



Blue Ribbon
Month 2021



BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE MEETING

Agenda

Thursday, March 4, 2021 - 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

via ZOOM - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9980668900>

I. Welcome

A. Opening

II. Old Business

A. Shining Light On Children Award – Review Nominations, Cast Votes

B. BR Kickoff Ceremony

1. Virtual Event
2. Attendance Goal
3. Invitation
4. Committee Roles

C. City Outreach

III. New Business

A. Social Media Plan

1. CAPC/Committee Outreach

B. BR Events

1. Master Calendar

A. CAPC Hosted Events

B. Countywide Collaborative Events—BR Committee/Community Partners (Round Robin)

IV. Updates

A. Blue Ribbon Week - School Launch

B. Community Forum

C. Family Fun Day(s)

D. Other

V. Closing Remarks

VI. Public Comment

SPEAK UP...Save a Child!

Thank you for your time, input, and caring heart!

2021 SHINING LIGHT ON CHILDREN AWARD

Individual or group that advocates for children.

NOMINEES:

- A. **Patty Hatcher** – Health Curriculum Specialist/AIME Program Coordinator, Anaheim Union HS District (nominated by Joe Baldo, Higher Ground Youth & Families)
- B. **Bikers Against Child Abuse** (B.A.C.A.[®]- OC Chapter) (nominated by B.A.C.A.-OC Chapter President)
- C. **Anat Herzog** – Liaison for Academic Service Learning, Chapman University (nominated by Joe Baldo, Higher Ground Youth & Families)
- D. **Krystle Bevins** – School Volunteer/Advocate for Special Needs Students/Realtor (nominated by Alejandra Rivas, a Behavior Specialist)
- E. **The Priority Center Ragnar Relay Team** – Key Contact Marc Reich (nominated by Lisa Fujimoto, E.D. and CEO of The Priority Center)
- F. **Roe Osborne** – Elementary Principal, Bethel Baptist School
(nominated by Cathy Rodriguez-member who is a member of CAPC)
- G. **Lisa Carpenter**—Deputy Probation Officer/OC Probation Department
(nominated by Bernadette Fee, Deputy Probation Officer)

A. **Patty Hatcher** – Health Curriculum Specialist/AIME Program Coordinator,
Anaheim Union HS District (*nominated by Joe Baldo, Higher Ground Youth & Families*)

There are stand out **teachers** everywhere, but **Patty Hatcher is exceptional**. Her passion for helping students began early and means she **goes above and beyond every day** – her classroom was the one where **students went before and after school because they knew support was there**, or at lunch time when they didn't have a safe place to be or didn't have food.

Patty was an **advisor for clubs, committees and organizations on campus** that are too numerous to count. **She worked hard to fill in the gaps so kids didn't fall through the cracks or get lost**. She focused on **helping students thrive academically and emotionally** and focused on their mental health before it was a well-known issue.

I know Patty has had a huge impact because of the many students who return to campus to seek her out to say thank you or invite her to their weddings years later. **One such student told her recently that if it were not for her, he would have committed suicide** his senior year. She has saved many lives.

She sees a need and creates incredible solutions. When Patty spoke to a student to tell her she was not allowed to wear slippers to school for safety reasons, the student told her she did not have shoes. Patty did not just buy her shoes, she called Sketchers to get shoes donated. Then **she created a 'Clothes Closet' at Kennedy HS for students and families who needed clothing, shoes, etc.** She **sought out dress donations at prom** time to find a way for students to attend, who could not afford a dress.

At Christmas time, her **personal Christmas party became a fundraiser for students**. She identified those most in need and asked them to make a list of things their family needed. Instead of friends bringing gifts, food, and drinks to her party, she asked them to bring gifts, money, or gift cards for Kennedy students. **She would purchase cleats and sports equipment so these youth could play sports or tickets so they could attend a dance or game.**

In her **current role as Health Curriculum Specialist**, she is constantly **identifying staff opportunities for social-emotional learning workshops**, encouraging them to get to know their students by name, need, and story and always **sending them updated lists of community organizations that can assist families and students** with these needs. As the **AIME (Anaheim's Innovative Mentoring Experience) Program Coordinator**, she **works 24/7, seeking opportunities for students to mentor, intern, or experience anything that will help them prepare for college, career, and life.**

In 2019, Patty worked with Higher Ground to **create a pilot program for our human trafficking prevention program**. She spent months writing curriculum, helping us get approval from the AUHSD to allow us to present in her schools, identifying teachers who would embrace and allow the program into their classrooms.

