

Past “Be a Hero for Children” Superhero honorees include:

2019



John Curley, Chief of Covina Police Department has nearly 30 years of law enforcement experience with 27 of those years serving as a member of the Covina Police Department. Prior to joining Covina PD, Chief Curley served as a Reserve Officer with the Monterey Park Police Department. After obtaining his bachelor’s degree from Cal Poly Pomona, Chief Curley was hired by the Covina PD and graduated as class president from Rio Hondo Police Academy Class #113. John worked in a variety of assignments and rose through the ranks becoming Chief on October 14, 2016. Chief Curley received numerous commendations and department medals and was also The Police Officer of the Year in 2000. Chief Curley earned a graduate degree from the University of La Verne and authored a thesis on the vision to regionalize law enforcement services in the

San Gabriel Valley. He was also selected as a member of Rotary International’s Group Study Exchange Team where he spent over 1 month in Japan learning about policing strategies and cultural diversity. His dedication to public safety and loyalty to the community are his highest priorities. Throughout his career, Chief Curley demonstrated a visible presence within the community and believes this is the best way of preventing crime and obtaining the public’s trust. Chief John Curley values safety, productivity, leadership, ethical policing community service, and regional collaboration. Since becoming Chief, he is most proud of the men and women he works with and who demonstrate Covina Police Department’s shared organizational values and mission of honor integrity, service and protecting our community through responsible policing and relentless pursuit of crime. John has been married to his wife, Bobbie, for 23 years and they have two daughters, Emily, 19, and Clare, 14.



California Assemblywoman Blanca E. Rubio represents the 48th Assembly District in the California State Assembly. Rubio, as Chair of the Assembly Select Committee on Domestic Violence, pushed for a significant investment in funding for services for domestic violence survivors. She was able to set aside \$10 million to invest in services for survivors and another \$10 million for temporary housing solutions for survivors fleeing domestic violence. She has authored bills that help children in foster care and assist immigrant communities. Prior to serving in the Assembly, Rubio spent 16 years as a public-school teacher and 20 years in elected office, serving on the Valley County Water Board, and Baldwin Park Unified School District. Rubio was born in Juarez, Mexico, and came to the United States with her parents at a young age. She received her bachelor’s degree in Business Administration and Master’s Degree in Education with a

Multiple Subject Teaching credential from Azusa Pacific University. She is also the proud mother of two children.

2018



Janis Johnson, Deputy in Charge of the LADA Victim Impact Program (VIP) in Long Beach, received her Bachelor of Science Degree in Psychobiology at UCLA. During her time at UCLA, Ms. Johnson was a research assistant for Karen Saywitz, who studied child witness suggestibility, and volunteered as a Victim/Witness Assistant Intern for the LADA. Ms. Johnson obtained her law degree from the University of San Francisco and then came to work at the LADA as a Deputy District Attorney. She has been a Deputy District Attorney for 25 years. Many of Ms. Johnson's LADA assignments have caused her work with sex crimes and child witnesses. Ms. Johnson has conducted numerous child interviews and still recommends children be interviewed by a forensic interviewer at a Children's Advocacy Center. As a Deputy District Attorney, Ms. Johnson had the rare opportunity to work in two roles on a Multidisciplinary team. First, she worked as a victim advocate while volunteering for LACAAW. Later in her career, she worked as a sex crimes prosecutor stationed at Stuart House, another Children's Advocacy Center in LA County. As such, she has seen firsthand the great benefits that Children's Advocacy Centers offer to a child victim or witness.



Sgt Michael Solomita has been with the Long Beach Police Department since 1997. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminal Justice and Political Science from California State University, Fullerton; and a master's degree of Public Administration from California State University, Long Beach. He has worked various assignments within the police department but has spent most of his career investigating family violence and sexual assaults in the Special Victims Section. In 2013 he promoted to the rank of sergeant and returned to a patrol assignment. In 2015 he was transferred back to the Special Victim's Section and assigned to head up the Child Abuse Detail. The detectives in the Child Abuse Detail are primarily tasked with investigating cases of child neglect, physical abuse, and sexual assaults of victims under the age of 18 years.



