



Awesome in Autism Historical Award Honorees

2020 Awesome in Autism Awardees

Individual of the Year- **Christopher Valdez**
Educator of the Year- **Cynthia Hawthorne, Hillside Middle School**
Child Service Provider of the Year- **Kelly Thomas, DATA**
Adult Service Provider of the Year- **PathPoint, Project SEARCH**
Funding Partner of the Year- **Dr. Steven Graff, Tri Counties Regional Center**
Employer of the Year - **Smart & Final**
Community Organization of the Year- **Mission Church, Night to Remember**
Volunteer of the Year- **Randee Westendorf**
Shining Star/Lifetime Achievement- **Sharon Francis**

2019 Awesome in Autism Awardees

Individual of the Year- **Nathan Sprague**
Parent/Family of the Year- **Kathy Yoder**
Educator of the Year (PK-8)- **Tamme Koehn, Poinsettia Elementary- Ventura**
Educator of the Year (Secondary)- **Steve Turner, Ventura College**
Educator of the Year (Integrated)- **Sarah Lombardo, Poinsettia Elementary- Ventura**
Children Service Provider of the Year- **Know IEP's**
Adult Services Provider of the Year- **IGNITE Collective Inc.**
Funding Partner of the Year- **Oscar Castellon, Dept. of Rehabilitation**
Employer of the Year- **Industry Horror**
Community Member of the Year- **Sgt. Jeff McGreevy, OXPD**
Volunteer of the Year- **Erin Westendorf**
Shining Star/Lifetime Achievement- **Corina Lozano**

2018 Awesome in Autism Awardees

Individual of the Year- **Kaitlin Rose Ford**
Parent/Family of the Year- **Brian and Kristin Thompson**
Educator of the Year (PK-8)- **Amy Dobzynski, Camarillo Heights Elementary**
Educator of the Year (Secondary)- **Tiina Itkonen, California State University Channel Islands**
Educator of the Year (Integrated)- **Valerie Wehan, Poinsettia Elementary - Ventura**
Children Service Provider of the Year- **Jayne Polis, YMCA**
Adult Services Provider of the Year- **Actors for Autism**
Funding Partner of the Year- **Kenya Dominguez, IHSS**
Employer of the Year- **Vons**
Community Member of the Year - **Cecilia Laufenberg, Conejo Recreation and Park District**
Volunteer of the Year - **Tamara Samaha**
Shining Star/Lifetime Achievement - **Jeff Schweissinger**

2017 Awesome in Autism Awardees

Individual of the Year / 2015 Aut2Run Grand Marshall- **Diego Pena, Author**
Parents of the Year- **Margie Smilanick**
Educator of the Year (PreK-8)- **Tanya Wright**
Educator of the Year (Secondary/Post-Secondary)- **Rodney Rounke**
Educator of the Year (Integrated Classroom)- **Tracye Kephart**
Service Provider of the Year (Children's Services)- **Amigo Baby**
Service Provider of the Year (Adult Services)- **Dr. Garrett Toy, D.D.S.**
Employer of the Year- **Pizza Rev**
Funding Partner of the Year- **Leslie Burton, TCRC**
Community Member of the Year- **Valeri Cirino-Paez**

2016 Awesome in Autism Awardees

Individual of the Year / 2015 Aut2Run Grand Marshall- **Carly Fulgham**
Parents of the Year- **Dee Colston**
Educator of the Year (PreK-8)- **Robin Birney**
Educator of the Year (Secondary/Post-Secondary)- **Adam Underberger**
Educator of the Year (Integrated Classroom)- **Scott DeLoach**
Service Provider of the Year (Children's Services)- **Passport to Adaptive Living**
Service Provider of the Year (Adult Services)- **ARC of Ventura County**
Employer of the Year- **Pizza Rev**
Funding Partner of the Year- **Seth Wegher-Thompson**
Community Member of the Year- **Shirley Dove**

2015 Awesome in Autism Awardees

Individual of the Year / 2015 Aut2Run Grand Marshall- **Samuel Capozzi**
Parents of the Year- **Joel & Janelle Bauer**
Educator of the Year (PreK-8)- **Kim Kitchen**
Educator of the Year (Secondary/Post-Secondary)- **Brenda Sampson**
Educator of the Year (Integrated Classroom)- **Tanya Narasaki**
Service Provider of the Year (Children's Services)- **Susan Baukus**
Service Provider of the Year (Adult Services)- **Reid's Gift**
Employer of the Year- **Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Thousand Oaks**
Funding Partner of the Year- **Tina Calderero-Mendoza**
Community Member of the Year- **Dr. Yazdan Alami, D.D.S., Oak Park Dentistry for Children**

