



18<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL

★ ★ **REAL HEROES AWARDS** ★ ★

*Ordinary People. Extraordinary Courage.*

September 25, 2020

**American Red Cross**  
San Diego and Imperial Counties

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*The 2020 Real Heroes Awards videos and virtual event program  
were produced by **Hildreth Media Group, Inc.***

# ★ Hero Honorees and Selection Committee ★

## 2020 REAL HEROES HONOREES

**Animal Welfare Award:** Chopper the Biker Dog  
and owner Mark Shaffer  
*Presented by: Falck*

**Fire-Rescue Award:** San Diego Fire-Rescue Department –  
Firefighters of Engine 22, C Division  
*Presented by: San Diego City Firefighters Local 145*

**Law Enforcement Award:** Officer Jonathan Wiese  
*Presented by: CIT Bank*

**Gift of Life Award:** Jim Ehrlichmann  
*Presented by: Kaiser Permanente*

**Community Partner Award:** Julio Perez  
*Presented by: U.S. Bank*

**Good Samaritan Award:** Chris Hamilton & Family  
*Presented by: Sycuan Casino Resort*

**Humanitarian Award:** Dr. Ellen Beck  
*Presented by: San Diego State University*

**Military Award:** Perry Yee, Active Valor  
*Presented by: USS Midway Museum*

**Youth Good Samaritan Award:** Nolan Mejia, Grocery Grab  
*Presented by: San Diego Gas & Electric*

## REAL HEROES AWARD SELECTION COMMITTEE

*A special thank you to the  
2020 Real Heroes Award  
Selection Committee.*

Chief Don Butz, Lakeside Fire Protection District

Rockette Ewell, U.S. Bank

Phil Hubbs, Red Cross Volunteer - Government Liaison

Pat Lloyd, Red Cross Board Member

Jeri Miuccio, San Diego Fire-Rescue Department

Agnes Wong Nickerson, San Diego State University

Penney Newell, San Diego Gas & Electric

Join the conversation online using **#SDICRealHeroes**

## ★ 2020 Real Heroes Honorees ★



### **Animal Welfare Award: Chopper the Biker Dog and owner Mark Shaffer**

*Presented by: Falck*

San Diego's beloved Chopper the Biker Dog and his owner Mark Shaffer have made it their mission to spread love and joy to those who need it most. Chopper uses his fiery passion for motorcycles, bandanas and killer kindness to spread love into the community. For many years, Chopper and his dad have traveled countless miles across San Diego County, bringing positivity, compassion and smiles to everyone they meet.



### **Fire-Rescue Award: San Diego Fire-Rescue Department – Firefighters of Engine 22 | Presented by: San Diego City Firefighters Local 145 and Law Enforcement Award: Officer Jonathan Wiese, San Diego Police Department**

*Presented by: CIT Bank*

On June 13, 2020 members of the San Diego Fire-Rescue Department and the San Diego Police Department worked together to save the lives of a family involved in a tragic incident at Sunset Cliffs in Ocean Beach, San Diego. Captain Tony Jeffreys, Engineer Rob Craig, Firefighter/Paramedic Jens Brombach and Firefighter Darryl Harris with SDFD Engine 22, and SDPD Officer Jonathan Wiese, jumped into action to save two toddlers and their father, whose vehicle careened off the cliffs and into the water below.



### **Gift of Life Award: Jim Ehrlichmann**

*Presented by: Kaiser Permanente*

Have you or someone you know received lifesaving blood products in the San Diego area? If so, it may have been delivered by James (Jim) Ehrlichmann. Jim has delivered over 10,000 units of blood products, accomplishing this incredible feat by volunteering hundreds of hours as an American Red Cross Blood Transportation Specialist. Himself a blood donor, Jim continues to volunteer each week, delivering the precious gift of life to local patients in need.



### **Community Partner Award: Julio Perez**

*Presented by: U.S. Bank*

When COVID-19 began to affect local business, and many struggled to make ends meet, Julio Perez took matters into his own hands to ensure his family was taken care of and that the jobs and livelihoods of many restaurant industry workers in San Diego were protected. Julio used his skills to benefit the community, and help local businesses during their time of need.

