

The Gratitude Circle

The Gratitude Circle is a partnership between the Conejo Recreation & Park District and Play Conejo. Annually, the CRPD Board of Directors celebrates and honors individuals who have made a significant contribution of time, effort, or energy to recreation and parks in the Conejo Valley.

The Gratitude Circle is also a place where people can honor loved ones and support CRPD's parks and programs through charitable giving.

Past Honorees

2022

Cecilia Laufenberg
Wyatt McCrea
Mary Power

2019

Tim Hagel
Elayne Haggan
Bruce Stanton

2016

Frances Prince
Rorie Skei

2015

Dennis Gillette
Mike Berger
Barbara Kloster

2021

Jim Gilmore
Karen Lindsey
Steve Wiley

2018

Richard F. Newman

2017

Doris Granholm

2014

Tex Ward
Mark Jacobsen

CONEJO RECREATION & PARK DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chuck Huffer, *Chair*

George M. Lange, *Vice Chair*

Nellie Cusworth, *Director*

Doug Nickles, *Director*

Marissa Buss, *Director*

Jim Friedl, *General Manager*

Tex Ward, *General Manager Emeritus*



The Conejo Recreation & Park District is an independent special district serving the Conejo Valley since 1963. Its mission is to enrich the quality of life for our community by preserving and enhancing recreational opportunities, parks, and open space.



Play Conejo is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization created in 2012 to provide volunteer, charitable, and financial support for public park facilities and recreation programs which benefit Conejo Valley residents. Play Conejo is raising funds to help the District maintain quality parks and offer diverse and affordable recreation programs.



THE GRATITUDE CIRCLE INDUCTION CELEBRATION

honoring

**SCOTT BUCHANAN
SUSAN HOLT
BRYAN MCQUEENEY**



*for their Dedication to the People of
Conejo Valley through Recreation, Parks, and Open Space*



Monday, May 8, 2023 • 5:30pm
Conejo Creek North Park

THE GRATITUDE CIRCLE

Honorees



SCOTT BUCHANAN

Scott Buchanan, during his 36-year career at CRPD, helped evolve the Cultural Unit into a nationally recognized and award-winning theater program. Under his leadership, Buchanan was instrumental in coordinating acting classes, youth theatre, and the Teen Summer

Musical to create the Young Artists Ensemble (YAE). He helped to instill a love for the arts in the youth of our community that continues to grow and blossom throughout their lives.

In 2005, he initiated a collaboration between YAE and CRPD's Therapeutic Recreation Unit, featuring disabled and non-disabled performers collaborating to provide a unique theatre experience on stage. Buchanan's passion for the arts also prompted him to assist in preserving music programs in elementary schools by administering the Elementary Music Programs within the Conejo Valley Unified School District. His remarkable and enduring career make Buchanan a "natural" to receive this honor.

SUSAN HOLT

Susan Holt, former member of the CRPD Board of Directors, was first elected to the Board in 1994. Before her retirement in 2022, she was reelected for six terms and was chair of the Board five times. During her 28 years of service to CRPD, fifteen new parks were opened, and numerous improvements and added features were made to existing parks and facilities. Some highlights include the Community Pool at Cal Lutheran University, the Visitors Center at McCrea Ranch, Pickleball Courts at Rancho Conejo, the installation of solar carports, and the Rotary Dreamcatcher Playground. Along with her dedicated service on the CRPD Board, including membership on a variety of District committees, Holt devoted countless hours to other community organizations, including her role as a trustee for the Conejo Valley Historical Society, the Conejo Coalition for Youth



and Families, STARS (Science, Technology, and Research Support), and CLU's Community Leaders Association, along with working closely with the City of Thousand Oaks and the Conejo Valley Unified School District. Susan's intelligence, leadership skills, positive attitude, and business acumen provided CRPD with value beyond measure and made her a natural choice for this recognition.



BRYAN MCQUEENEY

Bryan McQueeney is CEO and co-founder of Ride On Therapeutic Horsemanship, a local non-profit that teaches adaptive horseback riding to children and adults with physical and cognitive disabilities. McQueeney's interest in therapeutic horsemanship was developed after meeting his wife Gloria, in 1984, and being inspired by her own

work in this field. As time went on, he became an equestrian and open space advocate, writing letters and appearing before the City and County of Los Angeles, as well as for the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, urging the protection of open space and trails. Ride On began on a 2-acre leased property in Chatsworth. Bryan's partnership with CRPD began in 2001, when, working together, the Walnut Grove Equestrian Center was developed. McQueeney's commitment to public service was further enhanced when he agreed to step in and manage the Rancho Potrero Community Equestrian Center in Newbury Park. With over 37 years of therapeutic riding experience, McQueeney continues to provide programs and services through Ride On that improve lives and leaves a lasting impact on those who participate. He serves in other capacities with groups such as CLU's Center for Nonprofit Leadership, Play Conejo, Special Olympics, and works as an advisor to therapeutic riding centers around the country. His hard work and devotion to the community he serves makes this recognition very well-deserved.

The Board of Directors of the Conejo Recreation and Park District are grateful to Scott, Susan, and Bryan for their positive impact. The quality of life in the Conejo Valley is due, in no small part, to their unflinching dedication and passion for recreation, parks, and open space.