

52nd Awards Gala – Winners Bio's

Bronze Business of the Year: Temecula Valley Custom Pools, Inc.

Award-winning pool designer David Thompson, Founder of Temecula Valley Custom Pools, Inc., has been working in the Temecula Valley since 1987. David is an active member of the community, serving in the Temecula Noon Rotary Club (Past President), the Boys and Girls Club (Former Board of Directors), Komen Race for the Cure, Michelle's Place, S.A.F.E., Race4Humanity (Former Board Member), Temecula Valley Balloon and Wine Festival and is a veteran of the United States Army's 1st Cavalry.

Sterling Business of the Year: E.A.T. Extraordinary Artisan Table

The roots of the E.A.T story are entrenched in childhood memories of gathering around the table, connecting and sharing over good food. Owned and operated by sisters, Leah and Joanne Di Bernardo, E.A.T believes in good food that nurtures the body and mind and eases the anxiety of 'not knowing what is in your food'. Organic ingredients are sourced and foraged locally, adhering to the tenet that real, clean food is necessary for the body to be powerful. Employing 49 local hospitality professionals, E.A.T serves almost 100,000 guests annually and drives well over \$3 million into the local economy. E.A.T and Chef Leah Di Bernardo have been featured in over 100 national publications including Sunset Magazine, Wine Advocate, Huffington Post and the New York Times bringing an international spotlight on Temecula, Old Town and Wine Country. E.A.T remains a trendsetter and leader in the food industry, with many opportunities to take over the "Good Food"- fast casual industry. The entire team cares deeply about health, wellness and our environment. Being good stewards of the land is not just a fad, but also a way we operate our business from donuts to coffee to the bottom line! We value our community, staff, vendors, farmers and the right to VOTE with our fork, having the opportunity to make powerful buying decisions- by supporting the families and small batch producers that we do!

Gold Business of the Year: Stryder Transportation

Stryder is Temecula Valley's most comprehensive chartered transportation service, with the largest partnered fleet, the strongest logistics support team, and the deepest Temecula roots. Stryder caters to leisure bookings, group transportation and corporate accounts. Whether you need a chauffeured sedan for a trip to the airport, a limousine piloted by a wine country insider, or several days of expertly coordinated group transportation via a fleet of buses, Stryder provides a level of service unmatched in the region.

Platinum Business of the Year: Temecula Valley Toyota

Tom Rudnai and the Oremor Automotive group purchased Temecula Valley Toyota (TV Toyota) in July, 2014. After increasing the ad budget to over 300% TV Toyota quickly became the fastest growing Toyota Dealership in the entire country. It was important to TV Toyota to use local companies and focus their growth on Temecula and surrounding communities. TV Toyota is all about exceeding expectations both internally and with their guest experiences while still supporting the organizations that benefit our community. Teamwork is a huge part of the DNA and each Team Member proudly wears their company sponsored attire that reads TEAM (Together Everyone Achieves More) . The dealership embraces the opportunity to support various charitable activities that employees are involved in. Temecula has Heart and so does TV Toyota!

Ruby Service Charitable Organization of the Year: Hole Hearted Foundation

Hole Hearted's vision is to provide education and access to integrative treatment options for children facing the challenges of degenerative diseases. Hole Hearted focuses on enriching the quality of life for children ages 0-18 who have been born with a degenerative disease and/or disability. Hole Hearted will

assist the parent and child by providing a list of local and approved alternative health professional(s) and will cover the cost of the visit. Our goal is to enrich the quality of life for these children through natural medicine and the vast alternative and integrative treatments available today. Hole Hearted cares about the WHOLE person and helping to mend the HOLES we are all born with through alternative and integrative treatment.

Emerald Service Charitable Organization of the Year: Boys & Girls Clubs of Southwest County

The Boys & Girls Club of Southwest County has been in the Temecula Valley since 1990, and currently serves over 1,200 local youth and their families across the Southwest Riverside region at its three site locations in Temecula, Murrieta, and Lake Elsinore. The mission of the Boys & Girls Club of Southwest County is to inspire and enable all young people to reach their full potential as educated, productive, responsible, and caring citizens through impactful before and after school programs delivered by caring youth development professionals.

Valley Young Professional of the Year: Ashlee Collins, Michelle's Place Breast Cancer Resource Center

Ashlee Collins is the communications director for Michelle's Place, a full-service breast cancer resource center in Temecula. Ashlee handles the internal and external communication for the organization, including strategic communication planning, public relations, marketing, and social media. She received her bachelor of arts in communication and public relations from Boise State University. She is a member of Public Relations Society of America (PRSA), Temecula Chamber Valley Young Professionals, Women's Peer Connection, and Temecula Valley New Generations Rotary Club. Ashlee serves as the events chair for the Valley Young Professionals and sits on the board of New Generations Rotary Club as the public relations chair. Ashlee and her husband, Jared, a fire apparatus engineer for CAL FIRE, live in Murrieta with their two young sons.