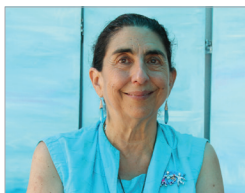
## ★ 2020 Real Heroes Honorees ★



### **Good Samaritan Award: Chris Hamilton & Family**

*Presented by: Sycuan Casino Resort*

On June 12, 2020, California Highway Patrol Officer Chris Hamilton, his family and family friends were driving home to San Diego from a family vacation in Texas when the unimaginable occurred. Traveling late at night on a remote road in New Mexico, they came across a serious vehicle accident, and worked together to help rescue the victims, while maintaining safety and security until first responders arrived on the scene.



### **Humanitarian Award: Dr. Ellen Beck**

*Presented by: San Diego State University*

For over 20 years, Dr. Ellen Beck has helped thousands of patients access comprehensive healthcare services across San Diego through her leadership at the UCSD Student-Run Free Clinic Project. In partnership with the community, the mission of the UCSD Student-Run Free Clinic Project is to provide respectful, empowering, high quality health care for the underserved while inspiring the next generation of health professionals.



### **Military Award: Perry Yee, Active Valor**

*Presented by: USS Midway Museum*

Perry Yee is a former Navy SEAL and the founder of Active Valor, a combat veteran-run 501(c)(3) non-profit organization in San Diego dedicated to giving new purpose to veterans by pairing them as mentors to children of our nation's fallen heroes. Perry's dedication to the military community and to our nation's Gold Star Children has made a lasting and life-changing impact on veterans and military families throughout San Diego.



### **Youth Good Samaritan Award: Nolan Mejia, Grocery Grab**

*Presented by: San Diego Gas & Electric*

Nolan Mejia is the founder of Grocery Grab, a program that aims to help senior citizens and at-risk groups in need during and beyond the COVID-19 pandemic. The Grocery Grab team, made up of high school students in the community, shops for and delivers groceries to the doorsteps of those in need. Grocery Grab is a free service, and any donations or "tips" are given back to the community through the San Diego COVID-19 Community Response Fund.



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# Elevating our local communities

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## Falck salutes the American Red Cross of San Diego and Imperial Counties.

We congratulate the 2020 Real Heroes for having the courage to make our world a better place.



[kp.org/sandiego](http://kp.org/sandiego). KAISER PERMANENTE.



### San Diego City Firefighters Local 145

Since 1973, San Diego City Firefighters Local 145 has donated countless volunteer off-duty hours to San Diego charities, schools and civic organizations. In addition, they have contributed more than 3 million dollars to community service projects.

**San Diego City Firefighters are proud to support the American Red Cross**

10405 San Diego Mission Road Suite 201  
San Diego, CA 92108  
619-563-6161  
[SanDiegoCityFirefighters.org](http://SanDiegoCityFirefighters.org)

## Proud supporter of the American Red Cross and the 2020 Real Heroes Breakfast



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*USS Midway Foundation*

# Salutes San Diego's Heroes and the American Red Cross



[www.midway.org/foundation](http://www.midway.org/foundation)

## When a military family experiences a crisis, the American Red Cross is there to help.

The mission of Red Cross Service to the Armed Forces is to provide humanitarian support to service members, veterans and their families around the clock, around the globe, under a trusted symbol.



### Three Ways to Access Assistance:

1. Call toll-free at **877-272-7337**
2. Go online to **[redcross.org/HeroCareNetwork](http://redcross.org/HeroCareNetwork)**
3. Use the Red Cross **Hero Care** mobile app



**American  
Red Cross**



## Mission

The American Red Cross prevents and alleviates human suffering in the face of emergencies by mobilizing the power of volunteers and the generosity of donors.

### American Red Cross of San Diego and Imperial Counties

3950 Calle Fortunada  
San Diego, CA 92123-1827

858-309-1200 | [redcross.org/sandiego](https://redcross.org/sandiego)



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Real Heroes nominations are accepted year-round at  
[redcross.org/sandiego/realheroes](https://redcross.org/sandiego/realheroes)