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San Manuel Band of Mission Indians Recognizes Nonprofits Impacting Local and Indigenous Communities

## Tribal News

# San Manuel Band of Mission Indians Recognizes Nonprofits

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# and Indigenous Communities



**May 20, 2022**

*Tribe hosts 300 guests at Yaamava' Theatre for the 12th Annual Forging Hope Yawa' Awards Ceremony*

Highland, CA (May 13, 2022) – The 12th Annual Forging Hope Yawa' Awards, hosted by the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians, honored four nonprofits for their work in education, health care, essential services, and empowering Indigenous communities. Each of the nonprofit organizations recognized serves its communities in ways that fulfil the Tribe's philanthropic [Pillars of Giving](#).

Yawa', which means "acting on one's beliefs," is a concept that the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians have embodied throughout their history. Today, the Tribe continues to practice Yawa' through preserving and protecting the Tribe's ancestral territory and its inhabitants by seeking out nonprofits to support its

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outstanding partners with the Tribe in uplifting communities.

This year's Forging Hope Awards ceremony was held at the new Yaamava' Theatre at Yaamava' Resort and Casino. The ceremony was held for the first time since 2019 due to the pandemic.

San Manuel Chairwoman Lynn Valbuena had this to say in her Yawa' Awards remarks, "We are proud to have partners who answer the call of Yawa' by meeting the basic needs of at-risk groups, helping students onto the path of education, supporting Indigenous communities, and addressing health care disparities in our region."

The recipients were:

[Victor Valley College Foundation](#) (Victorville, CA) for comprehensive firefighter training, certifications, and degree programs.

[Assistance League of San Bernardino](#) (San Bernardino, CA) for connecting children in need with essential dental care and oral health resources.

[Time for Change Foundation](#) (San Bernardino, CA) for providing housing and employment opportunities for low-income individuals.

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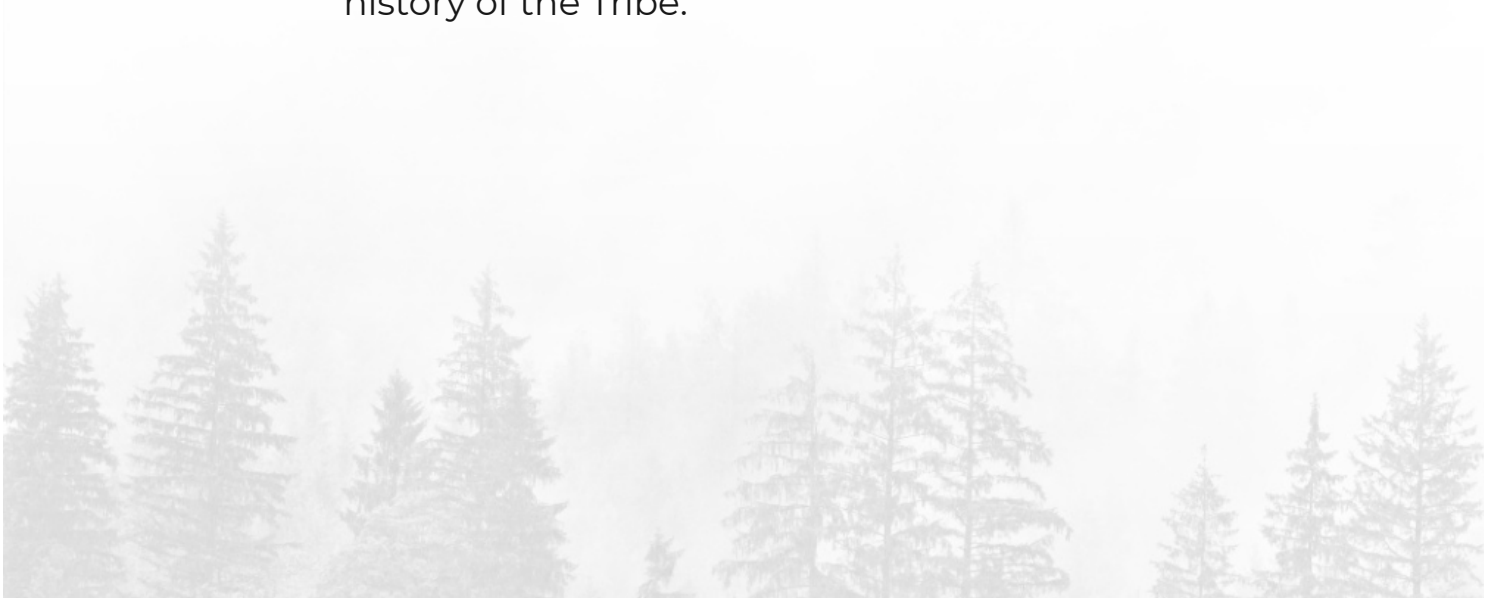
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including internship opportunities and arts education, to the Lakota community.

The Yawa' Award itself is an encased Serrano gourd rattle created by San Manuel youth. The gourd rattle is the percussive instrument of the Serrano people, who use music to share social customs and the history of the Tribe.



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