



## Fresno West Coalition for Economic Development Previous Risk Taker Dream Maker Honorees

### *2010 Fresno County Business*

#### Food Maxx

- The first store opened in Fresno in 1989 - a no-frills warehouse type store that focuses on price.
- FoodMaxx stores are very involved in community affairs such as the Hmong Festival, the West Fresno Parade, and the Big Fresno Fair
- FoodMaxx donates baked goods every day to the local homeless shelters.
- FoodMaxx offers free school tours.
- FoodMaxx also gives back to the community through Save Mart's SHARES program.

### *2010 Fresno Community Leader*

#### **Roger Palomino**

#### **Former Executive Director of the Fresno County Economic Opportunities Commission**

- Roger Palomino was born and raised in Fresno
- He has dedicated many years of service to working for underserved communities.
- For 30 Years of his career Roger worked in the Justice System with the Fresno County Probation Department.
- Roger served for 15 years with the Fresno County Economic Opportunities Commission as its Executive Director.
- As executive director he was dedicated to people helping people in the low-income, minority and refugee communities.
- His commitment to EOC has built a strong foundation of services that offer support to people in all phases of life.

### *2010 Non-Profit Organization*

#### **The Evangel Home**

The Evangel Home's mission is:

- To serve women and children in crisis
- To meet their basic physical needs
- To promote personal development and responsibility
- To encourage spiritual growth
- To uphold and honor Jesus Christ in all we do
- Evangel Home is a 501(c) (3), nonprofit organization.
- Its ministry is supported only through the generous gifts of individuals, businesses, churches, and other organizations. They do not receive any funds from government agencies.
- They are members of both United Way and Association of Gospel Rescue Missions.

### *2010 West Fresno Business*

#### **Louie Kee Market Inc.**

- Louie Kee Market has been on the West Side of Fresno since 1923.
- It is a family-owned business with almost 90 years of history in West Fresno
- Louie Kee has been a donor and solid supporter of Edison High School.
- Currently, a new mural is going up on the wall of Louie Kee Market. The Know Youth Media has brought its young artists together with [The Muralistics](#) and [Youth For Christ](#) to create a mural for the community.
- Louie Kee works hard to inspire young artists in West Fresno by allowing them to work on the mural that is on one of the walls of the Louie Kee Market.

### *2010 West Fresno Community Leader*

#### **Clara Burns Smith**

- Clara was born in Waco, TX She moved to San Francisco where she graduated from Cooks and Bakers School. She then moved to Fresno, CA and is happily married to Mr. Ross Smith
- She has served on the Southwest Advisory Committee for West Fresno for 25 years, starting with Les Kimber, then Robert Smith, Don Ronkio, and Cynthia Sterling.
- Clara currently serves on the Hinton Center Community Board.
- Clara has served for over eight years with Bringing broken Neighborhoods Back To Life, helping Church groups and faith-based groups conduct block parties and give out clothing and food to the needy.
- Clara is a Deaconess at Second Baptist Church and works on the membership and worship committees.
- She is a charter member of the Unlimited Lions Club of Fresno, where she helps collect eye glasses for needy people.
- She is Past President of Ponderosa Chapter American Business Women's Club, earning several awards.
- She was distinguished President in 1994-1995 with Fresno Inc. Optimist Club of Fresno. She built a new club that year and earned the "Builder of the Millennium" award and "Builder of Excellence" award. She was Honor Club President for Central Valley Optimist Club of Fresno in 2003-2004.
- She was District Chairman for the "Personal Growth and Evolvment", where she was one of four people in the nation to complete the program.
- She serves on the Advisory Committee for the Fresno-Madera Area Agency on Aging.
- Clara bought one of the model homes in the Zepher Homes Development when she moved to Fresno in 1960 and has lived there ever since.
- Clara is chair of Fresno Urban Neighborhood Development F.U.N.D., an organization that builds fences, paints houses, and replaces roofs etc. for low income people at a small cost for material. All labor is donated by other people who have had work done for them.

