

SVCN Nonprofit Impact Awards 2026

If you missed Be Our Guest 2026, we would love to tell you more about our Nonprofit Impact Award recipients. Congratulations to the recipients and thank you to the nominators!

The **Patricia A. Gardner Changemaker Award** will be presented to **Lee Pfab**, CEO of Palo Alto Community Child Care (PACCC).

Lee has been a consistent advocate for nonprofits in Palo Alto, convening organizations and strengthening the sector. Her commitment to families shows in partnerships such as her work with the Center for Children and Youth on parent education, and in ensuring PACCC could offer grocery gift cards to families during the SNAP funding lapse.

The **Lifetime Achievement Award** recognizes two extraordinary leaders — **Rhonda Berry**, former President and CEO of Our City Forest, and **Eva Terrazas**, Chief Public Policy and Advocacy Officer at Pacific Clinics — whose decades of leadership have shaped Santa Clara County's nonprofit landscape and improved countless lives.

Rhonda has guided Our City Forest into Silicon Valley's leading urban forestry nonprofit, which has planted more than 75,000 trees across San José with a 93% survival rate since 1994. Her support has also reached other community

organizations, including Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action. In 2021, Senator Dave Cortese named her Senate District 15's Woman of the Year.

Eva leads Pacific Clinics' public policy and advocacy agenda at the local, state and national levels. Before joining its predecessor, Uplift Family Services, in 2011, she was staff to then-San José Mayor Susan Hammer and a senior executive at San José's Redevelopment Agency. She co-founded MACLA, a contemporary arts space supporting emerging Latinx and BIPOC artists. Eva's career has centered on community-focused policy work, particularly ensuring young people can reach high-quality behavioral health services.

Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action will be presented **Nonprofit of the Year Award** for its remarkable growth in youth climate advocacy.

Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action gives young people real ownership over policy campaigns. In 2026, its students helped launch Santa Clara County's first high school Youth Transit Pass Pilot Program, played a key role in passing Measure D for wildfire and open-space protection, helped secure a unanimous county vote to limit fossil-fuel investments, and co-sponsored SB 1048, Senator Josh Becker's State Seal of Climate Literacy legislation. The organization also continued running leadership academies, internships and community events reaching students across the Bay Area. State Senator Dave Cortese named Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action Senate District 15's 2026 California Nonprofit of the Year.

Loaves & Fishes Family Kitchen and Hunger at Home, will be honored with the **Collaborative Impact Award** for food recovery work that often goes unheralded.

Their new joint venture pairs each organization's strengths. Hunger at Home, led by CEO Ewell Sterner, sources and delivers rescued food, focused on lean proteins. Loaves & Fishes, led by CEO David Hott, handles distribution, outreach and nutrition programming. The partnership diverts edible food from landfills to feed community members with dignity and is expected to add roughly 2,000 meals a month while cutting Loaves & Fishes' food costs by about 20%, according to San José Spotlight and Local News Matters.

As government funding cuts continue, strategic partnerships that pool limited resources to solve community problems are only becoming more important.

The **Emerging Nonprofit Leader Award** celebrates rising changemakers shaping the future of the sector.

The year's honoree is **Kimberly Woo** of Services, Immigrant Rights and Education Network (SIREN). Since joining SIREN as a Community Organizer, Kimberly has become a respected, active member of the REAL Coalition. When FLOCK and other automated license plate readers (ALPRs) began targeting immigrant communities, she organized across Santa Clara County, first winning a policy change at the county level, then leading city-by-city campaigns to end ALPR contracts. That work has grown into a county-wide coalition, Safety Over Surveillance. She has carried this effort with grit, determination and hope, and is an active member of the Immigrant Protection and Empowerment Network (IPEN).

Finally, the **Nonprofit Ally Award** will be presented to **Zulma Maciel**, inaugural Director of the City of San José's Office of Racial and Social Equity, who retired in 2026.

Zulma is a longstanding ally in advancing racial equity in San José. Over a 30-year public service career spanning policy development, local government leadership and grantmaking, she has been defined by community partnership and advocacy for belonging and opportunity for all residents. In 2015 she founded and led the City's Office of Immigrant Affairs, where she developed the Welcoming San José Plan. That groundwork helped San José earn a 4-star Certified Welcoming City designation from Welcoming America, one of only a handful of cities nationally to reach that level. A member of the Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE), she worked with local government leaders nationally to help cities prioritize racial equity, and she was a driving force behind creating the Office of Racial and Social Equity.

About SVCN

The Silicon Valley Council of Nonprofits advances the role, voice, and capacity of the nonprofit community in Santa Clara County so it can be a force for positive social change and support the creation of equitable, vibrant, and thriving communities. SVCN is committed to being a change agent and a model of possibility by centering racial justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion in all its work. One of our strategic commitments is to support the nonprofit ecosystem by being a trusted source and hub of information, resources, and connection for nonprofits across Silicon Valley, that facilitates nonprofit collaboration and collective impact. We also leverage our power, positionality, and access, in order to partner with, amplify, and support community to influence decision-makers to change systems in ways that address the biggest challenges facing nonprofits and the communities they serve. SVCN's nonprofit membership is 170+ strong; we also offer Ally Membership to individuals, businesses, and foundations.
To learn more about SVCN please visit **www.svcn.org**.