

News Release

Media Contact: Caroline Zubieta, Caroline.Zubieta@MolinaHealthcare.com, 562-951-1588

The MolinaCares Accord Celebrates Four San Diego Champions

SAN DIEGO, Calif., July 30, 2021 – The [MolinaCares Accord](#) (“MolinaCares”), in collaboration with [Molina Healthcare of California](#) (“Molina”), honored four San Diego residents for their dedication to reducing health disparities and advocating for social equity. Each honoree received a \$5,000 grant through the MolinaCares Champions program to pay forward to the nonprofit organization of their choice.

“We are pleased to recognize the leadership and service of these inspiring individuals who demonstrate an unwavering commitment to serving our most vulnerable neighbors throughout San Diego County,” said Abbie Totten, plan president of Molina Healthcare of California. “MolinaCares is grateful for the opportunity to celebrate these local heroes and further empower their important work by establishing meaningful partnerships with their organizations.”

This year’s San Diego MolinaCares Champions are:

Cassie Bates of Ocean View: As a volunteer advocate at the [San Diego Rescue Mission](#) (SDRM), Cassie Bates supports women participating in SDRM’s 12-month residential recovery program and helps them achieve education, career, and housing goals. She has been certified as a Revelation Wellness instructor since 2016 and hosts book studies and fitness classes for free. At SDRM, Bates founded RevWel, a course that focuses on meditation, movement, and breathing. She also worked with anti-trafficking organizations, offering free yoga and resources to those they serve. Bates helps people who have experienced trauma heal physically and mentally. She believes access to education and resources on fitness and health should be available to all people, regardless of their background. Bates is donating her grant to SDRM.

Saw Paw Kay of San Diego: At 14, Saw Paw Kay became a member of [Union of Pan Asian Communities](#) (UPAC)’s Teen Empowerment program, where he led numerous activities, including neighborhood cleanups and clothing and food distributions for individuals without housing. Kay grew from an enthusiastic volunteer to a hired employee at age 18. He was instrumental in developing UPAC’s Neighborhood Enterprise Center (NEC), where youth can access jobs, training, and mentorship. He also co-founded UPAC’s Taste of Culture event that teaches about different ethnicities through food. At the start of the pandemic, Kay created momentum for UPAC’s food distribution through the NEC and eventually started his own food distribution network. His grant will be donated to UPAC.

Maria Barraza of Chula Vista: For more than 25 years, Maria Barraza has contributed her leadership and health expertise to support others. She is a certified nurse assistant, certified domestic violence counselor, and certified nutrition educator. Barraza is currently a nutrition educator at [Catholic Charities Diocese of San Diego](#) and works with the senior population to help them maintain good health. She is well-known as an advocate for survivors of domestic violence and people who need immigration support, have health questions, or need career assistance. Barraza takes initiative to help people from all cultural, socioeconomic, or health backgrounds. Her grant will benefit Catholic Charities Diocese of San Diego.

Vincent Hall of San Diego: Since 2017, Vincent Hall has served on the board of [Free to Thrive](#), an organization that provides trauma-informed and comprehensive legal and other support services to survivors of human trafficking. The nonprofit provides guidance to a population that is often alienated and criminalized. Additionally, he is a longtime supporter of Planned Parenthood of the Pacific Northwest, advocating for access to reproductive health care. Hall also engages in San Diego State University's Mentor Program, providing career advice to a diverse group of students. He teaches networking and job search skills, connects students to accomplished professionals, and provides constructive feedback on resumes and cover letters. Hall has selected Free to Thrive as the recipient of his grant.

About The MolinaCares Accord

Established by Molina Healthcare, Inc., The [MolinaCares Accord](#) oversees a community investment platform created to improve the health and well-being of disadvantaged populations by funding meaningful, measurable, and innovative programs and solutions that improve health, life, and living in local communities. The MolinaCares Accord funds such measures through The Molina Healthcare Charitable Foundation, a 501(c)(3) established in 2020 by Molina Healthcare, Inc.

About Molina Healthcare of California

Molina Healthcare of California has been providing government-funded care for 40 years. The Company serves members through Medi-Cal, Medicare, Medicare-Medicaid (Duals) and Covered California (Marketplace). Molina's service areas include Sacramento, Los Angeles, San Bernardino, Riverside, San Diego, Orange County and Imperial counties. Through its locally operated health plans, Molina Healthcare, Inc., a FORTUNE 500 company, served approximately 4.6 million members as of March 31, 2021. For more information about Molina Healthcare of California, visit [MolinaHealthcare.com](#).

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