

Evie Romero (Community Leader in Development Disabilities)

Evie Romero is a fierce advocate for people with developmental disabilities in Alhambra. She founded and currently serves as the Executive Director of Esperanza Services – an organization dedicated to helping people with developmental disabilities. Since she founded Esperanza Services in 1997, Ms. Romero has guided the organization through a decade of growth and developed a reputation as a committed and experienced leader in the non-profit community.

Besides her advocacy work for people with developmental disabilities, Ms. Romero has led another organization – People Assisting the Homeless, or PATH – to combat homelessness with a multi-pronged strategy that includes street outreach teams, a homeless access center, a transitional housing center, job training and placement programs, affordable housing, and an alumni support group.

Under Ms. Romero’s leadership as president and chair of the board, PATH successfully raised \$2 million for the acquisition and renovation of their facility in West Los Angeles and built an affordable housing project with 31 beds and a multi-serve center.

For her significant contributions, Ms. Romero received the PATH Crystal Heart Award in 1999. She also received recognitions from Los Angeles County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky and former Los Angeles Councilwoman Ruth Galanter.

Inger Miller (Former Olympian)

Inger Miller was an Olympic Gold Medalist from the 1996 400 meter relay. She is the daughter of Lennox Miller – another Olympic champion runner. Ms. Miller is also the co-owner of the renowned event planning company, Miller-Hawkins Productions. Ms. Miller and her business partner, Ms. Hawkins, have almost 50 years of combined experience in party planning. They founded their business in 1990 when Ms. Miller was a Tournament of Roses Princess.

In addition to winning gold medals on behalf of the United States and planning fabulous parties, Ms. Miller also gives back to the community. Even though Miller-Hawkins Productions built a successful business in downtown Los Angeles, Ms. Miller knew that she wanted to return the business back to where she grew up. And that’s what she did in 2007 when she moved the business to Altadena.

Since moving Miller-Hawkins Productions from downtown Los Angeles to Altadena five years ago, Ms. Miller has selected Five Acres as their exclusive charity and has donated their services to the non-profit. Today, Ms. Miller continues to help Five Acres to further its mission to prevent child abuse, keep families intact and ensure safe, permanent and loving family homes for vulnerable children.

Lillian Lee Jang (Community Leader in API Issues)

Lillian Lee Jang was born in China during an era when girls were considered worthless and a burden to the family. Lillian’s life in the United States started when she married her late husband

Foon Lee Jang who maintained military aircrafts as a member of the American 14th Air Force during World War II. After getting married, the newlywed couple moved to Los Angeles to raise a family.

As a new immigrant, she worked in a sewing factory during the day and went to adult school in the evenings with the goal of saving her money and attending college. She first applied to the Los Angeles Junior College of Business, but failed the English entrance exam. But since Lillian is not someone who easily gives up, she continued going to adult school until her English was finally good enough to gain admission to junior college. She eventually earned an associate degree in Business.

As her family prospered in the American Dream, Lillian never forgot to give back to her community. Even though the Chinatown community in those days was very traditional, Lillian always found a way to contribute. When her husband served as the President of the Lee Family Association and the Kong Chow Benevolent Association, Lillian served as the Chair of the Ladies' Auxiliary for both organizations.

In 2000, Lillian became one of only two women presidents of the Kong Chow Association. And in 2006, Lillian was recognized as one of the Role Model Women of the Year by the Los Angeles Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association. In 2007, Lillian was recognized as a "History Maker" by the Chinese American Museum of Los Angeles.

Today, Lillian is still quietly playing the role of community leader, caring advisor, mentor, philanthropist, mother, and grandmother. Lillian is an active supporter of several schools in her hometown in China, Chinese schools in Los Angeles, and the Chinese American Museum. Lillian hopes that her efforts to foster a deeper understanding and awareness of the history and contributions of Chinese Americans will ensure that her family stories will be passed on in America.

Karen Chen (Business Woman and Community Leader)

Karen Chen is one of the most successful female entrepreneurs in the business of international trade in Southern California. In 1985, Ms. Chen came to the United States all by herself to get a master's degree in industrial management. In 1992, Ms. Chen and her husband founded Sunshine Imports International – which quickly became the largest business to import goods from Taiwan. In fact, her company was named the top importer of goods from Taiwan for seven years in the 1990s.