2014 Awesome in Autism Awardees

Individual of the Year / Aut2Run Grand Marshall- **Jeremy Catama, Thousand Oaks**
Parent/Family of the Year- **Patricia Puentes, Parent and Rainbow FRC, Oxnard**
Educator of the Year (Pre-K - 8)- **Traci Peplinski, SLP, Penfield School, Ventura**
Educator of the Year (Secondary/Post-Secondary)- **Anita Morgan, Para-Educator, Simi Valley USD**
Educator of the Year (Integrated Classroom)- **Sarah Files, Saticoy Elementary**
Service Provider of the Year (Children's Services)- **Katie Anawalt, SLP**
Service Provider of the Year (Adult Services)- **Simi Oaks Day Treatment Center, Simi Valley**
Employer of the Year- **Go Green Gardeners, Anne Phillips, Thousand Oaks**
Funding Partner of the Year- **Lisa Fox, Early Start Service Coordinator, TCRC, Oxnard**
Community Member of the Year- **Geri Gross, Parent and Founder of Paus4Kids**

[2013 Awesome in Autism Awardees](#)

AutzRun Grand Marshall– **Calvin Nye**
Parent/Family of the Year– **Linda, Brent & Jenny Anderson**
Educator of the Year (Pre-K – 8)– **Heather Duval, Poinsettia Elementary**
Educator of the Year (Secondary/Post-Secondary)– **Andrea Baehne Meyer, CAFE**
Educator of the Year (Integrated Classroom)– **Steve Turner, Ventura Community College**
Service Provider of the Year (Children’s Services)– **Laura Cornish, SLP**
Service Provider of the Year (Adult Services)– **SAGE Supported Living Services**
Regional Center Partner of the Year– **Colleen Duncan, Autism Coordinator, TCRC**
Community Member of the Year– **Coach Lee Woodward, Region 68 VIP Soccer & PVRPD Special Needs Basketball**

[2012 Awesome in Autism Awardees](#)

Parent/Family of the Year– **Damien & Edlyn Peña**
Educator of the Year (Pre-K – 8)– **Treasure Lynn Lopez, Penfield School**
Educator of the Year (Secondary/Post-Secondary)– **Dr. Pattie Gault, Channel Islands High School**
Educator of the Year (Integrated Classroom)– **Phil Hudema, Conejo Adventist**
Service Provider of the Year (Children’s Services)– **Conejo Recreation & Park District**
Service Provider of the Year (Adult Services)– **Lisa Young Cantrell, Cantrell Family Day Care**
Regional Center Partner of the Year– **Cheri Lanier, Adult Team Service Coordinator, TCRC Simi Valley**
Community Member of the Year– **Troy Corley, ASAP Founder**

[2011 Awesome in Autism Awardees](#)

Parent/Family of the Year– **Leila Silva**
Educator of the Year (PreK-8)– **Eric Schick (Pre-8 Educator) Poinsettia Elementary School, VUSD**
Educator of the Year (Secondary and Post-Secondary)– **Disability Resource Program – CSU Channel Islands**
Educator of the Year (Integrated Setting)– **Karen Davis, GE teacher at La Mariposa Elementary School, PVSD**
Regional Center Partner of the Year– **Michael Quijada – TCRC Service Coordinator**
Children's Service Provider of the Year– **Children's Developmental Milestones (CDM)**
Adult Service Provider of the Year– **Villa Esperanza Services**
Community Member of the Year – **Keri Bowers– Mother, Advocate, Speaker, Seminar Leader, Filmmaker...**

[2010 Awesome in Autism Awardees](#)

Parent/Family of the Year– **Gina Peters**
Educator of the Year (Primary School, Pre K – 8)– **Jane Johnson, Camarillo (PEEP)**
Educator of the Year (Secondary/High School)– **Sara Pearson, Thousand Oaks High School**
Educator of the Year (Integrated Classrooms)– **Corinne New, La Mariposa Elementary School, Camarillo**
Funding Partner of the Year– **Bruce Anselmo, TCRC Service Coordinator**
Children’s Service Provider of the Year– **Addison Behavioral Resources**
Adult Service Provider of the Year– **Laurie Singer**
Community Member of the Year– **Zak Kukoff, Founder of Autism Ambassadors**

[2009 Awesome in Autism Awardees](#)

Parent/Family of the Year– **Renee Ballard**
Educator of the Year– **Carol Johnson, SDC teacher at Camarillo Heights Elementary School, PVSD**
Service Provider of the Year– **Support and Treatment for Autism and Related Disorders (STAR)**
Individual of the Year– **Tyler Thompson, brother of Reid Thompson; Team Reid Train4Autism**
Community Member of the Year– **Dr. Eric Sletten, Sletten Wellness Medical Center**