)

- Chair, Foundation board
- Chair, Guardians of Hope
- Secretary
- Vice chair
- Fund Development Committee

Others: Cub Scouts of America Pack 608, SCV Sheriff's Advisory Committee, SCV Chamber of Commerce, American Cancer Society, Domestic Violence Center

Organization Impact

Nick's long history with our **Rotary Club** includes both volunteer activities and financial contributions. He has served in leadership positions as well as serving with hands-on projects. His financial contributions have contributed to local Rotary service projects and to projects serving the global community through Rotary International. His contributions were essential to the club receiving recognition from our Rotary District as a 100% Paul Harris Club, and recognition for the Every Rotarian Every Year program. In addition to Rotary, Nick is a leader in many other areas of our community. He genuinely demonstrates his concern for the people in our community through his actions, and encourages others to get involved as well. Nick's long-time commitment to service and positive energy are assets not only to our club, but also to our community.

Nick has been a supporter of **Child & Family Center** for over two decades. Besides serving in various board positions, his leadership as chair of the Guardians of Hope Campaign in 2014 resulted in raising \$117,000, which helps those children in need of mental health services continue their care when government funding has been exhausted. He and his firm have been longtime sponsors of the Center's Taste of the Town. Nick also negotiated the City's sponsorship in the Santa Clarita Century Ride. This past year, Nick has been invaluable serving on the board merger committee, resulting in the Center and Foundation Boards merging into one entity. He extended his term as chair of the Foundation Board to ensure the smooth merge transition. Currently, Nick is serving on the Child & Family Center Board's Fund Development Committee, and is chairing an inaugural event - Child & Family Center's Trike Derby.

As managing partner at Lentini Financial Advisory, and a financial advisor with Signator Financial Advisors, Inc., Nick Lentini specializes in financial plans that are specifically tailored to his clients' individual retirement needs. Nick earned his LUTCF designation in 1995 from The American College. In addition to life insurance Nick pursued an education in securities. He currently holds series 6, 7, 63 & 66 licenses and is an Investment Advisor Representative with Signator Financial Advisors. Nick is very personally involved in the Santa Clarita area, holding board-of-director positions for the following; The Chamber of Commerce, Santa Clarita Rotary, Past President of the Santa Clarita Rotary Club, American Cancer Society, Child and Family Center, Association for Victims of Domestic Violence, Santa Clarita Sheriff's Advisory Committee and Cub Scouts Pack 608. He currently holds board positions for the Santa Clarita Valley Rotary Club, COC Foundation, COC Board Governance Committee, Chairman of Citizens Oversight Committee for Bond Measure M, and Child and Family Center Foundation Board Secretary. Nick and wife Elise are parents to two boys, Dominic and Marco.

Randy Moberg

Chief Operating Officer, LBW Insurance

Nominated by College of the Canyon Foundation

COC Foundation (10 years)

- Chair
- Vice chair
- Chair, Planned Giving
- Foundation Board Vice Chair
- Co-Chair of the Scholarship Committee
- Co-Chair of the Silver Spur Committee
- Member of the Chancellor's Circle
- Member of the Finance Committee
- Member of the Foundation Executive Committee
- Member of the Performing Arts Center K-12 Advisory Committee



VIA Education Foundation

- Chairman of the Board
- Vice Chair, Education
- Chair, Connecting to Success Committee
- Representative at the City's Small Business Seminar
- Recipient, VIA Volunteer of the Month
- Recipient, VIA Volunteer of the Year

Organization Impact

As co-chair of the Scholarship Committee, Randy led the Foundation to reach an amazing milestone by capping off a \$1 million Osher Scholarship Endowment Campaign. Donors participated in a special grant opportunity that offered a 50-percent matching grant for every endowed scholarship contribution. This matching grant

program was made possible by a generous grant from the Bernard Osher Foundation. The COC Foundation actually exceeded the goal by 52 percent, placing them among the top five of all the other 112 community colleges in California. Thanks to Randy's leadership, that effort brought an additional half million dollars in matching funds, which will enable the college to award an additional 95 student scholarship each year in perpetuity. In addition, Randy co-chaired the Foundation Silver Spur Committee for four years, generating significant resources for the Foundation and spearheaded the development of the Foundation's new 3-year Strategic Plan.