Citizen of the Year: Kimberly Adams, Visit Temecula Valley

Kimberly Adams was hired in 2004 as the first paid leader to begin venturing into the world of Tourism in the Temecula Valley. Within six months, Adams spun off and formed Visit Temecula Valley. In 2005, Adams' started the first Tourism Advisory Board to assist in leading this tourism effort. Her passion for promoting Temecula and the "vision" of our future is what keeps driving Kimberly and it is as obvious today as it was over 13 years ago. She hasn't stopped working toward the successful promotion of the Temecula Valley and has concurrently taken on many related and important projects and goals such as the I-15 beautification project and Temecula Valley Wine Country planning. One of her first priorities was initiating and developing a Tourism Improvement District to generate sustainable funding for Tourism Promotion. Adams also recognized a serious need to address the destination's identity. Thereby, 2008 saw the launch of a comprehensive branding initiative. That effort has effectively positioned the destination as "Temecula Valley Southern California Wine Country." Meanwhile, local, direct Temecula Valley travel-and-tourism spending quadrupled between the years 2000 and 2016, and Kimberly has managed to capture and retain the hardest working and best board in the region made up of 21 local, Temecula Valley business leaders and employs fourteen talented and knowledgeable Staff. An advocate for the naturally self-reliant tourism industry, Adams' given talents, and acquired skills revolve around genuine quality and real guest service. When asked, her advice on Branding, she said it is to know and believe in your authentic greatness, identify your trusted assets and honest attributes, and market those. It has worked for Temecula Valley. She also encourages the development of an innate diplomacy that fosters relationships and motivates people to work together.

Lifetime Achievement Award: Dan Stephenson

At 25 years of age, Dan was ambitious and excited to excel and succeed in business. And so it was, in 1968, when he roamed the open territory of the Temecula Valley that he found a dream that could encompass a lifetime. In 1971, Dan formed Rancho Consultants, a real-estate brokerage and land development company, which later shortened its name to Rancon. He then proceeded to move his family, lock, stock and barrel to this pristine, rustic, location where he was going to make his mark. But now, with a family, making your mark meant not only business opportunities but providing a quality of life for his family and all the families he envisioned wanting to settle in the Temecula Valley. Family is at the core of his motivation. The agents and staff at Rancon Real Estate, the management team and staff at the Rancon Group, Chardonnay Escrow, Ranch Self-Storage, as well as all the villagers at Dan's exciting new Temecula Valley winery project - Europa Village, are also his family. It is important to him that his family is able to thrive in a community rich in a high degree of quality of life. With Dan Stephenson at the helm, the Rancon Group of companies built the first master-planned community, Alta Murrieta, in Southwest Riverside County. During more than four decades of "doing the same thing in the same place" Stephenson has amassed a reputation for spearheading high-quality projects and maximizing his investors' returns. Today, both Rancon Real Estate and the Rancon Group are staffed with the most qualified real estate professionals in the market area.

Ambassador of the Year: Michael Crawford, Golden Eagle Properties

For over 10 years, Michael Crawford with Golden Eagle Properties has demonstrated to be a pillar of support of the Temecula Chamber Ambassador program. He shows a strong commitment to attend ribbon cuttings, luncheons and committee meetings. Throughout 2017, Michael was one of the most active ambassadors and attended over 50 events including networking mixers and ribbon cuttings. He goes above and beyond to welcome new members to the Chamber.

Chairman's Choice: Kim Kelliher, Grapeline Wine Tours & Stryder Transportation

A 20-year resident of Temecula and the city's 2009 Citizen of the Year, Kim Kelliher is the co-owner and President of The Grapeline - a wine tour company that opened its shuttle doors in the Temecula Valley in 2002. The company has since opened Grapeline branches in Paso Robles and Santa Barbara wine country, as well as launched a sister company in Temecula, Stryder Transportation, that focuses on corporate, wedding and group transport. Kelliher, while serving as General Manager of The Grapeline, has enjoyed being involved in the community by donating transportation services and wine tours for countless charitable events. In 2006, she joined the Rotary Club of Temecula and renewed the group's involvement in an International student exchange program. Rookie Rotarian of the Year for 2006-07 and recipient of the Service Above Self Award in 2009-10, Kelliher previously served as Vice President of the Temecula Noon Rotary and was president of the club for the 2013-14 year. She loves being involved in Rotary, the Chamber, and the City of Temecula because she says Temecula is a town you can truly be proud of and just want to be a part of. She would like to continue to serve on the TVCC Board as a way to continue to help shape the future of this community.