Often on her own time, Patty helped us launch this important human trafficking program and continues to help us audit, refine and grow the curriculum. **This program would not exist right now without Patty Hatcher.**

She doesn't think what she does is special, these are simply things that Patty does every day, it's embedded in her DNA to help others. **She is passionate about making children feel safe** in their schools and creating a supportive, encouraging environment. We believe Patty Hatcher to be very deserving of the Shining Light On Children Award.

B. Bikers Against Child Abuse (B.A.C.A.® - OC Chapter)

(nominated by B.A.C.A.-OC Chapter President)

Bikers Against Child Abuse (B.A.C.A.®) exists with the intent to create a safer environment for abused children. We exist as a body of bikers to **empower children to not feel afraid** of the world in which they live. We **stand ready to lend support to our wounded** by involving them with an established, united organization. We **work in Conjunction with state and local officials** who are already **in place to protect children**. We desire to send a clear message to all involved with the abused child that this child is part of our organization and that **we are prepared to lend our physical and emotional support** to them by affiliation and our physical presence. We stand ready to shield these children from further abuse. We **do not condone the use of violence or physical force in any manner**, however, if circumstances arise such that we are the only obstacle preventing a child from further abuse, **we stand ready to be that obstacle.**

There are **no paid positions within B.A.C.A.®**. Members volunteer their time and resource's **24 hours a day 7 days a week as the children need us.** Services are **all free of charge.** We will be **there for** things such as **court, school, nightmares, whenever the child feels afraid or is at risk.** As we **remove the fear within these children, they are 4X more likely to testify in court** and we get more conviction's thus taking these abusers off the street and preventing additional abuse. Additionally, children who suffer the effects of abuse that go addressed often go on to repeat the abuse in their adult lives. **B.A.C.A children regain their lives, self-confidence and go on to become productive members of society and we break those cycles of abuse.**

C. **Anat Herzog** – Liaison for Academic Service Learning, Chapman University
(nominated by Joe Baldo, Higher Ground Youth & Families)

Anat is a true connector who brings people and groups together, for the greater good. She has **genuine love and concern for others, especially the most vulnerable populations** and through support and advocacy, and long term thinking, she creates pathways toward partnership and collaboration that are of immense benefit to all involved. She is **thoughtful and brilliant when pairing deserving youth with organizations/groups/communities/** that can help them achieve their goals, sometimes in ways they could have never imagined themselves. This is her gift.

She is a **teacher educator**. At Chapman, she **began supervising student teachers in the Master's in education Teacher Ed program**, working with them to build the professional skillset and dispositions needed **to be social justice educators**. Grounded in radical love, her pedagogy centers students, their lived experiences and identities, and **builds upon their hopes and aspirations**. Anat knows how important education is and how that contributes to healthy communities for the wellbeing of youth.

Anat's current role at Chapman University, as Liaison for Academic Service Learning, focuses on building relationships between local community partners and Chapman University's community of scholars and students. This work includes connections to local non-profits that work with youth as well as a **focus on building meaningful educational pathways for local youth to attend Higher Education institutions**. Each relationship has a different flavor, but they all focus on serving youth.

As the **founding organizer of Advocate for the Ethnic Studies Summit** at Chapman University, Anat worked with local teachers to **understand and implement ethnic studies in classrooms and to uplift the work of local youth** and their Youth Participatory Action Research work. Ethnic Studies curriculum has been shown to improve student retention, academic achievement, and graduation rates of our most marginalized student populations. It also increases student self-confidence and efficacy. This year will be the 5th year where this summit will highlight local youth projects, art, and perspectives. Each week through Los Amigos, she is **working to leverage resources for individuals, families, communities, and municipalities**. Right now, Anat and a few others are **working to push the City of Orange to adopt a No Child Marriage Resolution and support the movement to end child marriage in CA, and nationally**.