Randy and his family have lived in Santa Clarita for more than 20 years. He was recognized by The Signal as one of the Top 51 Most Influential Persons in Santa Clarita in 2009 and 2010. Additionally, Randy has been in leadership positions and an integral part of several important projects for the Congregation Beth Shalom for several years. Most notably, he has been in charge of getting their new building constructed. Ground-breaking took place in 2013. Randy is past chairman of the Board for the VIA Education Foundation, and the past chairman of the Valley Industry Association. He has also previously served as vice chair of Education, and as chair of the Connecting to Success Committee. Randy has also acted as VIA's representative at the Small Business Seminar sponsored by the City of Santa Clarita. Randy is a past recipient of the VIA Volunteer of the Month award and the VIA Volunteer of the Year award.

Bruce Munster
Principal, Munster Freeman Group
Nominated by SRD -
Straightening Reins Foundation



SRD Straightening Reins (5 years)

- Board member
- President

Organization Impact

Bruce's contribution to SRD's mission comes in the form of fundraising and business management. Being new to the nonprofit world, Bruce's business knowledge and financial assistance has been instrumental in assuring the foundation grows responsibly while also solidifying the financial base necessary to provide daily services. Serving as both the board president for two years and currently as a board member, he continues to share our mission of mental well-being with members of the community and his business world. Bruce was instrumental in guiding the development of our incorporating documents, completion of our nonprofit status and established the annual giving fund which he has personally matched annually.

Bruce is active with the Association for Corporate Growth (ACG) and Provisors Beverly Hills-1 Chapter. He and his family support several charitable organizations, including Cedars Sinai Hospital, Boys and Girls Club, and Cornell University Wrestling. He is a principal of the Munster Freeman Group, a M&A-focused advisory practice within the Private Banking and Investment Group at Merrill Lynch. Bruce has garnered a number of national honors as a financial advisor. Forbes named Bruce as one of "America's Top Wealth Advisors 2016" and On Wall Street named him to its 2014 list of the "Top 40 Advisors Under 40" (#7 nationally). Barron's recognized Bruce as one of the Top 1200 Financial Advisors, State-by-State in 2014. The Financial Times distinguished Bruce as one of the Top 400 Financial Advisors in 2014. And REP Magazine honored Bruce as one of the Top 40 Wirehouse Advisors Under 40 in 2014 (#11 nationally). Bruce earned his B.S. in Business Management and Marketing from Cornell University, while he participated on the varsity wrestling team, worked part-time, and raised a young family. He lives in Valencia with his high school sweetheart, Therese, and their three children: Samuel, Bruce Jr., and Haifa.

Kirk Nelson

Captain, L.A. County Fire Department

Nominated by American Red Cross

American Red Cross (22 years collectively, 16 years SCV)

- Chair, Disaster
- Chairman of the Board
- Santa Clarita Valley Disaster Chair
- Volunteer Partner to Disaster
- Director and Regional Disaster Officer
- Operations Management Chair
- Disaster Instructor,
- Shelter Supervisor
- CPR/First Aid Instructor

Fair Oaks Elementary

- PTA Vice President
- Site School Council Vice President

Muscular Dystrophy Association- Fill the Boot (15 years)

Organization Impact

Kirk managed the entire disaster program for the first 12 years of its implementation. In working with the city, he developed a comprehensive disaster plan to better meet the needs of the Santa Clarita citizens. He developed a fund-raising effort to raise \$125,000 for the purchase of eight disaster relief containers stationed throughout the community with valuable sheltering supplies. He gave Red Cross a community presence by starting the Memorial Day wreath presentation, recruiting Red Cross volunteers/equipment to march in the 4th of July parade, participating in the Emergency Expo, and working alongside all the local community partners. Kirk's continued dedication to the mission of the Red Cross and his outstanding leadership have made Santa Clarita a much more resilient community.

