



Autism Society
Ventura County

Awesome In Autism

Past Awardees

Celebrating 17 Years

2009

Parent/ Family of the Year: Renee Ballard

Educator of the Year: Carol Johnson, Camarillo Heights Elementary

Service Provider of the Year: Support and Treatment of Autism and Related Disorders

Individual of the Year: Tyler Thompson

Community Member of the Year: Dr. Eric Sletten, Sletten Wellness Medical Center

2010

Parent/ Family of the Year: Gina Peters

Educator of the Year (PreK-8th): Jane Johnson, Camarillo (PEEP)

Educator of the Year (Secondary/Highschool): Sara Pearson, Thousand Oaks High School

Educator of the Year (Integrated Setting): Corinne New, La Mariposa Elementary School

Funding Partner of the Year: TBruce Anselmo, TCRC Service Coordinator

Children's Service Provider of the Year: Addison Behavioral Resources

Adult Service Provider of the Year: Laurie Singer, Laurie Singer Behavioral Services

Community Member of the Year: Zak Kukoff, Founder of Autism Ambassadors

2010

Parent/ Family of the Year: Gina Peters

Educator of the Year (PreK-8th): Jane Johnson, Camarillo (PEEP)

Educator of the Year (Secondary/Highschool): Sara Pearson, Thousand Oaks High School

Educator of the Year (Integrated Setting): Corinne New, La Mariposa Elementary School

Funding Partner of the Year: TBruce Anselmo, TCRC Service Coordinator

Children's Service Provider of the Year: Addison Behavioral Resources

Adult Service Provider of the Year: Laurie Singer, Laurie Singer Behavioral Services

Community Member of the Year: Zak Kukoff, Founder of Autism Ambassadors

2011

Parent/Family of the Year: Leila Silva

Educator of the Year (PreK-8): Eric Schick (Pre-8 Educator) Poinsettia Elementary School, VUSD

Educator of the Year (Secondary and Post-Secondary): Disability Resource Program – CSU Channel Islands

Educator of the Year (Integrated Setting): Karen Davis, GE teacher at La Mariposa Elementary School, PVSD

Regional Center Partner of the Year: Michael Quijada – TCRC Service Coordinator

Children's Service Provider of the Year: Children's Developmental Milestones (CDM)

Adult Service Provider of the Year: Villa Esperanza Services

Community Member of the Year: Keri Bowers– Mother, Advocate, Speaker, Seminar Leader, Filmmaker...

2012

2012 Awesome in Autism Awardees Parent/Family of the Year: Damien & Edlyn Peña

Educator of the Year (Pre-K – 8): Treasure Lynn Lopez, Penfield School

Educator of the Year (Secondary/Post-Secondary): Dr. Pattie Gault, Channel Islands

High School Educator of the Year (Integrated Classroom): Phil Hudema, Conejo

Adventist

Service Provider of the Year (Children's Services): Conejo Recreation & Park District

Service Provider of the Year (Adult Services): Lisa Young Cantrell, Cantrell Family Day

Care

Regional Center Partner of the Year: Cheri Lanier, Adult Team Service **Coordinator,**

TCRC Simi Valley Community Member of the Year: Troy Corley, ASAP Founder

2013

Aut2Run Grand Marshall: Calvin Nye

Parent/Family of the Year: Linda, Brent & Jenny Anderson

Educator of the Year (Pre-K – 8): Heather Duval, Poinsettia Elementary **Educator of the**

Year (Secondary/Post-Secondary): Andrea Baehne Meyer, CAFE

Educator of the Year (Integrated Classroom): Steve Turner, Ventura **Community College**

Service Provider of the Year (Children's Services): Laura Cornish, SLP

Service Provider of the Year (Adult Services): SAGE Supported Living **Services Regional**

Center Partner of the Year: Colleen Duncan, Autism Coordinator, TCRC

Community Member of the Year: Coach Lee Woodward, Region 68 VIP Soccer & PVRPD

Special Needs Basketball

2014

Individual of the Year / Aut2Run Grand Marshall: Jeremy Catama, Thousand Oaks

Parent/Family of the Year: Patricia Puentes, Parent and Rainbow FRC, Oxnard

Educator of the Year (Pre-K – 8): Traci Peplinski, SLP, Penfield School, Ventura

Educator of the Year (Secondary/Post-Secondary): Anita Morgan, Para-Educator, Simi Valley

