

188 Local Nonprofits Share in over \$1 Million

Montecito Bank & Trust Awards Community Dividends®

By Mark Whitehurst, PhD / VOICE

THE ANNUAL "BANKSGIVING" BY MONTECITO BANK & TRUST, at their Community Dividends Awards Luncheon, was a festive and heart warming beginning to the holiday season, held at the Coral Casino Four Seasons Biltmore this week.

"Montecito Bank & Trust is the Best Community Bank on the Central Coast, because Mike Towbes, and a handful of local investors who started the bank 44 years ago, believed in service, service, service... and a vision of meeting the community banking needs while investing a meaningful portion of our profits back into the community," shared Janet Garufis, Chairman and CEO, as she welcomed the audience. Now, in its 17th year, this unique giving program has granted a total of \$17 million to local Santa Barbara and Ventura County nonprofits.

The Four Seasons Biltmore's La Pacifica ballroom was filled with 188 central coast nonprofits. Chairman & CEO, Janet Garufis, specifically thanked them for their service to the community and announced a new twist for this year's event. "As part of his legacy, Michael Towbes always wanted Community Dividends to

grow, to find new ways to share the Bank's success and to have an even greater impact, particularly on the most vulnerable in our communities. As we thought about this year's Community Dividends, we wanted to celebrate the Bank's continued strength and success by doing something a little different. Asking ourselves how can we help our communities make even greater strides in the face of challenges that come in all shapes and sizes? It is with that thought in mind that I am so pleased to introduce the Michael Towbes Community Impact Grant," said Garufis. She then invited Rolf Geyling, President of the Santa Barbara Rescue Mission, up to the podium to accept the inaugural award which included a check for \$100,000 to help them continue to serve those in our community that struggle with homelessness and addiction.

The Community Dividends grant program was created in 2003 by Michael Towbes, Montecito Bank & Trust's late owner and founder, with a primary focus on supporting organizations or programs that serve low- and moderate-income individuals and families in Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties. Dividends are awarded to organizations that serve youth and education, social services, medical and health services, and the arts.

Nonprofit organizations look forward to this event especially networking with their nonprofit colleagues, sharing ideas, and building stronger bonds within the community. Montecito Bank & Trust held an educational event prior to the lunch where guest speaker, David Greco, M.A., president & CEO of Social Sector Partners, shared ways that nonprofit leaders can engage funders in conversations on what it really costs to deliver on their mission.

Daniel Estrada, MB&T; Karen Areola, MB&T; and Ben Scott, MB&T



Shannon Kelly, People's Self-Help Housing; Mario McCall, MB&T; and Gerald Parent, MB&T



Angela Krablin, MB&T; Robin Chesler, Conejo Valley Lifestyle; and Rona Barrett, Rona Barrett Foundation



Lisa Rivas, Girls Inc of Carpinteria; Rhett Mauck, National Disaster Search Dog Foundation; Christine Garvey, MB&T; George Leis, MB&T; Rolf Geyling, SB Rescue Mission; and Helene Schneider, CSUCI Foundation



Janet Garufis, MB&T Chairman & CEO, presented the Michael Towbes Community Impact Grant of \$100,000 to Joyce McCulloch and Rolf Geyling of the SB Rescue Mission, along with George Leis, MB&T President.

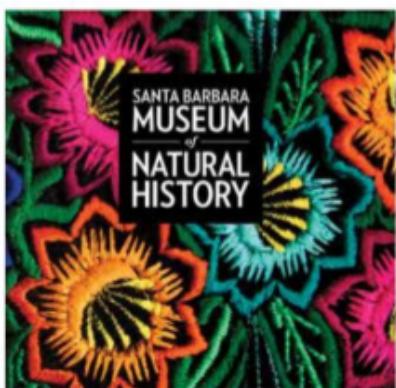
Montecito Bank & Trust is the oldest and largest locally owned community bank in the Santa Barbara and Ventura counties. Founded in 1973, the bank celebrated its 44th anniversary on March 17, 2019 and operates 11 branch offices in Santa Barbara, Goleta, Solvang, Montecito, Carpinteria, Ventura, Camarillo and Westlake Village. Montecito Bank & Trust has a history of unwavering corporate philanthropy in the local communities it serves, annually donating 1.5 million dollars and volunteering over 5,500 hours to nonprofit organizations in Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties.



Jon Almonetti, Fairview Gardens; Michelle Howard, Wilderness Youth Project; Ashleigh Davis, MB&T; Rick Boaler, SB Bowl; Erik Davis, Old Spanish Days; Hot Coalin, Lois & Walter Capps Project; Robbin Goes, MOXI; Pam Tanase, Arthritis Edn; Manuela Geiger-Kobitsch, MB&T; and Cameron Hennen, MB&T



Larry Edwards, MB&T; Esther Jacobsen Soles, Elytho Museum; Chris Parker, Afterdog Village; Rona Barrett, Rona Barrett Foundation; Monica Trouve Sapp, MB&T; Linda Johansen, MB&T; Ken Verder, STV Hardware; and Amy Hinkens, MB&T



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