Kirk's ambition led him to be the youngest chairman of the board in Red Cross History at the age of 30. He has coordinated numerous disaster responses locally but also has deployed to national disasters such as Hurricane Katrina, the Cincinnati Floods, and Hurricane George in Puerto Rico. Through his extensive response experience, Kirk was able to work with Governor Pete Wilson to adopt a state law requiring that care providers not abandon their patients during a disaster. Additionally, he has trained hundreds of Santa Clarita volunteers and CERT members. On top of all his volunteer work, Kirk remains vital player in public safety as a Captain with the Los Angeles County Fire Department.

Todd Stevens

President/CEO, California Resources Corporation

Nominated by SCV Senior Center

SCV Senior Center (2 years)

- Co-chair, Capital Campaign

Boys and Girls Club of Santa Clarita Valley (11 years)

- Director, Festival of Lights Committee

Henry Mayo Newhall Hospital (1.5 years)

- Director

Los Angeles Fire Department Foundation (6.5 years)

- Director

Los Angeles Sports and Entertainment Commission Advisory Board (7 years)



- Director

Santa Clarita Valley Economic Development Corporation (2 years)

- Director

Santa Clarita Valley Sheriff's Foundation (3 years)

- Director

Southern California Leadership Council (3 years)

- Director

Organization Impact

When Todd agreed to co-chair SCV Senior Center's Capital Campaign to raise funds for the new Senior Center building, he was already a notable figure in the SCV community. Not only has Todd led by example in his fundraising efforts, he has also helped join hands with many other corporations, donors, and individuals to increase community awareness of SCV Senior Center's mission to promote quality of life for seniors. He is continually enthusiastic about new and different ways the Senior Center can raise funds for this exciting building project.

Todd graduated from the United States Military Academy (USMA) at West Point -- an honor reserved for our nation's most promising students. He has used this skill, training, and knowledge not only in his professional work at California Resources Corporation (CRC) where he drives the company's commitment to the communities where employees live and CRC operates; but also in his personal volunteer efforts in his own communities. As CEO, Stevens focuses on strengthening the balance sheet, enhancing margins, and operating CRC's resilient asset base. CRC's entire workforce is Californian, and he drives the company's commitment to the communities where employees live and CRC operates. Prior to CRC, Stevens worked for 20 years in various management positions at Occidental Petroleum Corporation and most recently served as vice president, Corporate Development. During his career with Occidental, he led most of Occidental's growth initiatives and his responsibilities included mergers and acquisitions, evaluating and developing finance-related strategic and business opportunities, restructuring alternatives and asset dispositions, land management activities and worldwide exploration activities. He earned a Masters of Business Administration degree from the University of Southern California after graduating from the United States Military Academy, West Point, with a Bachelor of Science degree. Todd, his wife, Karen, and children reside in the Santa Clarita Valley.

Eric Stroh

Vice President, Santa Clarita Concrete

Nominated by Carousel Ranch

Carousel Ranch (11.5 years)

- President
- Vice President
- Chair and Creator, "How the West Was Won" Trap Shoot

