

SVCN Nonprofit Impact Awards 2020

Patricia A. Gardner Changemaker Award
MILAN BALINTON

Nonprofit of the Year
SECOND HARVEST OF SILICON VALLEY

Nonprofit Leadership Award
RACHEL CARLOS-COLSTON + MELISSA JOHNS

Nonprofit Ally Award
SHIP KITS + BUSINESSES DONATING PPE

Collaborative Impact Award
DESTINATION: HOME +
SACRED HEART COMMUNITY SVC + 68 CBOS

NONPROFIT
IMPACT
AWARDS

2020
SVCN!

If you missed the event, we would love to tell you more about our Nonprofit Impact Award winners. Congratulations to the winners and thank you to the nominators.

Patricia A. Gardner Changemaker Award

An emotional center of the event was the renaming of SVCN's coveted Changemaker Award after our longtime Executive Director Patricia A. Gardner, who retired in 2019.

The first ever recipient of the award was **Milan Balinton, the Executive Director of the African American Community Service Agency (AACSA)**. As Rita Holiday stated in her nomination of Milan, "With the tragic murder of George Floyd and the uprisings of protest that followed, Milan was called on as a Black leader in Santa Clara County to respond and offer guidance to the City's and County's response. Milan consulted with elected officials in producing solutions that best aligned with AACSA's mission to preserve the dignity and culture of a diverse African American Community and to provide services that promote full participation for all. To ensure real long-term change, Milan is spearheading the establishment of an Advocacy/Policy Department at AACSA which will seek to undermine and disrupt policies that

have created racially-based disparities in income, home ownership, health, education, and employment.”

In reaction to the recognition, Patricia said, “In the inaugural year of this Patricia A. Gardner Changemaker Award, it is fitting that it begins with our new generation of nonprofit leaders who are leading the way in racial equity. My friend Milan Balinton exemplifies strong leadership and a powerful voice in moving us all forward to become a more inclusionary, diverse, and equitable community. Bravo, Milan.”

Nonprofit of the Year Award

Another incredibly timely award was the Nonprofit of the Year Award, presented to **Second Harvest of Silicon Valley**. Marsha Hovey, CADRE’s Board President, nominated Second Harvest, pointing out the herculean task of responding to COVID-19. Second Harvest quickly added lines to their call center, acquired new warehouse space, added distribution sites, coordinated new volunteers—including staffing from the National Guard and San Jose Conservation Corps—to triple their monthly food distribution activities to support our community. They are working with 300 partner organizations and, each month, serving 11,000,000 pounds of food to approximately 350,000 individuals with food insecurity in Santa Clara County and 250,000 in San Mateo County.”

Nonprofit Leadership Award

The dual recipients of this year’s Nonprofit Leadership Award go to **Melissa Johns, Executive Vice President at Pivotal, and Rachel Carlos Colston, Director of the Santa Clara County Office of First Place for Youth**. SVCN added this award because we feel strongly that the future of the nonprofit community is in the great hands of emerging leaders that are shaping the sector through their energy, creativity, and exceptional leadership. This award is for individuals working in the nonprofit sector who are early to midway in their careers.

During the first week of Shelter-in-Place, Melissa came up with the idea to have Pivotal create an emergency fund to support foster youth facing financial hardships. Guided by Melissa’s leadership, Pivotal was able to distribute over \$500,000 dollars in funds to young scholars in need. Likewise, Rachel has been a trailblazer for foster youth within the community. Since opening a Santa Clara office almost 5 years ago, Rachel designed a program that now serves over 70 youth in building the skills necessary to be more active members in their community.

Nonprofit Ally Award

This year's Nonprofit Ally Award goes to the **San Jose Shelter in Place (SHIP) Kits team**, Gordon Biersch Brewery/Frank-Lin Distillers, and dozens of local businesses because of their work during the pandemic to supply nonprofits and the communities they serve with life-saving personal protective equipment (PPE) and other needed supplies. Eric Glader of Urban Community helped birthed the idea of SJ SHIP Kits that include a variety of nutritional support (canned goods, nutrient-dense food, non-perishable food), health supplies (toilet paper, hand sanitizer, soap), as well as wellness items (puzzles, cards, coloring books). Gordon Biersch Brewery, in partnership with Frank-Lin Distillers, provided thousands of gallons of hand sanitizer to nonprofit essential workers as well as first responders and medical institutions, through SJ SHIP Kits. Many, many other businesses responded to SVCN's and ALF's call for PPE donations from March through June.

Collaborative Impact Award

SVCN awards the Collaborative Impact Award to **Destination: Home, Sacred Heart Community Service, and 68 partner nonprofits** for their partnership in creating the COVID-19 Financial Assistance Program. This award was initiated to recognize impactful collaboration or partnership that inspired action, especially among nonprofits and other partners who worked together to address this year's especially challenging circumstances.

To respond to the dire need to make flexible cash assistance accessible to the most disadvantaged individuals and families in our communities, Destination: Home and Sacred Heart Community Service jointly supported the mobilization of 68 nonprofit organizations to distribute more than \$20 million to 12,000 households in need in a matter of months. "It was extraordinary to see so many grassroots nonprofits working in sync to address a massive community in need. We need more leadership of this quality and we should recognize and reward it," said Janette Stokley, Executive Director of Housing Choices.