Gradually, Sunshine Imports International diversified to include multitudes of other products imprinted with their own trademark. Ms. Chen's colleague and friends ascribe the company's ascent to Ms. Chen's willingness to embrace and use the management skills that she acquired from graduate school.

Ms. Chen also loves to devote herself to volunteering in the community. Ever since 2003, she has served as the president of Alumni Association of National Taichung Girl's Senior High School and Alumni Association of Fu Jen Catholic University. In 2012, she was elected as the

president of Joint Chinese University Alumni Association of Southern California where she leads 37 university alumni groups in numerous social events.

Susan Schenk (Community Leader in Sustainability)

Susan was born and raised in Southern California and graduated from UCLA with a degree in botany. She lived in England for a number of years and earned a doctorate in plant physiology from the University of London. In 1982, Susan moved to Claremont to work as the lab lecturer in biology for the Joint Science Department of the Claremont Colleges.

As someone who cares deeply about the community, Susan worked with the local school district to provide an after-school daycare program at all of the elementary schools soon after moving to Claremont. But she didn't stop there. Susan also went on to start the first Daisy Girl Scout troop in the area and has led numerous troops at all levels over the years. In 1997, Susan began to promote the preservation of the Robert J. Bernard Field Station which serves as an irreplaceable educational resource for the Claremont Colleges. To reach her goal, she led the creation of a non-profit group to preserve and promote the field stations. Since the organization's founding, Susan has served as the chair of the board for many years. Today, she is still serving on the board, writing newsletters, and organizing events.

Susan's passion for the environment has led her to serve in numerous other leadership roles in community and city groups. She has served on the board of the League of Women Voters of the Claremont Area for a number of years, first serving as National Resources Chair and now as Vice-President of Programs. She also served on the Claremont's Architectural Commission for eight years and helped to establish an anti-mansion ordinance.

During the most recent update of the Claremont General Plan, Susan led the rewriting of the Open Space Element to preserve more natural areas. She also served on the Mayor's Ad Hoc Committee for Sustainable Development and on the task force that wrote the Claremont City Sustainability Plan. To implement the Claremont City Sustainability Plan, Susan helped to create another organization – Sustainable Claremont – and has already served for three years as its Co-Chair.

Most recently, Susan started and currently serves as the president of the Sustainable Claremont Garden Club. Susan's next project is to work with others in Claremont to maintain the city's urban forests.

Karen Komsak Davis (Elected Official)

Karen Komsak Davis was born in Burbank and received her master of divinity degree at the Texas Christian University at Fort Worth, Texas.

For over thirty years, Ms. Davis has devoted her time to serving underprivileged youth and the community of faith. Right after college, Ms. Davis began her career as the Youth Director at Mayfair Christian in Stockton. When she decided to go to graduate school in Texas, she quickly secured a position as the Youth Minister at South Hills Christian Church. Ms. Davis' journey as

a minister also included positions as an assistant for a pastoral care professor, Pastor at Madison Christian Church in Frankton, Indiana, and Pastor at First Christian Church in Glendora where she now resides.

Ms. Davis is also dedicated to serving youth. Besides working with young people in churches, Ms. Davis has served on numerous bodies, including Youth to Youth program, Glendorans for Drug Free Youth Committee, Glendora Mayor's Task Force on Youth, Glendorans for Kids Committee, Organizing Committee for Community Forum on Teen Drug Abuse, Teen Violence and Tolerance, and Congress Member Dreier's Youth Recognition Committee.

Ms. Davis is also involved in local politics. She was first elected to the Glendora City Council in March 2005 and re-elected in 2009 and again in 2013. She served as the mayor of Glendora in 2008 and 2009.

Ms. Davis has received numerous awards for her service, including the Woman of the Year Award of the 59th Assembly District in 2009, one of "The Magazine's" 50 Fabulous Women Award in 2010, and Attorney General's Crime Prevention/Community Service Certificate of Appreciation in 2005.

Mary Ann Lutz (Elected Official)

Mayor Mary Ann Lutz is a giver when it comes to donating to community programs. She first became a member of the Monrovia City Council in 2003 and was elected mayor in 2009. During her tenure, she has helped to move key projects forward, including helping Monrovia to navigate through the uncharted terrain of having no redevelopment agency and pushing forward the Gold Line Extension. Today, construction of the Gold Line is underway and is slated to be completed in 2015. Under her watch, community programs such as Monrovia Area Partnership – a program that empowers residents to proactively improve their neighborhoods – have flourished.