### *2010 Youth Leadership*

#### **Cody Manning**

- Cody Manning has successfully battled the adversity that has been prevalent throughout his life.
- Despite all the negativity and hardship, he exhibits qualities that defy the stereotypes of foster youth as well as young African American males.
- Among his many achievements are his involvement in a variety of clubs and organizations at Fresno High School.
- He is president of both the Associated Student Body and the Black Student Union.
- In regards to academics, he has taken a selective number of rigorous courses ranging from AP all the way to IB and has maintained a GPA of 4.015 throughout his high school years. Although he has confronted many hardships, he has not to let them interfere with or jeopardize his personal desire to be a better person.

### *2010 President's Award*

#### **James & Coke Hollowell**

- James and Coke Hollowell are two of the leading philanthropists in our region.
- James attended schools in Clovis and then earned his B.A. in Marketing and Distribution at California Sate University, Fresno.
- The Hollowells have dedicated years of service and financial support to many organizations for a better Fresno.
- Longstanding Supporters of non-profits, the Hollowell's have been giving money to non-profit organizations for over 40 years.
- Married for over 50 years, together they raised a family and built the Hollowell Chevrolet Company into one of the top ranked Chevrolet Dealerships for quality service. In April 2000, after 45 years, he sold the business to a long-time employee
- James currently serves on the board of directors for the Fresno Regional Foundation and the

Fresno Citizens for Good Government

- Some of the past Boards of Directors Mr. Hallowell has served on include: Fresno Business Council, Fresno Philharmonic, Fresno Foundation, Community Medical Center (Vice Chair), CSUF School of Business Advisory Board, Collaborative Regional Initiative (Chairman), Land Use and Transportation Planning Committee.
- He has been involved in various community service opportunities such as: The Fresno Art Museum (Emeritus and Past President), United Way of Fresno (Past President), Greater Fresno Area Chamber of Commerce, Clovis Chamber of Commerce, San Joaquin College of Law, Fresno Arts Council, East Fresno Rotary (Past President), Fresno Convention and Visitors Bureau, Valley Children's Hospital (now Children's Hospital of Central California), California State University (Fresno President's Advisory Board), Fresno Motor Car Dealer's Association and San Francisco Chevrolet Dealers' Association, Past President, Economic Development Corporation, California Automobile Dealers' Association.

*2009 President's Award*

**JULIA BALDERAS**

- Julia Balderas is a retired teacher with over 41 years of service. She taught for 25 years at Edison High School, 16 years at California State University, Fresno and as a Business instructor on nights and weekends at Fresno City College.
- Julia helped to change policy within the Madison Unified School District by advocating for minority-Spanish speaking parents.

*2009 Non-Profit Award*

**BRINGING BROKEN NEIGHBORHOODS BACK TO LIFE**

- Bringing Broken Neighborhoods Back to Life is a Police and Community collaborative and a model Police/Weed & Seed - Fresno West/FBO Community Partnership that combines the efforts of law enforcement and the faith based communities that improve the quality of life for all the citizens of the City of Fresno.
- They provide gang-, drug-, and alcohol-free activities for higher personal understanding, which allows for higher levels of self-esteem and yields greater personal responsibility.
- The Bringing Broken Neighborhoods Back to Life program is setting the stage for law enforcement of the future by having total community involvement.

*2009 Non-Profit Award*

**UNITED ONE PRODUCTIONS**

- United One Productions is a non-profit organization with a simple mission: To create Unity in the Community and to revitalize and restore 'broken' Neighborhoods and 'broken' souls by providing intervention, motivation, hope and opportunity for positive growth and direction, especially for the youth.
- One of their largest events has become one of Fresno's prominent charitable events; the Christian Music Awards, which combines established and well-respected Christian Artists with the 'Best of the Blessed' stars of the future.
- United One Productions through these efforts has donated hundreds of thousands of dollars to meet the most basic needs of our community.

*2009 Fresno County Business Award*

**AT&T**

- AT&T is a proud partner in the Fresno community, investing in the region by providing good jobs, tax dollars, and bringing the latest wireless and fiber optic technologies to local residents and businesses.
- AT&T supports organizations and programs that create learning and economic opportunities, especially for the underserved.
- AT&T has committed more than \$3.5 million in AT&T Aspire grants to 35 California educational organizations—including support for the Fresno Unified School District's high school retention program, which provides mentoring, college/career guidance, and academic support.
- Giving back to local communities is part of AT&T's ongoing commitment to philanthropy and service, and that includes the personal commitment of time and effort by AT&T employees and retirees through the company's volunteer network -- the AT&T Pioneers.