Kathy Cady has been a prosecutor with the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office since 1989. She has specialized in family violence, child abuse, and sexual assault cases and tried approximately 90 felony jury trials. She is currently the Deputy-in-Charge of the Victim Impact Program (VIP) and supervises deputy district attorneys who vertically prosecute cases involving sexual assault of adults, physical and sexual assault of children, elder abuse, family violence, stalking cases and hate crimes in the Los Angeles County District Attorney Pasadena Branch Office. She was previously the Special Assistant to the Director for the Bureau of Victim Services which assists victims of violent crime. She has lectured extensively on child physical and sexual abuse, the criminal justice system, victims' rights and services, restitution and victims with disabilities. She has authored articles on child abuse. She currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Children's

Advocacy Center for Child Abuse Assessment and Treatment, the Advisory Committee of the Children's Advocacy Centers of California, the state accredited chapter of the National Children's Alliance, the National Crime Victim Law Institute whose mission it is to actively promote balance and fairness in the justice system through crime victim centered legal advocacy, education and resource sharing, and is an honorary advisory Board Member of Justice for Homicide Victims. She previously served on California Children's Justice Act Task Force and on the Board of Directors of Project Sister Family Services, a rape crisis center. Ms. Cady has drafted legislation and testified in Sacramento regarding bills relating to victims' rights and child abuse, most notably drafting legislation which resulted in the passage of Penal Code 868.4, allowing victims to use a facility or therapy dog when they testify in court.

2017



Pak Kouch has been a Deputy District Attorney with the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office since 2000. Pak is currently the , Deputy in Charge of the LADA Complex Child Abuse Section in the Family Violence Division. This specialized section handles cases involving suspected abusive head trauma in children as well as any death of a child under the age of eight involving medically complex causes or time of death issues. Pak works with law enforcement, medical personnel, and DCFS, as a multidisciplinary team, to maximize the potential for positive outcomes. Pak has been committed to protecting the smallest crime victims and supporting the CAC for many years and has volunteered her time and talents at all of our Galas.



The Masonic Homes of California has provided continuous support of the children and families who come to the CAC. The Masonic Homes of California was created over 100 years ago to shelter widows and children left destitute and alone. Today, the Masonic

Homes of California has expanded into a robust, statewide network of critical resources and services. In 2014, the Masonic Homes of California agreed to provide a home on its campus to the CAC. Earlier this year, the Masonic Center for Youth and Families, which provides comprehensive, integrated behavioral health services for children and families struggling with mental health difficulties, opened an office to provide these extremely important support services to the abused children and their families who come to the CAC.

2016



Taylor & Ring is recognized as one of the top plaintiffs' law firms in Southern California. Taylor & Ring has handled high profile and precedent setting cases, many of which are on behalf of sexual assault victims. The firm prides itself on providing compassionate yet aggressive representation for children and adults who have been victimized. The lawyers at Taylor & Ring guide victims of sexual assault not only through the often-daunting criminal process but, then pursue civil lawsuits on victims' behalf against the perpetrator and others who allowed the abuse to occur. The firm's cases have brought about wide-spread policy changes in schools, youth organizations, childcare centers and

other places where kids have been harmed by sexual abuse. John C. Taylor and David M. Ring are the named partners of Taylor & Ring. Each has been recognized as a top trial lawyer in the U.S. and in California. They have a combined 60 years of experience trying cases in courtrooms in California. The firm is recognized as one of the top firms throughout the nation for its representation of victims of sex abuse.

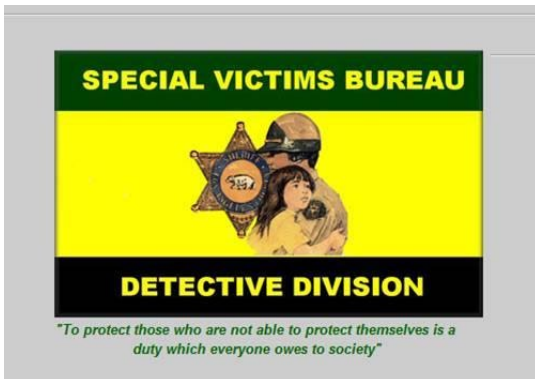


Pet Prescription Team (PPT) was founded in 2003 by Krystal and Phil Emery for one purpose, to help pet owners train and certify their family pets for assisted therapy visits. The PPT philosophy is, "Healing Hearts Through Pets."