More recently, Mayor's Lutz's biggest accomplishments have been in the area of environmental sustainability. Under her leadership, the Resource Management Plan was approved, paving the way for the preservation and responsible public access to hundreds of acres in the Angeles National Forest. Mayor Lutz has also been instrumental in the creation of the Monrovia Accords – a list of 21 action items that make water conservation, recycling, and sensitivity to the environment leading priorities of her administration.

Mayor Lutz's most notable accomplishment is the successful effort to create the Los Angeles Storm Water Partnership. This partnership consists of a coalition of eight cities in Los Angeles County that continues to seek collaborative opportunities with other municipalities. In fact, this partnership has expanded in 2011 to form the LA Permit Group – a body that consists of 62 voting agencies, all working hard to promote water quality and conservation.

Despite all of her accomplishments, Mayor Lutz is too humble to take credit alone. In her recent State of the City address, she told the crowd of nearly 200 people that, "Nothing great happens in our City by the efforts of one person alone. It is a collaboration; a partnership."

Marta Escanuelas (Community Leader in Developmental Disabilities)

Raised by hardworking parents and an extremely large family, Marta Ruiz Escanuelas learned the virtue of hard work at an early age.

As one of the first in her family to attend college, she was active in the Chicano awareness movements in the 1970s. Marta volunteered for the United Farm Workers where she performed street political theatre to showcase the farm workers' struggles. As a 21-year-old, she started working at Hathaway Child and Family Services where she served as a surrogate parent to emotionally disturbed and abused children in Sylmar. It was through this work that Marta discovered her passion. Ever since then, Marta has continued to dedicate her life to work with children and adults with physical and emotional disabilities.

In her 36 years of working with emotionally disturbed youth and people with developmental disabilities, she has served as the Executive Director of both Rebuilding Together and the West San Gabriel Valley Juvenile Diversion Program. Marta also has extensive experience as a special education teacher working with at-risk youth.

Currently, she works as the Executive Director of MERCI, an organization providing day program and residential services to the developmentally disabled population in East Los Angeles and the San Gabriel Valley.

In addition to running a non-profit, Marta, as the current president of the Mt. Baldy Community Association, is leading the effort to open the Mt. Baldy History Museum. She also serves on the board of the Pomona Community Health Clinic. She is a current member and the former president of the Monterey Park Rotary Club.

Martha has already received numerous recognitions for her excellence in service. She received the Women's Leadership Award from Assembly Member Mike Eng in 2008. In the same year, she also received the Mickey Weiss Alumni of the Year Award from American Jewish University. In 2009, she received the Mayor's Award of Excellence from former Monterey Park Mayor Benjamin "Frank" Venti and the Woman of Achievement Award from the East Los Angeles-Montebello Business and Professional Women. Most recently, she was awarded the Women of Achievement Award from the YMCA of San Gabriel Valley in 2011.

Margaret "Margie" Martinez (Community Leader in Healthcare)

For more than 35 years, Margaret "Margie" Martinez has served as a healthcare advocate for low-income residents of Southern California.

Ms. Martinez's interests in community health started at an early age with trips to the family doctor for the cold and other childhood diseases. In 1994, she was named Executive Director of Clinica Oscar Romero, a health center serving the immigrant community located in downtown Los Angeles. In 1999, Ms. Martinez was selected to lead Community Health Alliance of Pasadena – also known as ChapCare – as their CEO. During her 14 year tenure, she has overseen ChapCare's transition from a hospital-affiliated clinic to a network of four independent non-

profit health centers. Under her leadership, all of ChapCare's facilities became Federally Qualified Health Centers.

Besides leading her organization to ever greater heights, Ms. Martinez also holds numerous leadership positions on local, state, and national healthcare policy and advocacy organizations, including the Pasadena Health Care Consortium, the Community Clinic Association of LA County, the California Primary Care Association, the San Gabriel Valley Consortium to End Homelessness, and Our Community Health Information Network.