USD Educator of the Year (Integrated Classroom): Sarah Files, Saticoy Elementary

Service Provider of the Year (Children's Services): Katie Anawalt, SLP Service

Provider of the Year (Adult Services): Simi Oaks Day Treatment Center, Simi Valley

Employer of the Year: Go Green Gardeners, Anne Phillips, Thousand Oaks Funding

Partner of the Year: Lisa Fox, Early Start Service Coordinator, TCRC, Oxnard

Community Member of the Year: Geri Gross, Parent and Founder of Paus4Kids

2015

Individual of the Year / 2015 Aut2Run Grand Marshall: Samuel Capozzi

Parents of the Year: Joel & Janelle Bauer **Educator of the Year (PreK-8):** Kim Kitchen

Educator of the Year (Secondary/Post-Secondary): Brenda Sampson

Educator of the Year (Integrated Classroom): Tanya Narasaki

Service Provider of the Year (Children's Services): Susan Baukus

Service Provider of the Year (Adult Services): Reid's Gift

Employer of the Year: Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Thousand Oaks

Funding Partner of the Year: Tina Calderero-Mendoza

Community Member of the Year: Dr. Yazdan Alami, D.D.S., Oak Park Dentistry for Children

2016

Individual of the Year / 2015 Aut2Run Grand Marshall: Carly Fulgham

Parents of the Year- Dee Colston Educator of the Year (PreK-8): Robin Birney

Educator of the Year (Secondary/Post-Secondary): Adam Underberger

Educator of the Year (Integrated Classroom): Scott DeLoach

Service Provider of the Year (Children's Services): Passport to Adaptive Living Service

Provider of the Year (Adult Services): ARC of Ventura County

Employer of the Year: Pizza Rev

Funding Partner of the Year: Seth Wegher-Thompson

Community Member of the Year: Shirley Dove

2017

Individual of the Year / 2015 Aut2Run Grand Marshall: Diego Pena, Author

Parents of the Year: Margie Smilanick

Educator of the Year (PreK-8): Tanya Wright

Educator of the Year (Secondary/Post-Secondary): Rodney Rounke

Educator of the Year (Integrated Classroom): Traycie Kephart

Service Provider of the Year (Children's Services): Amigo Baby Service

Provider of the Year (Adult Services): Dr. Garrett Toy, D.D.S.

Employer of the Year: Pizza Rev

Funding Partner of the Year: Leslie Burton, TCRC

Community Member of the Year: Valeri Cirino-Paez

2018

Individual of the Year: Kaitlin Rose Ford

Parent/Family of the Year: Brian and Kristin Thompson

Educator of the Year (PK-8): Amy Dobzynski, Camarillo Heights Elementary

Educator of the Year (Secondary): Tina Itkonen, California State University Channel Islands

Educator of the Year (Integrated): Valerie Wehan, Poinsettia Elementary - Ventura

Children Service Provider of the Year: Jayme Polis, YMCA

Adult Services Provider of the Year: Actors for Autism

Funding Partner of the Year: Kenya Dominguez, IHSS

Employer of the Year: Vons

Community Member of the Year: Cecilia Laufenberg, Conejo Recreation and Park District

Volunteer of the Year: Tamara Samaha

Shining Star/Lifetime Achievement: Jeff Schweissinger

2019

Individual of the Year: Nathan Sprague

Parent/Family of the Year-: Kathy Yoder

Educator of the Year (PK-8): Tamme Koehn, Poinsettia Elementary- Ventura

Educator of the Year (Secondary): Steve Turner, Ventura College

Educator of the Year (Integrated): Sarah Lombardo, Poinsettia Elementary- Ventura

Children Service Provider of the Year: Know IEP's

Adult Services Provider of the Year: IGNITE Collective Inc.

Funding Partner of the Year: Oscar Castellon, Dept. of Rehabilitation

Employer of the Year: Industry Horror

Community Member of the Year: Sgt. Jeff McGreevy, OXPD

Volunteer of the Year: Erin Westendorf

Shining Star/Lifetime Achievement: Corina Lozano

2020

Individual of the Year: Christopher Valdez

Educator of the Year: Cynthia Hawthorne, Hillside Middle School

Child Service Provider of the Year: Kelly Thomas, DATA

Adult Service Provider of the Year: PathPoint, Project SEARCH

Funding Partner of the Year: Dr. Steven Graff, Tri Counties Regional Center

Employer of the Year: Smart & Final Community

Organization of the Year: Mission Church, Night to Remember

Volunteer of the Year: Randee Westendorf

Shining Star/Lifetime Achievement: Sharon Francis