

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA



*Commission
for Women*

2011 Service Award Recipients

1st District

Artisan Court

YMCA Youth and Family Services

YMCA Youth & Family Services (YFS) is an independent branch of The Channel Islands YMCA. YFS is comprised of three programs that are dedicated to bringing quality social services to pre-teens, teens, and young adults of Santa Barbara and its immediate surrounding areas. YFS includes the following programs: Noah's Anchorage Youth Crisis Shelter, Support & Outreach Services Program, and the Isla Vista Teen Center. Noah's Anchorage Youth Crisis Shelter is a licensed residential eight bed group home for 10-17 year-old youth and provides outreach to youth and young adults. They provide unique services and have been active in the Santa Barbara community for over 35 years as a trusted refuge and resource for youth and their families. Their services are available to the community 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. All services provided by Noah's Anchorage are offered at no cost to clients. YFS serves Transitional Age Youth (TAY) between the ages of 18-24 who are dealing with issues related to self-sufficiency, independence, and development of personal potential. These services are targeted to youth who are transitioning or have transitioned out of foster care, the juvenile justice system, or the Noah's Anchorage residential program, and will soon be offered at Artisan Court, the Housing Authority of the City of Santa Barbara's new Transitional Age Youth Housing program, called My Home. YFS will offer residents counseling, mentoring, and academic support in enrolling in SBCC or completing their GED, and will teach basic life skills such as grocery shopping, financial management, and job placement.

2nd District

Backyard Bounty

Foodbank of Santa Barbara

Backyard Bounty harvests under-utilized produce growing in Santa Barbara, Santa Maria and the Santa Ynez Valley area for distribution to area residents in need through the Foodbank of Santa Barbara County. The produce is used by over 250 nonprofit organizations such as Casa Esperanza, the Salvation Army, and Catholic Charities. Since the fall of 2007, Backyard Bounty has collected almost 350,000 pounds of fresh produce that would have otherwise gone to waste. The program provides services for those who pick their own produce or harvesting services for farmers and individual tree owners who need help with picking fruit from large trees. As a volunteer-based program, Backyard Bounty provides opportunities for individuals, school groups, clubs, organizations, and businesses to be of service to the community. This innovative program uses local resource and feeds and educates men, women, and children on the nutritional value of fresh produce. It also brings volunteers, farmers, and residents together to make the people of Santa Barbara healthier.

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA



*Commission
for Women*

2011 Service Award Recipients

3rd District

Family Law Facilitators, a program of Family Law Services of Santa Barbara and Santa Maria

Family Law Facilitators are attorneys who work for the Santa Barbara County Superior Court. They help individuals to better represent themselves in family law matters. This free assistance is of tremendous benefit for persons undergoing an extremely difficult or emotional phase of their lives. The offered services include starting and processing a divorce, legal separation, annulment, or paternity case. Facilitators can also help with child support, health insurance, and spousal support issues, as well as child custody and visitation issues. Their job is to help the self-represented person to understand the legal options he or she has and to help that person with his or her next step. Each year they have approximately 14,000 contacts for one-on-one service, workshop assistance, phone or mail assistance, providing information, and referral or courtroom assistance.

4th District

VTC Enterprises

In 1961 a group of Santa Maria Valley parents organized to obtain services for their adult children with developmental disabilities. In 1962 they began providing life skills training, first in a small house and later in a former utilities building in Santa Maria. With 1969 came the purchase of five acres on "A" Street in Santa Maria and a new name, North Santa Barbara County Rehabilitation Center. By 1980 services had evolved to embrace increased employment opportunities for people with disabilities and became known as a Vocational Training Center (VTC). In the 1990s they began offering employment services to people with mental illnesses and in the early 2000s to those who are deaf/hearing impaired or blind/visually impaired. By 2001, they were no longer a center-based organization, instead operating many "enterprising" community-based programs and business operations throughout the Central Coast. Thus, since most of the community knew them by the acronym "VTC" anyway, the corporate name was changed to VTC Enterprises.

5th District

The Family Care Network, Inc.

The Family Care Network is a 501(c)(3) private, nonprofit children and families services provider. Established in 1987 for the purpose of creating family-based treatment programs as an alternative to group home or institutional care for children and youth, the agency, accredited by the California Alliance of Child and Family Services, operates multiple programs designed to strengthen and preserve families and individuals. In the agency's 20+ year history, their programs have grown to serve over 1,800 children, youth, and families annually in San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara counties. Programs are delivered in partnership with public and private agencies and the community. The Family Care Network provides 17 distinct programs within five service divisions: Therapeutic Foster Care; Family Support Services; Transitional Housing Services; Prevention and Early Intervention Services; and Community-Linked Services. All agency programs are based on Best Practices, Wraparound Principles, and evidence-based or promising practices. The Family Care Network values integrity, accountability, program fidelity, and outcome-based services, and is accredited by the California Alliance of Child & Family Services.