*2009 West Fresno Business Award*

## **COAST TO COAST PETROLEUM LLC, DBA CHEVRON**

- Upon graduating from high school, Sylvesta M. Hall, president of Coast to Coast Petroleum/Chevron, began to realize that Fresno did not offer much hope for African American's due to the exodus of resources to North Fresno.
- Sylvesta believes that ownership of property and business is the economic foundation of any people: and the ownership of property and business helps lead to better education, health care, and overall higher quality of life.

### *2009 Fresno County Community Leader Award*

#### **ALYSIA SOFIOS**

- Alysia Sofios is an award-winning journalist who is known in the Fresno area for her exclusive stories about the Marcus Wesson murders. She was the first reporter to hear about the story from police and the only reporter to obtain interviews with most of Wesson's family.
- Torn between journalistic objectivity and her desire to help the family, Sofios risked her job and her life by taking them into her home and helping integrate them into society.

### *2009 West Fresno Community Leader Award*

#### **DR PAUL LAWRENCE BINION II**

- Dr. Paul Lawrence Binion is Senior Pastor of the Westside Church of GOD in Fresno.
- Pastor Binion is a man who loves his GOD, his family, and his community.
- He is a Pastor to "Pastors," and is an advisor/confidante to numerous organizations, ministries, fellowships, individuals, and leadership in our city, and throughout the valley area.

### *2009 Youth Award*

#### **JUAN CARDONA**

- Juan Cardona was a freshman at Edison High School and active in sports, his church, and his community.
- He is the biggest advocate for the DREAM ACT, government legislation he hopes will help undocumented high school graduates attend college and attain legal citizenship.
- Juan hopes to obtain scholarships to pay for his M.D. education at Stanford after he graduates and to bring the DREAM ACT to fruition.

### *2008 Presidents Award*

#### **JESSIE D. ANDREWS**

- Jessie D. Andrews was a 17 year old senior attending Thomas Edison High School. Jessie is actively involved in The Know Youth Media, a youth organization designed to give young people a voice in their community through videos, creative writing and journalism.
- He has been the product of many leadership programs such as CATAPULT and has worked with Fresno West Coalition and the City of Fresno on the California Ave Project.

### *2008 Non-Profit Award*

#### **THE CALIFORNIA ENDOWMENT**

- The California Endowment was established in 1996 as a private, statewide health foundation by Blue Cross of California.
- The Endowment believes that health care is a basic human right, and strives to understand and work with California's diverse and underserved populations.
- The Endowment has had an unwavering focus on expanding access to affordable, quality health care for underserved individuals and communities.

### *2008 Fresno County Business Award*

#### **COMCAST**

- Comcast's California region serves more than 2.4 million customers with more than 7,000 employees from the local community.
- Comcast is committed to giving back to the communities it serves by spending more than a

million dollars each year in Central California on sponsorships, college scholarships, foundation grants and other forms of support that help keep our neighborhoods strong.

*2008 Southwest Fresno Business Award*

**LA'VERA ETHRIDGE-WILLIAMS**

- La'Vera Ethridge-Williams is a dedicated community leader and business woman who recognized the need for childcare in West Fresno for infant's age zero to two years.
- La'Vera's major source of success in the childcare field comes from the families she has served and the quality of care her centers have provided since 1968 and she continues to seek ways to improve her business and its operations.
- Mrs. Williams is openly enthusiastic about her business adventures and has made childcare her lifetime occupation.

*2008 Fresno County Community Leader Award*

**STEPHEN D. GEIL**

- Mr. Geil currently serves as the President/CEO of the Economic Development Corporation (EDC) that serves Fresno County.
- He also serves as the Chairman of the Board of, Geil Enterprises, Inc.
- Mr. Geil has served on the City and County of Fresno's Crime Prevention Task Force, has been the President of the Downtown Association of Fresno and on the Advisory Board for the Institute for Family Business at California State University, Fresno.

