



CHOC Foundation

Part of Rady Children's Health

— 2025 —
CHARLEY AWARDS

CHARLEY AWARDS
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2025



BETHANY
CHOC Patient

WELCOME

JESSICA MILEY

Senior Vice President & Chief Development Officer
CHOC Foundation

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

KIMBERLY C. CRIPE

President & CEO, CHOC

Co-President & CEO, Rady Children's Health
President & CEO, CHOC Foundation

JESSICA MILEY

BETHANY OWENS

CHOC Grateful Patient

HONOREES

MOTORHOME MADNESS

SPIRIT HALLOWEEN

BILL THOMPSON

TERRIE INDER, MD

RON AINSWORTH

DOUG MCCOMBS

TSAO FAMILY FOUNDATION

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

JESSICA MILEY

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

KIMBERLY C. CRIPE

LUNCH



NORA AND CHARLEY HESTER

CHARLEY HESTER

A Life of Compassion

The Charley Awards are named after Charles “Charley” Hester, a CHOC volunteer, philanthropist, and community leader.

Charley’s early years were spent in poverty, and as a young father, he contracted a bout of tuberculosis that nearly ended his life. Ever positive, Charley made a full recovery and later attributed his great compassion for others to this experience. Acknowledging the value of life, he dedicated his own to helping his community in every way he could.

A successful land developer by profession, Charley supported multiple nonprofit healthcare and arts organizations throughout Orange County. From the 1980s to the early 1990s, he was member and chairman of the board of directors for both CHOC and CHOC at Mission Hospital, caring deeply for children facing illness and injury. In one year alone, he proudly served on eight committees!

Charley’s interest in making an impact is shared by his family. After he passed away in 1996, Nora, his wife of over 60 years, established the Nora and Charles Hester Endowment for Cranial Facial Care at CHOC, sustaining Charley’s legacy of philanthropy. Since Nora passed away in 2014 at the age of 101, their daughters Marilyn, Charlene, and Janet and the entire Hester family continue to honor the memory of their parents as supporters of CHOC.

THE CHARLEY AWARDS

Celebrating Community Leaders

The Charley Awards celebrate individuals and organizations who exemplify Charley’s enthusiastic volunteerism and selfless generosity. Our event unites the community to commemorate the positive change we are creating for the next generation.

Our region is a better place for children because of Charley Hester and the honorees we recognize today.

2025 CHARLEY AWARD HONOREES



MOTORHOME MADNESS OUTSTANDING NEWCOMER

The Motorhome Madness event at the Orange County Fair has become a powerful example of community-driven philanthropy at its finest. This “out-of-the-box” event highlights the efforts of fire departments and law enforcement agencies across Orange County to support CHOC and engage the communities they serve. Motorhome Madness is a family-friendly demolition derby, showcasing the dedication of first responders and inspiring widespread support of CHOC among public safety professionals and event attendees. Event proceeds have benefited vital CHOC programs including child life, oncology, mental health, diabetes, autism and neurodevelopment, and greatest needs, making a tangible impact on children with a wide variety of diagnoses. With the continued commitment of our fire, rescue, and law enforcement partners, Motorhome Madness will improve the health and well-being of CHOC patients and families for years to come.



SPIRIT HALLOWEEN OUTSTANDING CORPORATION

As a longstanding corporate partner, Spirit Halloween has supported CHOC for over a decade, raising close to \$2 million toward our Cherese Mari Laulhere Child Life Department. Between the months of August and October each year, Spirit Halloween locations raise funds for CHOC through donations made during customer checkout. These gifts have benefited child life initiatives including creative arts, pet therapy, Seacrest Studios programming content, volunteer coordinator positions, and sibling and family support. Additionally, Spirit Halloween donates costumes to CHOC patients and hosts an annual costume event. By focusing their immense generosity on our child life department—which is solely supported by philanthropy—Spirit Halloween enriches every CHOC family’s visit by helping restore the playful, expressive, and healing experiences of childhood to our patients.

CHOC is privileged to recognize this year's honorees for their excellence and dedication.



BILL THOMPSON

OUTSTANDING LEGACY

Although Bill Thompson recently partnered with CHOC back in March 2024, the impact of his philanthropy will be felt forever. After his initial visit to CHOC left a strong impression, Bill funded CHOC's rapid whole genome sequencing project with a generous \$1.3 million gift, followed by a \$3.14 million gift in support of the CAR-T immunotherapy program several months later—with both programs poised to propel CHOC toward discovering new treatments, improving clinical outcomes and changing countless lives for the better. Bill sadly passed away shortly afterward but not before creating a legacy of advancing CHOC's clinical care. Through his investment, Bill will improve the lives of children and families he will never meet—yet the hope and impact his philanthropy will have on the future of childhood will endure.



TERRIE INDER, MD

NICK G. ANAS, MD OUTSTANDING MEDICAL STAFF MEMBER

With a clinical career spanning more than 20 years, Dr. Terrie Inder joined CHOC in 2022 having long established herself as a dual-trained neonatologist and child neurologist. She serves as the director of the Center for Neonatal Research, exemplifying CHOC's highest standards of care. A global leader in newborn brain research, she provides expert clinical service in CHOC's neonatal intensive care unit, focusing on critically ill premature and full-term infants, particularly those with neurological conditions. Dr. Inder has made groundbreaking contributions to understanding and preventing brain injury in high-risk newborns through more than 400 peer-reviewed publications, including a landmark review in the *New England Journal of Medicine*. Beyond her clinical and research excellence, Dr. Inder actively supports community initiatives like CHOC Walk in the Park and the Glass Slipper Guild Gala, inspiring donor engagement and advancing comprehensive newborn care. Honored with the 2025 Newborn Brain Society Honorary Fellow Award, her lifelong dedication continues to change the lives of patients, families, and neonatal professionals worldwide.