Ms. Martinez became further engaged in the healthcare system when a developing problem forced her family to leave the San Gabriel Valley and the City of El Monte, where her family lived, for consultations at an orthopedic hospital. As a precocious child, Ms. Martinez always wondered why she had to take a full day off of school for her appointment. The seeds that were planted in her head eventually blossomed into the realization that poor healthcare access was a persistent, inconvenient reality for her family, and caused lost days of learning for her and lost days of wages of her parents. This recognition inspired Ms. Martinez to study further and seek her advanced degree to make a difference in health access.

After receiving her undergraduate degree from Occidental College and a Master in Public Health from UC Berkeley, Ms. Martinez has led a variety of community-based organizations that promote healthcare access and workforce development.

Barbara Peterson Sinclair (Community Leader in the Health Profession)

Barbara Peterson Sinclair is an innovative trailblazer in the field of nursing and healthcare, particularly in the care of women and aging populations. In fact, she is often credited with the development of the role of nurse practitioner.

Ms. Sinclair has served in numerous leadership positions, such as the Director of Nursing Institute and Extended Education Coordinator at Cal State Los Angeles, Interim Dean for the School of Health and Chair of the Division of Health Sciences at Cal State Dominguez Hills, and consultant for program development at Cal State San Bernardino and Cal State Northridge. Most recently, she was asked to come out of retirement to function as the Interim Director of the School of Nursing at Cal State Dominguez Hills.

In addition to leading academic institutions, Ms. Sinclair also maintained a clinical nurse practitioner practice, directed a variety of international continuing education programs in health-related fields, and consulted with a significant number of public and private groups on aging issues. Her projects have generated over \$3.2 million in grants and contracts. As a result of her accomplishments, she frequently spoke to national and international audiences and served as editor-in-chief of several professional journals.

Ms. Sinclair is also extensively involved in professional and charitable organizations, serving on the National Advisory Council for March of Dimes and as the president of the Los Angeles County Commission on Aging. In the past, Ms. Sinclair served as the President of the Cal State LA Foundation, Community Housing Service Board Member, SPEF Volunteer Girl Scout

Leader, California League of Women Voters Member, and board member in numerous other organizations.

Ms. Sinclair is also the co-founder and current co-chair of Women Involved in South Pasadena Political Action – an organization dedicated to assisting government in being more transparent and encouraging women to become more involved in city affairs.

Mandy Wong (Community Leader in Public Safety and Education)

Many Wong is the Public Safety Coordinator for the City of Rosemead. Even before Ms. Wong became Rosemead's Public Safety Coordinator, she already served her community with distinction.

From 2000 to 2008, Ms. Wong volunteered as a member and chaired the Asia Community Advisory Committee for the Temple City Sheriff's Station. In this role, Ms Wong worked hard to address crime prevention, family and youth related issues, and acclimation challenges of recent immigrants. Under Ms. Wong's leadership, the committee focused on bettering the quality of life for residents in the five cities within Temple City Sheriff Department's jurisdiction.

Since June 2008 when Ms. Wong assumed the position as the Rosemead Public Safety Coordinator, she has made significant contributions to making the City of Rosemead a better city to live, work, and play through her attention to duty, a "can do" attitude, and her strong work ethic. Ms Wong has established herself as the critical conduit between the community and public safety services. She is bilingual and speaks Cantonese fluently. More important than her linguistic ability are her people skills. Her exceptional ability to bring residents together has enabled her to resolve many issues.

Despite being in her position for less than four years, Ms. Wong has already developed and implemented several successful programs. One shining example is the "Connection Forum" – a grassroots program where community members meet to discuss current issues, develop resources, and implement strategies to address the challenges facing families. Ms. Wong is also deeply dedicated to the Community Emergency Response Team, or CERT. Using the CERT program, Ms. Wong not only educates the community through her safety fairs, she also conducts many drills and exercises throughout the years. For Ms. Wong, public safety is not just about preventing crime or conducting drills, it is also about mentoring. Ms. Wong oversees Rosemead's "Youth Works" program where first time juvenile offenders who have committed minor crimes are placed under Ms. Wong's supervision. In this program, she assigns community service responsibilities to the juveniles and mentors the youth in the program on how to handle conflicts in a productive and positive manner.