*2008 Southwest Fresno Community Leader Award*

**REV. FLOYD DOUGLAS HARRIS JR.**

- Rev. Floyd D. Harris Jr. is known to many in the Southwest Fresno area as a community and political civil rights activist.
- From Rev. Harris's experience with the City of Fresno concerning "Weed Abatement", he spearheaded a task force to revitalize the community he lives in by establishing the Walnut Garden Neighborhood Watch.
- Rev. Harris is dedicated to educating his people about standing boldly and knowing their rights.

*2007 Southwest Fresno Community Leader Award*

**MARY A. CURRY**

- Mrs. Curry has always focused on what unites parents - the provision of quality education and safe environment.
- Currently Mrs. Curry is chair of Concerned Citizens of West Fresno, a committed group of residents who are currently working with the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District, concerning the Darling International rendering plant and with landowners and the community at large that are affected.

*2007 Fresno County Community Leader Award*

**VURDELL NEWSOME**

- Vurdell Newsome is a retired educator for Fresno Unified School District.
- Mr. Newsome has contributed countless hours to shaping the future of Computech for all students.
- He has also served as Computech's first principal.

*2007 Southwest Fresno Business Award*

**THOMAS W. BEGGS**

- Mr. Beggs has worked in Fresno and the surrounding community for many years.
- He is currently the President of Central Cities Properties, Inc. (CCP) in Fresno.
- CCP develops neighborhood shopping centers and single tenant "building to suit" properties within California.
- Mr. Beggs was the developer of the Kearney Palms Shopping Center

*2007 Fresno County Business Award*

**VALLY SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

- (VSBDC) was started in 1981 as a non-profit Financial and Business Development corporation under contract with the State of California and other government agencies to administer small business loan programs.

- Headquartered in Fresno, VSBDC serves a nine-county (Fresno, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, Kern, Kings, Stanislaus, Tulare, and Tuolumne) investment area in California's Central San Joaquin Valley.
- Additionally, VSBDC was certified as a Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) in 2000.

*2007 Non-Profit Organization*

**JAMES H. FRANKLIN**

- In October of 1993 Pastor Jim Franklin, his wife and their three children moved to Fresno to accept the position as Senior Pastor at Cornerstone Church; under his leadership the church has seen phenomenal growth; within thirteen years it has become one of the largest churches in the Assemblies of God denomination, and in the city of Fresno.
- On March 11, 2005, Pastor Franklin was awarded the "Clergy of the Year" from the Fresno Chapter of the NAACP.
- Cornerstone Church, under the direction of Pastor Franklin, is leading the way to the revitalization of downtown Fresno, CA.

*2007 President's Award*

**KEN QUENZER**

- Ken has served on the Boys & Girls Clubs of Fresno County since 1982 and is currently the President / Chief Professional Officer.
- He served in the Pinedale Boys Club from 1968-1982 as Unit Director.

*2006 Southwest Fresno Community Leader Award*

**GEORGE A. FINLEY**

- Mr. Finley has been giving back to the community as a member of the Fresno Housing Authority Board of Directors, Limited Lions Club, Friends of Allensworth, Fresno EOC Executive Committee, Cecil Hinton Center Board member and various West Fresno community organizations
- Mr. Finley is also chair of the Edison II Merger /Southwest Fresno Planning Advisory Committee to Fresno Councilmember Sterling, Where he participated in the development of the City's 2025 General Plan.

*2006 Fresno County Community Leader Award*

**JOHN L. CARBRAY**

- In 1997, as president and founder of the Diamond Group, Carbray oversaw the purchase and relocation of the Tucson-based Grizzlies to Fresno
- 2002 marked the grand opening of Grizzlies stadium, and the beginning of a great year; the stadium was completely sold out on opening day and that year, averaged more than 8,000 people (ranked third among sixteen league teams in attendance).
- Mr. Carbray has served on the Board of Fresno County Boys and Girls Club for twelve years and is actively involved in the Fresno Rotary Club which culminated in 2006 as one of the key coordinators of the \$1 million revitalization of the West Fresno Boys & Girls Club.