Anat **began her career** in education and worked as a **HS science and ASB teacher in south LA**, working with youth from some of the most underserved and impoverished communities. It was important to her that science work and student government work was relevant to the lived experiences of her students and their families, and she helped students not only become knowledgeable, but also **engaged in their community through science**.

For example, **after hurricane Katrina, she and her students worked as a community to understand and prepare for potential disaster** which they determined would most likely be earthquake and fire in LA. This work revealed that part of their city did not have an emergency plan for fire/police/medical aid services. After students shared their concerns with local government officials, they were granted funds to support the development of an emergency plan. **Anat supported, encouraged then watched her students grow in their efficacy and capacity to advocate for social justice, and change public policy**. We believe Anat to be a great nominee for the Shining Light On Children Award.

D. **Krystle Bevins** – School Volunteer/Advocate for Special Needs Students/Realtor *(nominated by Alejandra Rivas, a Behavior Specialist)*

Krystle Bevins has shown throughout the **year her dedication, time, and energy to assure how important a child's education is.** She is a mom of two, a wife, and works in real estate and Disneyland. **Through Real Estate she continues to engage with offering and organizing community events.** Donating **her time to food drives for the homeless,** seminars for Homeowners on new information about new laws and ordinances that affect them. Bringing the holiday spirit to our community this year in this awful pandemic we are going through, **she helped spread the holiday cheer by having a Drive-thru Lighting Contest** practicing all social distancing regulations and guidelines.

Being a **mom of an autistic child,** she has been determined to **support the special education department and support children with disabilities. Balancing two jobs and the job of being a mother she has set aside her time to take opportunities to be involved by volunteering and participating in fundraisers.** Throughout her commitment, she would take matters into her own hands and **contribute through school board meetings** and express the change that needs to be done within the school system and community to **ensure children with autism get the same opportunities as other children and set them up for success.** Krystle's approach towards children with autism has shown the community how much **one person can make a difference.** By showing passion and dedication she is a prime example of how much she has contributed throughout her community, her family, and the lives of many children.

E. **The Priority Center Ragnar Relay Team – Key Contact Marc Reich**
(nominated by Lisa Fujimoto, E.D. and CEO of The Priority Center)

Under the leadership of Sue Crockett and Marc Reich, The **Priority Center Ragnar Relay team** has **worked tirelessly for the last nine years** to ensure our organization **receives generous funding to support our programs and services for at-risk children and adults in the areas of child abuse prevention and intervention, mental health and crisis, basic needs, and early childhood development.**

Nine years ago, a group consisting of board members and the executive director formed The Priority Center's first Relay Team, entering the 2.5-day Ragnar Road So Cal event (an annual 200-mile team relay race) to raise critical funds for The Priority Center. The Relay Team's annual commitment to The Priority Center is still going strong, and **they have collectively introduced over 200 runners to our organization and raised over \$250,000** to fund needed services for at-risk families and child abuse victims.

The Relay Team recruits avid runners to join the race and solicits family and friends for financial support, year after year. Team leaders Marc and Sue also plan **and organize the logistics for the team**, including booking the hotels and transportation and managing the team's micro-fundraising page. Over the years, the success of the **annual fundraiser has been a vital source of funding for The Priority Center.** Even with the **cancellation of this year's event due to the COVID-19 pandemic**, the **team has continued their fundraising** efforts and donated a significant sum to The Priority Center, which has enabled us to continue providing support and resources to vulnerable children during this difficult time when such services are needed more than ever.

F. **Roe Osborne** – Elementary Principal, Bethel Baptist School

(nominated by Cathy Rodriguez, OC Exchange Club and member of CAPC)

Roe began her devotion to children **early in 1976** when she enrolled her son at Bethel Baptist School. **Roe** jumped right in and **began volunteering**. By 1981 Roe had two daughters and a son and was now asked to help in the kitchen providing lunches for the students. This temporary assignment lasted **for two years**. **Roe cooked over 100 lunches on pizza day because she made them all from scratch**. She cooked, served, and washed and cleaned the pots and pans herself.