Thanks to the hard work of Ms. Wong and her colleagues, major crimes in Rosemead have declined by more than 28% over the past four years. This decline has helped residents feel safer in their neighborhoods.

Jeanne Raya (Community Leader in Law)

Jeanne Raya is a second-generation owner of an insurance agency that was established in San Gabriel in 1960. Under her leadership, the agency has expanded its client roster with non-profits and medical facilities throughout California.

As a skilled practitioner in law, Ms. Raya has also been valuable when counseling clients on risk management practices, especially as they relate to the obligations and duties of directors and officers of non-profit organizations.

But Ms. Raya's greatest accomplishment has been the mentorship work she has done with young female employees. Ms. Raya offers her employees the opportunity to work and attend college, to assume leadership responsibilities in the agency, and to develop commitments to community service.

Despite the enormous amount of time she spends on running her business, Ms. Raya still finds time for family and community involvement. She has a long record of service on educational issues, including serving on the Committee of Bar Examiners, the Ramona Covert Board of Directors, the Department of Insurance Curriculum Board, and the Roosevelt School Site Committee.

Ms. Raya has provided quiet leadership in many organizations. She served as the president of the California La Raza Lawyers Association from 1980 to 1982, as the president of the San Gabriel Chamber of Commerce from 1998 to 2000, and as the Chair of the Grants Committee of the San Gabriel Community Foundation. At each turn, she has used her influence and resources to draw attention and support to people in need.

Ms. Raya stands out because she is an exceptional insurance adviser and is involved in the improvement of her community. She doesn't simply write a check or lend her name to a cause – she is the type of person who actively participates by chairing fundraising events, creating auction gift baskets for numerous organizations, and hosting campaign phonebanks.

Even with all of her commitments, Ms. Raya maintains her cultural identity and lifelong link to the community by engaging in service with La Casa de San Gabriel Community Center. By volunteering at the Community Center, Ms. Raya continues her family tradition of volunteerism that began when her grandmother moved to San Gabriel over one hundred years ago in 1906.

Christina Kan (Community Leader in Healthcare)

Christina Kan has dedicated her life to improving the quality of healthcare for the Asian community in the Los Angeles metropolitan area.

Early in her career, Christina recognized the importance of nutrition in preventive medicine. Together with a team at the American Heart Association, Christina successfully launched an "Asian Pacific Nutrition Project" that served the entire Los Angeles County in 1985. This project quickly led to the creation of the "Heart Healthy Program" that featured disease prevention lectures and healthy recipes in five different Asian languages. This successful and highly praised program marked the start of Christina's pioneering career in community health education.

Her career as an educator began with her faculty appointment as a part-time lecturer at Glendale Community College and California State University at Los Angeles. With the support of others, Christina implemented and hosted the first ever live healthcare radio talk show and television program – in Chinese! Her pioneering shows were televised nationally and internationally on cable and satellite. In addition to the radio and television talk shows, Christina also started a free nationwide newsletter that educated the Asian community on pertinent health topics.

Besides creating educational tools, Christina also served on numerous critical boards and commissions. At the state level, Christina served on the Medical Managed Care Cultural and Linguistic Task Force in 1996. In this capacity, Christina helped to create a healthcare policy that mandated cultural sensitivity and linguistic competency in all healthcare services. This policy was later written into law by the California Legislature as the “Cultural and Linguistic Competency” amendment to the Medical Practices Act.

At the national level, Christina served on the National Medical School Scholarship Interview Committee on behalf of the Department of Health and Human Services from 1998 to 2000. Christina also led the planning and execution of numerous medical conferences and managed programs to provide education to medical practitioners. Her efforts to improve patient care have recently expanded overseas to include co-hosting medical conferences with Huashan Hospital Fudan University in Shanghai, Tsinghua University in Beijing, Hong Kong Adventist Hospital and North American Medical Association in Hong Kong.

Throughout her career, Christina has followed her motto of “Never say ‘no’ when opportunity comes.” By never saying no, Christina has made significant and valuable contributions as a nutritionist, a health educator, a radio and TV host, a policymaker, a healthcare executive, a business advisor, and a business leader.

Enid Joffe (Community Leader in Clean Energy)

Enid Joffe would tell you that her claim to fame is that she hired former Labor Secretary Hilda Solis for her first job out of college. At the time, Ms. Joffe was working at United Way and she hired Hilda Solis to help with outreach to the Hispanic community. But of course, Ms. Joffe’s accomplishments extend far beyond hiring the former Labor Secretary.