2025 CHARLEY AWARD HONOREES



RON AINSWORTH

KELLY LEE TARANTELLA OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER

Touched by the care CHOC provided to his late stepdaughter, Kelly—in whose honor this award is named—Ron Ainsworth has been passionately involved with CHOC for over three decades. He has volunteered at CHOC in several areas, including our Julia and George Argyros Emergency Department and performing as Santa each holiday season. Ron also volunteers at the Kelly Lee Tarantello Gift Shop with his wife, Delphine. As a philanthropist, he has supported the CHOC Gala, CHOC Walk in the Park, and CHOC Let's Talk: Mental Health Luncheon. Established in 2008, the Delphine Lee & Ron Ainsworth Cardiac Family Emergency Endowment assists families in our Cardiovascular Intensive Care Unit (CVICU) and the Heart Institute with essential needs, with Ron also providing gifts to CVICU families during the holidays. With humility, Ron embodies everything Kelly lived and breathed—kindness, compassion, and belonging for all.



DOUG MCCOMBS

OUTSTANDING BOARD MEMBER

Since joining both the Children's Hospital Orange and CHOC at Mission Hospital Boards in 2007, Doug McCombs has shown consistent, deep dedication to our mission by strengthening CHOC at every level. In several critical roles including Chair of the Executive, Audit, and Compliance Committee, as well as Governance and Nominating Committee, Doug brought transparency and accountability. As chair of the hospitals and parent Boards of Directors since 2021, Doug's vision and steady hand shaped the future of our organization during a pivotal time. As a key champion of the merger, Doug committed hundreds of hours to prepare CHOC's Board of Directors, guiding strategy and focusing on the long-term value and mission alignment of this historic milestone. Today, Doug serves as Vice Chair of the Rady Children's Health Parent Company Board. By exemplifying the highest standards of board service, Doug's legacy is not only one of past achievement but of continued service and forward momentum.

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for their excellence and dedication.



tsao family foundation

TSAO FAMILY FOUNDATION

OUTSTANDING PHILANTHROPIST

Since 2018, the Tsao Family Foundation has shown an unparalleled commitment to catalyzing deeper pediatric care for CHOC's most vital services. Their gifts have helped build the Thompson Autism and Neurodevelopmental Center, open 17 WellSpaces—on-campus rooms filled with wellness resources for Orange County students—and expand resources at CHOC's mental health and wellness department. Among their trailblazing philanthropic work, the family's personal experience seeking after-hours pediatric urgent care inspired them to make another life-changing gift to open CHOC's urgent care in Irvine in September 2025. As CHOC grateful mothers, Yeshin Tsao has served on the CHOC Gala Committee and Yvonne Tsao has served on the CHOC Let's Talk: Mental Health Luncheon Committee. While moving other donors to action, they have also championed CHOC's Fetal Care Center and signature events including CHOC Walk in the Park. As changemakers in pediatric health and education, the Tsao Family Foundation is a treasured CHOC advocate.

PAST CHARLEY AWARD RECIPIENTS

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The Annenberg Foundation
Sgt. Mark Antonowitsch
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Neurodevelopmental
Center

CLARISSE CASILANG, MD

Wellness on Wheels

JOHN CRAWFORD, MD

Co-Medical Director,
Neuroscience Institute

PETER ANDERSON, MD

Visiting Scientist & Professor
Department of
Pediatrics School of
Medicine, University of
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Program Coordinator

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Director, Support Services

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CS Pediatric Oncology

CHRISTY CAMPO

Manager, Cherese Mari Laulhere
Child Life Department

ANJALEE GALION, MD

Associate Director, Sleep Program
CS Neurology

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THEODORE HEYMING, MD

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SUSAN SEE

Nurse Manager, Neuroscience
Institute

SARAH KEATING, MD

Division Chief, Palliative Care

MAIJA-RIIKKA STEENARI, MD

CS Neurology

ROBERT KELLY, MD

Medical Director, Cardiovascular
Intensive Care Unit

JOHN TRAN, MD

CS Neonatology

CHLOE KRIKAC

Resident Dog Handler
Cherese Mari Lauhere
Child Life Department

BEVERLY WALTI

Clinical Nurse Specialist, Neonatal
Intensive Care Unit

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Director, Imaging Services

RAYMOND WANG, MD

Director, Foundation of Caring
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Disorder Program
CS Metabolic Disorders

ANITA SANKARAN PISKUN

Vice President, Primary Care
Network

CS - CHOC SPECIALISTS

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Tracy Muller

Steve Solomon

The Donor Experience Committee performs as an advisory committee of the Board of Directors, serving in a leadership role to ensure proper recognition of, and engagement with, volunteers, prospects, and donors. Among their many responsibilities, they help plan and execute the Charley Awards.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

July 1, 2025–June 30, 2026



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CHOC Foundation



DOUG MCCOMBS

CHAIR

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**As of October 2025*



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