



Community News

Alzheimer's Orange County Honors Outstanding Dementia Caregivers



by: Aaron Gutierrez
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Norma Castellano

IRVINE...On Friday, September 23, the Alzheimer's Orange County (AlzOC) honored deserving caregivers at the 2022 Visionary Women Caregivers Awards event who have shown extraordinary compassion in caring for people living with Alzheimer's disease or a related form of dementia.

This year, the 16th annual event was held online. The guest speaker was Kathy Najimy, a noted actor, activist, mother, and director, who has a family member coping with Alzheimer's.

AlzOC multi-cultural outreach expert Norma Castellano of Santa Ana, who was one of the honored caregivers.

Event sponsors were Kaiser Permanente and Merrill Gardens of Huntington Beach.

With over six million Americans affected by Alzheimer's, including over 84,000 living here in Orange County, most people likely know someone who has been touched by the disease.

During the program, AlzOC spotlighted each of the caregiver honorees, playing vignettes of their stories. Here are the honored dementia caregivers in their respective categories:

- Family Caregiver honoree Linda Hickman – Unpaid caregivers who are on the frontline (present or past) providing compassionate care to a loved one with Alzheimer's or a related form of dementia.
- Professional Caregiver/Direct Service honoree Lupe Coronado – Paid caregivers who work on the frontline to provide compassionate care in the dementia field. This classification is appropriate for hospice workers, in-home care workers, RCFE employees, and others.
- Administrative Professional Sara Booth of Comfort Keepers and Linda Armas of Clear Choice Senior Services – Individuals who serve as administrative professionals in a licensed residential care facility or related service agency such as hospice and in-home care that provides support to persons living with Alzheimer's or related form of dementia.
- AlzOC Team Members – The Cottages' Bea Espinoza, and multi-cultural outreach expert Norma Castellano – Staff/caregivers who work for AlzOC's Healthy Aging Center Acacia, Healthy Aging Center Laguna Woods or The Cottages who exemplify compassionate care through the direct care or other forms of support they provided for the individuals and families the organization served.

"We salute these amazing caregivers, who have displayed extraordinary compassion in caring for those touched by Alzheimer's disease and related forms of dementia," said Jim McAleer, AlzOC President and CEO. "They have quietly poured their hearts and boundless energy into improving the lives of those who can no longer care for themselves."

Commemorating its 40th year of service in Orange County in 2022, Alzheimer's Orange County provides programs and services that span the continuum of care of Alzheimer's and related forms of dementia to Orange County, California residents living with Alzheimer's or dementia, including older adults and frail seniors, along with their families, caregivers, and the community.

Alzheimer's Orange County began as an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization in 1982 with a primary mission of providing care and support for those impacted with dementia and their caregivers in Orange County. Alzheimer's is a devastating neurodegenerative illness that weakens the memory and other cognitive and emotional functions. For more information, call the Helpline at 844-373-4400, or visit www.alzoc.org.

AlzOC is located at [2515 McCabe, Suite 200](#), in Irvine. *Photo: Alzheimer's Orange County*