Ms. Joffe found her passion when she started working on charging technology for electric cars almost two decades ago. In 1999, Ms. Joffe co-founded her company Clean Fuel Connection to provide infrastructure sales, installation, service and consulting support for electric and natural gas vehicles. In 2002, the industry experienced a severe downturn. But Ms. Joffe is not the type to call it quits when things get rough. She determined Ms. Joffe and her company persevered. And in just 14 short years after the company’s founding, Ms. Joffe’s company has an annual revenue of over \$4 million.

Before Ms. Joffe started her company, she expanded her knowledge of the clean energy industry by working as the manager of charging infrastructure for Edison EV where she worked with local, state, and federal governments on policy issues related to electric vehicles. In this role, she

also managed activities to obtain incentives for electric vehicle infrastructure and coordinated sales of public charging stations to government and public sector organizations.

Besides her pioneering work in the clean energy industry, Ms. Joffe was also active in her community. She was first elected to the Sierra Madre City Council in April of 2004, and served as mayor from 2007 to 2008. In the non-profit sector, Ms. Joffe served on the board of West San Gabriel Valley YMCA from 1990 to 1993 and served as the president of the Rosemead Kiwanis Club from 1992 to 1993.

Ms. Joffe received her bachelor's degree in sociology from Barnard College. In addition, Ms. Joffe also received a master's in sociology and an MBA from UCLA.

Megan Pan (Small Business Owner)

Megan Pan was born in Taiwan, and started her training as a pianist at a very young age. She moved to the United States as a child and now manages a café-style bakery that specializes in intricate pastry design.

Ms. Pan personally makes all of the pastries sold at her establishment. Her bakery, Café Roule, features a new menu item each quarter, most recently creating a Mini Oreo Chesecake.

Her friends firmly believe that Ms. Pan derive her excellent talents for intricate pastry design from the rigorous training regiments that she went through as a pianist.

As a small business owner, Ms. Pan works around the clock. In her spare time, she enjoys doing yoga to relieve stress and watching "Chopped" on the Food Network to pick up new ideas for her pastries.

Wendy Gladney (Author and Inspirational Figure)

Wendy Gladney is often referred to by her daughters as the modern day Lucille Ball. Ms. Gladney believes that it is important to do the best with what you have and to make the best with what is handed to you. At an early age, she was abandoned by her mother, experienced sexual abuse and was surrounded by drugs, sexual promiscuity, gambling, and violence with her father.

Through her experiences, Ms. Gladney has developed strategies for healing and breaking down the walls of hurt and pain – strategies that have enabled her to be victorious in her personal and professional life. From her experience, she authored two books: "Healing Without Hate: How to Forgive and Live," a workbook featuring uplifting strategies for overcoming obstacles and finding personal fulfillment; and her autobiography, "The Preacher's Daughter: A Memoir," where she reveals the tragedies of her childhood and how she overcame to become triumphant through forgiveness.

Ms. Gladney is the founder and president of Forgiving For Living, Inc. – a non-profit organization dedicated to providing solutions for overcoming issues of anger, pain, and the lack of forgiveness to individuals by providing steps on healing and restoration through mentoring.

In addition to her non-profit work, Ms. Gladney has close to 20 years of consulting experience in working with many of the leading community-based organizations and corporations. Ms. Gladney's consulting services focus on event management, community relations, strategic branding, and liaison outreach. Her clients include Albertsons, Inc., Community Coalition, Hyundai Motor America, LA County Commission on Human Relations, Magic Johnson Foundation, McDonalds, and numerous others.

Ms. Gladney is a native of Southern California, and a graduate of UCLA. She is a contributing columnist to the Los Angeles Sentinel, REJOICE Christian Magazine, and a weekly guest commentator on KJLH 102.3 FM's "Front Page with Dominique DiPrima" every Friday morning.

Ms. Gladney believes that it is up to all of us to make a difference in this world. Her advice to the people that she serves is that, "You have find your own path and don't be afraid to travel on it. And although we will all make mistakes, we need to get up, dust ourselves off, and keep on going. When your heart is right, and you mean to do the right thing, God will work it out."