Therapy dogs have gained increasing attention in recent years because of the benefits they provide for children and adults. Currently the PPT visits over 150 sites throughout Southern California including hospitals, memory care centers, libraries, the Ontario Airport, working with police departments – most recently in human trafficking and, of course, the CAC. Since the beginning of 2015, PPT has become an increasingly effective partner with the CAC, providing comfort and a much-needed distraction for the child victims and families coming to the CAC for their forensic interviews. In 2015, PPT provided assistance to over 120 children and their families at the CAC.



Maryam Fatemi, MA, LMFT, is a Deputy Director of Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS). She oversees all aspects of administration, protective services, and foster care for children who are victims of abuse, neglect, exploitation, or abandonment, as well as services to children at risk of maltreatment and their families in Service Bureau 1. She began her career with DCFS in 1984 as a Children’s Social Worker. Maryam was a member of the CAC’s Board of Directors for several years and continues to advocate the benefits of a multidisciplinary response to child abuse investigations.



Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department Special Victims Bureau (SVB) is one of six highly specialized bureaus in the Detective Division of LASD. SVB investigates physical child abuse, sexual child abuse and on-line child sexual exploitation cases which occur within the Sheriff’s Department jurisdiction. A child abuse detail was created in 1972. In January 2006, the unit evolved to what is now named SVB. SVB detectives and sergeants provide in-service training in child abuse laws and child abuse investigations to Department personnel

and to police officers from other law enforcement agencies. Presently, sixty-two (62) detectives are assigned to SBV which is comprised of six investigative regional teams. In 2015, SVB detectives investigated 4596 allegations of child abuse.

2015



Lillian P. "Billie" Maguire is a founding board member of the CAC. In 2010, the National Children's Alliance awarded Billie the 2010 Volunteer Leadership Individual Award as a result of her dedication to the CAC. Billie embodies all of the qualities of a positive role model and change-maker within the CAC movement. Not only has Billie supported the development of the organization, she has also been responsible for the creation of the Claremont Graduate University speaker forum on child abuse and the multi-disciplinary work of CACs drawing both professional and lay audiences. Billie takes every opportunity to raise awareness about issues of child abuse. She has been a virtual "magnet" in drawing supporters and donors to the CAC.



Deborah Davies was the lead forensic interviewer at the CAC for several years and helped the organization maintain its high standards. In 2015, Deb celebrated 30 years of service as a forensic interviewer. Deb is being honored for her amazing forensic interviewing skills, leadership, loyalty and mentoring over the years. Deb is a nationally recognized expert in the field of child forensic interviewing. She is an invaluable resource of wealth and knowledge and she regularly conducted peer review trainings. Deb has participated in the development of both state and national forensic interviewing curriculum and has trained extensively on this subject. She also has specialized in skills in interviewing children and adults with disabilities.



Brooke DeMetz, who just turned 9, is a remarkable lady! For her last three birthdays, Brooke has asked her friends to bring toys that she can donate to the CAC to help children who have been abused. Brooke has been able to donate, with the assistance of her family and friends, thousands of dollars' worth of toys to the CAC. Brooke's incredible generosity has brought joy to many children who come to the CAC for much needed service.

2014



Malinda Wheeler, Director, Forensic Nurse Specialists, Inc. Superhero Malinda Wheeler has given tirelessly to children who have been abused. Over the years, Malinda has provided extensive assistance to the CAC to make it what it is today. She has been involved in every aspect of the CAC from visionary, board member, forensic nurse, forensic interviewer, donor and volunteer. She is a founding board member and has been serving on the CAC Board of Directors for the last 10 years! At the time when the CAC didn't have forensic interviewers, Malinda completed the required training for forensic interviewers and took over all the forensic interviews until we could find a replacement. She continues as a backup interviewer and steps

in whenever needed, including weekends, all on a volunteer basis. In addition to her personal commitments of time and money contributions to the CAC, Malinda has also fully participated in several fund-raising events. She remains passionate about helping children, carefully listening to them and sending a message that she cares about each and every one of them.