

The Nominees

Ethel Mae Buchanon and Willie Buchanon

Ethel Buchanon moved to Oceanside in 1945 in pursuit of a better education than what she would likely received in the south where they were always "behind the curve" with their textbooks. In 1948 she married Mance Buchanon, Jr. and together in 1964 established the Shiloh Church of God in Christ in their home and then the congregation broke ground on Dubuque St. in October of 1964; having their first service there in May, 1965. Amongst her many community activities, she has served as a board member of the Ethel Buchanon Community Development Center, which educated families through tutoring, mediation, and mentoring. The Buchanon's had three sons and one daughter: Carl, who died in 1990, Willie, who is now a real estate broker, Timothy who worked for AT&T, and Mary Lou, who works in the health care industry.

Willie Buchanon, upon retiring from professional football has donated countless hours raising funds for those who are fragile and in need. Willie continues to encourage us to help others and to build a better world in which we live. Willie gave a presentation on Camp Pendleton to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the March on Washington and Dr. King's "I have a Dream speech". In 2012 he helped the Rotary Club raise money to help eradicate polio. In December he spoke at San Diego State

to recognize outstanding athletes. He has participated in fundraising for Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America, the Vince Lombardi Cancer Foundation, he has served on the Pro Kids Oceanside Capital Campaign with a goal of \$4 million to construct and operate the Children's Golf and Life Skills learning facility, the Ely Callaway Golf & Learning Center for 5 years. He participated in the Andre Reed's golf tournament to help underprivileged children reach their full potential, as well as FORE! The Kids Charity Golf Tournament in Wisconsin. He has also raised money through the Mira Costa College Athletic Dept. Golf Tournament for the Willie Buchanon Youth Foundation to benefit local athletic programs and Mira Costa College Athletics. He supports the Wounded Marine Fund and participated in The Entertainer Celebrity Golf Classic to raise money for various organizations that provide support and services to aid youth and their families.

Both Ethel and Willie compare Dr. King as "our Nelson Mandela" in his courage and bravery. They like Dr. King, are people of peace who wants not recognition for their contributions, but want to enjoy the rewards of doing good for others.

Diane Strader

Although Diane has lived in Oceanside for less than six years, she immediately embraced volunteerism in multiple ways. Shortly after moving here, she joined the Eastside Neighborhood Association for which she currently serves as Vice President. Diane wrote all the officers position descriptions and assisted the President in obtaining funding for the newsletter. She participates in the organization of four major events held in Eastside and she established a Neighborhood Watch Program in the area of her home. She has engaged the Teen REACH program with the Eastside Neighborhood Association and

has volunteered monthly to teach arts and crafts to the REACH participants. In addition, Diane actively worked to have the Eastside "red lined" which resulted in it being a "no fly zone". Diane was instrumental in getting the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr Bridge dedicated. Diane works on several committees both in her neighborhood and her church where she has organized the adult library, mentors a college student, participates in fund raising and activities for a boys residential home and edits the Bible study lessons.

"Everybody can great, because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love."

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Raye Clendering

As an Educator and Civic Leader, Raye lives by these words of Dr. King "The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character-that is the goal of true education." Raye experienced community activism by the time she was in high school, and saw the power of this work in bringing together white and black clergy and lay people. She learned from Dr. King that all people have the ability to rise up regardless of where they started. It is this legacy that she took with her to college as she prepared to help transform the minds and conditions of young people as a teacher. In her professional career, Raye went above and beyond as she was recognized from several community organizations for her outstanding commitment to raise student performance and expectations from teachers and students. Raye used her role to influence and strengthen a human relations program at school where "diversity was the norm and understanding the goal". In 2002 Raye received state and regional recognition as Principal of the Year by the Association of California School Administrators and in that same year she was one of ten to receive the Women of Merit honor for her community service to North County. A need for mentor role models for women and teens, a group organized by Raye met to form the North County African American Women's Association (NCAAWA)

open to women of all races who desire to be mentors and role models. Raye has served as mentor to many women, adults in transition, young adults and those in need of career development. From 2008-2012, she served as President, always guiding newer members of the organization in the merits of community service. In addition to her service with NCAAWA, she partnered with Vista Community Clinic to identify health needs of all Oceanside women and teens. Over the period of 20 years, she served on various VCC committees and in executive officer positions. From 2010-2013 Raye served as President of the VCC Board of Directors where she was instrumental in the strategic planning that led to the expansion of the VCC Women's Clinic. From 2006 - present, Raye has been a guiding force with College Bound Oceanside, working with other colleagues to close the gap in academic achievement of high school students. Raye has served the community since 1994 through her partnerships with VCC, Boys and Girls Club, NCAAWA, Women's Resource Center, College Bound Oceanside and Gear Up. Raye met Dr. King and remembers his words and his legacy: once you see a need for change, work to make a difference, and once you see that you can make a slight difference, you work to make a larger difference.

Chris Gow

Chris volunteers for some of Oceanside's, if not all of Oceanside's major events! Upon moving to Oceanside in 1997, she immediately began her volunteer career with Harbor Days. Her leadership in managing the crew for 12 years earned her a 2006 nomination for the "Long Time Volunteers" Award. Chris weekly volunteers with Mainstreet Oceanside that transformed the face of Oceanside into a more vibrant coastal community. She has volunteered for years at the Fourth of July Freedom Parade and secured funding for 3,200 American flags needed for that day. She worked with Mainstreet for Dia De los Muertos and has served for six years as the Street Marshall for the Sunset Market. Chris joined the board of Friends of Oceanside Parks and Recreation and immediately jumped in to assist with fundraising

events, concerts in the park, and Heritage Days. On Thanksgiving you will find Chris volunteering at the Turkey Trot. For the past ten years, Chris has served in a leadership capacity including as President of the Oceanside Mobile Home Alliance. Last, but not least, she has also dedicated much of her time to the North County LGBTQ Resource Center literally remodeling the facility, while supporting a safe space for LGBT youth and elderly. For the past 6 years, she has volunteered at Pride @ The Beach event where she supervises the vendors. Chris always tries to focus on the positive aspects of each person in the community. Even when engaging in controversial topics and conversations, her attitude is always positive and focused on the work that needs to be done and on unity with others.