Organization Impact

From the time Eric joined the Carousel Ranch board, he has been an integral part of the organization. Shortly after joining, Eric stepped up and filled the role of interim president. He took his position very seriously, working hard to take the organization to a new level. None of us, Eric included, could have had any idea of the incredible challenges and changes we would face in the years to follow -- yet with Eric as our leader, the ranch not only survived the toughest of financial times, but thrived. Eric was with us, buying property to complete renovations of our new home, obtaining our conditional use permit, attending countless County meetings, to the completion of our biggest project ever -- the building of our long-awaited covered arena. One of Eric's greatest achievements and contributions has been his work as co-creator and chair of our Trap Shoot. From concept to



completion, this has really been Eric's event. For many months each year (this being the 9th annual), Eric has been the one that has literally "made" this event, raising over \$250,000 over the years. From soliciting teams to creating the day's events, entertainment, and literally every element of how it all works. He is always involved in every event and undertaking that we have. He personally dedicates countless hours to the success of Carousel Ranch's annual Heart of the West event, which his personal efforts directly result in raising tens of thousands of dollars each year. Eric is always ready, willing and able to make calls, obtain donations, and simply get any job done. Eric is exceptionally proud that his daughter, Jolie, has become one of the ranch's staff.

Eric Stroh has been calling the Santa Clarita Valley home since 1988 when his future wife praised it as the perfect place to raise a family. After he earned his Bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering, Eric bought his first home, got hired as a sales engineer for Honeywell, and asked his college sweetheart to marry him. By 1996, the couple had two daughters. In 2003, Eric left corporate America and began working alongside his father-in-law at Santa Clarita Concrete. Being able to help grow the family business while having the freedom to be present and involved in all aspects of his daughters' lives has been Eric's greatest joy. He has never missed a school production, an award ceremony, or sporting event. Eric is always front and center with his camera as his girls' biggest fan. It was his daughter Jolie's obsession with horses that first brought Eric to Carousel Ranch. Together, they have given hours of love and support to the Ranch. When Eric isn't working, he can be found on the water, either wakeboarding or paddle boarding, with his family.

Chuck Strong

Senior Inspector, City of Santa Clarita

Nominated by American Legion Post 507

American Legion (2.5 years)

• Music Coordinator

Santa Clarita Valley Blues Society (10 years)

• President

Orange County Roosters Volunteer (4 years)



Organization Impact

Chuck Strong came to the American Legion with his band to play for our annual car show as a volunteer three years ago. He immediately joined the American Legion as a Son, and has given us at least 100 hours every month. He, along with some recruits, changed our big hall into a performing arts center. This is not easy to do with a building that is over 80 years old. He has added lighting and sound, and has fixed the walls and ceilings. Now we have a music venue where we hold performances two times a week. Chuck has brought us new members and many more volunteers to support our local veterans in getting the word out to the many veterans in our community that need our support.

In 1968, Chuck Strong moved to Santa Clarita Valley with his family. The area was known as Saugus, but soon became Canyon Country. He was in the first graduating class of Rio Vista Elementary and then three years at Sierra Vista, a graduate of the "Class of 74" at Canyon High School, and some time at COC in the temporary classrooms. During his younger years, his family would gather canned goods, old coats, and blankets and give them to the less fortunate. Free drum lessons, car repairs, or handyman work for those that can't afford the services, are a weekly occurrence for Chuck, as well as performing at many celebrity events. He has played on Thanksgiving Day in Newhall at the Downtown Library. Chuck holds an "Honorary Membership" to the Orange County "Roosters", where he gave many free concerts to help feed thousands more during the holidays. Chuck lives in Newhall with his wife of 31 years, Cheryl. He has two successful adult children and a dog named "Lady." As senior building inspector for SCV Building and Safety, he strives to make his hometown safer. He is currently the president of the nonprofit "Santa Clarita Valley Blues Society" as well as "Sergeant at Arms" and "Music Director" with the "Sons" of the American Legion Post 507.

