



SAN MANUEL BAND OF MISSION INDIANS RECOGNIZES NONPROFITS IMPACTING LOCAL AND INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

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Highland, CA (May 13, 2022) – The 12th Annual Forging Hope Yawa’ Awards, hosted by the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians, honored four nonprofits for their work in education, health care, essential services, and empowering Indigenous communities. Each of the nonprofit organizations recognized serves its communities in ways that fulfil the Tribe’s philanthropic Pillars of Giving.

Yawa’, which means “acting on one’s beliefs,” is a concept that the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians have embodied throughout their history. Today, the Tribe continues to practice Yawa’ through preserving and protecting the Tribe’s ancestral territory and its inhabitants. and, seeking out nonprofits to support its stewardship goals. The Yawa’ Awards highlight organizations that are outstanding partners with the Tribe in uplifting communities.

This year’s Forging Hope Awards ceremony was held at the new Yaamava’ Theatre at Yaamava’ Resort and Casino. The ceremony was held for the first time since 2019 due to the pandemic.

San Manuel Chairwoman Lynn Valbuena had this to say in her Yawa’ Awards remarks, “We are proud to have partners who answer the call of Yawa’ by meeting the basic needs of at-risk groups, helping students onto the path of education, supporting Indigenous communities, and addressing health care disparities in our region.”

This year’s award recipients are:

Victor Valley College Foundation (Victorville, CA) for comprehensive firefighter training, certifications, and degree programs.

Assistance League of San Bernardino (San Bernardino, CA) for connecting children in need with essential dental care and oral health resources.

Time for Change Foundation (San Bernardino) for providing housing and employment opportunities for low-income individuals.

Cheyenne River Youth Project (Eagle Butte, SD) for bringing innovative programming, including internship opportunities and arts education, to the Lakota community.

The Yawa' Award itself, is an encased Serrano gourd rattle created by San Manuel youth. The gourd rattle is the percussive instrument of the Serrano people, who use music to share social customs and the history of the Tribe.



Who We Support

American Cancer Society (1)

American Red Cross (2)

Arizona State University (1)

Family Assistance Program (2)

LifeStream (1)

Loma Linda University (2)

Los Angeles Marathon (1)

Mary's Mercy Center (2)

Pink Ribbon Place (1)

San Manuel Cares (57)

Stater Bros Charities (1)

Susan G Komen Inland Empire (1)

University of California, Los Angeles (1)

University of Nevada, Las Vegas (1)

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