Roe said she **has always loved children**. In **1982** there was a need for **teachers in the 5-year-old kindergarten class** and this was Roe's opportunity to get into the classroom. Soon the administration began to realize Roe's commitment, educational awareness, and loving care of young children. From the very beginning of her service at Bethel, she exemplified everything that you would want in a teacher. Encouraged to go to school and get her degree for teaching, Roe did just that as an adult, while raising her family and working at Bethel. Roe completed her bachelor's degree. During **the next 23 years, Roe faithfully served as kindergarten teacher**, literally being responsible for the learning of hundreds of school children that had the privilege of being in her class. As an active mother of three, she constantly honed her teaching skills and went on to complete her Master's degree and continued to update her qualifications. In addition to her teaching responsibilities for many years **Roe ran a special reading program in the afternoons to help students overcome reading difficulties**.

In 2005, Roe assumed the informal position of supervisor of the entire elementary school, and in **2008 she assumed the duties of Elementary Principal of Bethel Baptist School**. This position was further expanded in 2018 to include the 7-8th grade middle school. During her long and continued service to Bethel, she has **continued to** begin each of her days with **teaching core academic subjects to a kindergarten class along with her additional administrative duties**. She also takes **time to serve students with individual challenges** and students who need reading help. Roe shared that students she taught many years ago come back to visit her. She also said she never cared about what her title would be. In fact, she prefers to stay in the background and not be the center of attention. **She's very thankful that she gets to love children year after year**.

Recently, due to the closing of schools in Orange County, **she spearheaded the elementary staff to prepare and apply for a waiver** issued by the Orange County Health Department, **allowing some schools the ability to hold in-person, modified classes**. Roe initiated the entire process of acquiring this legal waiver that would enable Bethel Baptist School to reopen safely with face-to-face learning. Through her leadership and staff example, she led a group of elementary teachers to successfully transition from face-to-face instruction to online instruction while applying and meeting the stringent compliance of the Health Department so the school could transition back to face-to-face learning when allowable.

*In closing, I want to share a special story. There is a beautiful 5-year-old little girl who refused to **speak to anyone while outside her home, even her friends**. Mom and dad were very worried. They sought professional advice and tried to find out what was going on. **This little girl came to her kindergarten class and met Roe Osborne. After just a few weeks of encouragement, this little girl is now speaking up and slowly getting better and better. This is the magic and love Roe Osborne gives to children. Roe makes children feel safe and happy.***

G. **Lisa Carpenter** – Deputy Probation Office, OC Probation Department
(nominated by Bernadette Fee, Deputy Probation officer)

I am honored to nominate **Deputy Probation Officer (DPO) Lisa Carpenter** for the Shining Light Award. Orange County Probation Department DPO Lisa Carpenter **supervises youth identified as Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) as well as youth identified as high risk for CSEC.** DPO Carpenter is the Orange County Probation Department's **authority on CSEC cases.** In fact, DPO Carpenter **serves on numerous committees associated with CSEC** throughout Orange County. As part of her normal caseload duties, DPO Carpenter **assists the department's juvenile facility administrators and line staff in the assessment, care and treatment of exploitation victims.** She **represents probation** in the collaborative court known as **Generating Resources to Abolish Child Exploitation (GRACE) Court.** This specific specialty court was established to serve CSEC victims.

Recognizing key indicators of human trafficking is the first step in identifying victims and can help save a life. **DPO Carpenter works tirelessly to help the children that are being abused and has positively impacted countless lives of CSEC youth.** She supports these vulnerable children and their families by **providing resources and/or referrals to services that can immediately assist with getting children out of dangerous situations.** In addition, DPO Carpenter **routinely checks in with her youth and their family to ensure the possibility of further abuse and danger is mitigated.**

DPO Carpenter **goes above and beyond to ensure the safety and well-being of children that have been exploited, or at high risk of being exploited.** She **serves as the first line of communication for these youth,** as well as their **ally as these vulnerable youth navigate through the juvenile justice system.** As indicated above, **she immediately jumps into action** when a suspected CSEC case comes to the attention of the department. She assesses the needs of the child and determines the best way of reducing further danger, so that these once exploited youth can look forward to a brighter future.

DPO Carpenter's commitment to her craft as well as the care of her youth is not only exemplary, it is fitting that she is recognized as the Shining Light Award recipient.