Jim Ventress

Retired, CEO Boys & Girls Club of Santa Clarita

Nominated by Boys & Girls Club of Santa Clarita

Boys & Girls Club (31.5 years)

- Chief Executive Officer (29 years)
- Club Ambassador (2.5 years)

Big Brothers of Greater Los Angeles (17 years)

- Screening Committee Member

United Way (18 years)

- Core of Executives
- Speaking Engagements

Anti-Gang Task Force (9 years)

- Founding Committee Member

City of Santa Clarita

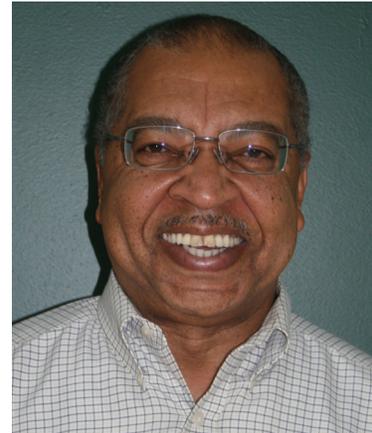
- Planning, Hiring, and Teen Panel Volunteer

SCV Domestic Violence Center (3 years)

- Board Member

L.A. Alliance for Boys & Girls Club (6 years)

- Board Member



Organization Impact

Since 1985 Jim Ventress has been an influential leader and volunteer in Santa Clarita. While most know him as head of the Boys & Girls Club, where he worked for 29 years building two full-service facilities and serving tens of thousands of youth, many do not realize the layers of volunteer service he has accomplished on top of that responsibility. Jim has been a speaker at numerous events on leadership, responsibility, and education. He has been a mentor to Boy Scouts. Since his retirement in 2014 Jim has continued to be involved in the Boys & Girls Club as a volunteer and ambassador. Whether it is setting up the stage at Festival of Trees, sanding wood blocks with children for Pinewood Derby, or soliciting auction items Jim is staying busy in his retirement. His charismatic leadership style has made a positive impact on this community by inspiring youth and peers alike. Every conversation with Jim motivates others to make the world a better place for children and teens. He is Santa Clarita youth's biggest advocate. He can inspire wayward teens to stay on a positive path and inspire business leaders to make a contribution and get involved alike.

By his retirement, Jim Ventress completed 34 years of service with the Boys & Girls Club movement. He is a graduate of Salesian High School of East Los Angeles. He began his higher education at Los Angeles City College where he completed an Associate in Arts Degree in data processing. He then graduated from California State University, Los Angeles in 1978 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in recreational administration. Jim is a native of Los Angeles and a veteran of the United States Army. Prior to his commitment to the Boys & Girls Club, Jim spent five and a half years working for the United Parcel Service as a loader, driver, computer operator, and industrial engineer. In 1977, Jim became the art director of the Salesian Boys Club of Los Angeles, as a way of giving back something to an organization that had been significant in his youth. He later became the athletic director, then program director. In May of 1980, Jim was appointed executive director of the Salesian Boys Club. Under his direction, in 1984 the Salesian Boys & Girls Club won the "Flour Award" presented at the United Way annual meeting, along with a gift of \$5,000 in recognition of outstanding delivery of youth services. In March of 1985, Jim was appointed executive director of the Boys & Girls Club of Santa Clarita. He spearheaded a feasibility study and development of a five-year plan in 1987. His biggest joys to date have included the construction and opening of the club's 20,000- square-foot central facility at Newhall Park in 1992, and a \$6 million, 27,000 square-foot-shared, facility on the campus of Sierra Vista Middle School

in 2003. He was an active screening committee member of the Big Brothers of Greater Los Angeles for 17 years, a member of the United Way Core of Executives for 18 years and has been a member of the Santa Clarita Valley Anti-Gang Task Force since its 1991 inception. Jim received the 1999 Boys & Girls Clubs of America Regional Prescott Award for Diversity, the 2000 Boys & Girls Clubs of America “National Keystone Teen Advisor of the Year Award,” and the 2001 Boys & Girls Clubs of America “Regional Contribution to the Profession Award.” In 2007, Jim was the recipient of the Boy Scouts “Leaders of Character” award, and in 2008 he was one of Bank of America’s “Local Hero’s” award winners. Jim’s favorite motto is “give kids attention, recognition, and affection and they will contribute to society, not take away from it.”