*2006 Non-Profit Organization*

**FRESNO COUNTY EOC-LOCAL CONSERVATION CORP. (LCC)**

- EOC is widely recognized and is one of the largest nonprofit community action agencies in the United States
- The mission of the Fresno County Economic Opportunities Commission is "To humanely focus all available resources to empower low-income families and individuals working toward the skills, knowledge, and motivation for self-sufficiency." "Helping People, Changing Lives" is more than just a catchy phrase

*2006 Fresno County Business Award*

**FRESNO COUNTY FEDERAL CREDIT UNION**

- Six branches, ten ATMs, over one hundred fifty employees, and more than \$425,000,000 in assets, they have become one of the area's leading Credit Unions.
- FWCED and FCFCU officially announced their partnership through the West Fresno Association with the installation of FCFCU ATM at the Kearney Palms Shopping Center.
- The partnership has resulted in offering financial services to the residents of West Fresno who

previously never had access to a financial institution west of Freeway 99.

*2006 Southwest Fresno Business Award*

**COUNTRY WIDE BUILDING MATERIALS**

- The philosophy of never giving up and to think on a smaller scale has enabled Countrywide to give the residents of west Fresno an opportunity to shop for home improvement items within their own neighborhood for more than 28 years.
- Countrywide exemplifies success; not only through their own accomplishments but also through the benefit to the community they have provided west Fresno over the years.

*2006 President's Award*

**ASSEMBLY MEMBER JUAN ARAMBULA**

*2005 Individual, At-Large*

**HARLAN & SHIRLEY KELLY**

- While working at PG&E, Mr. Kelly was instrumental in the formation of the PG&E Black Employees Association.
- He and his wife have influenced the hiring of over fifty (50) individuals in key management and administrative positions in businesses and corporations in Fresno
- They were part of the organizational efforts to open the Kearney Palms Shopping Center where they are now owners of Kelly's Beauty Salon & Kelly's Designer Barber Shop
- As community leaders, both sit on the Southwest/Edison II Merger Planning Advisory Committee and have testified countless times before the Fresno Planning Commission and City & County Board of Supervisors on behalf of West Fresno residents.

*2005 Southwest Fresno Community Leader Award*

**S. BEN BENAVIDEZ**

- Ben is President Emeritus of the Mexican American Political Association, a civil rights organization with 88 chapters in California, Arizona and New Mexico.
- In his more than twenty-five years as a community activist, he has been instrumental in empowering communities by way of investment.
- Through his efforts more than \$1.2 trillion in Community Reinvestment Act funds have been committed to communities in need across the country.
- As a board member of the Green Lining Institute, he played a major role in negotiating Bank of America's commitment of \$750 billion for underserved communities in 2004. Ben also played a large role in securing the investment of a total of \$475 billion from both Washington Mutual and Citibank for community investment.

*2005 Southwest Fresno Business Award*

**MR. & MRS. GEORGE MARCUS**

- Mr. and Mrs. Marcus were the first African Americans to build a home, from the ground-up, in West Fresno
- They opened Marcus Center in 1968 with a pharmacy, a liquor store, J & C House of Records and the U.S Social Security Administration as tenants.
- 2002, they opened the first minority-owned and operated national franchise in southwest Fresno with Subway Sandwich.

*2005 Fresno County Business Award*

**UNITED SECURITY BANK: DENNIS WOODS, CEO**

- Dennis was the youngest of the original founders, he was elected to Chairman of the Board upon their opening for business in 1987
- United Security Bank provided critical financing for the Kearney Palm Shopping Center, despite others perception of the project being too risky.
- The investment of over \$150 million has meant the development of a wide variety of projects that ultimately serve the community of West Fresno. United Security Bank had embodied a statement by Bill Blackman: "To accomplish great things, we must not only dream, but act."

*2005 Non-Profit Organization*

**CENTRAL CALIFORNIA LEGAL SERVICES**

- The mission of Central California Legal Services is to advance justice and empower people

- through education, outreach, and zealous representation in civil legal matters.
- Central California Legal Services (CCLS) is a non-profit law firm that provides free legal assistance to low-income families and individuals in the counties of Fresno, Kings Mariposa Merced, Tulare and Tuolumne
  - CCLS has been a catalyst for numerous groups to call on for winning litigation to provide basic rights and protections for the lowest paid and least protected workers in California

*2005 President's Award*

**MAYOR ALAN AUTRY**

*2005 President's Award*

**COUNCIL MEMBER CYNTHIA STERLING**