



# LAS CANDALISTAS

*benefiting children and the environment in the South Bay*

## **Introducing Las Candalistas 2022-23**

Las Candalistas was born 55 years ago in 1967. Because our original fundraising effort was selling beeswax candles, we decided to call ourselves “Las Candalistas” - The Candle Lighters. Since its inception, our group has expanded and has now donated millions of dollars to numerous organizations that focus on helping children and/or the environment in the South Bay area of Los Angeles County.

Now 55 years later, although our mission is steadfast, our organization is evolving to keep up with our community’s outlook and needs. We’re redesigning our events and outreach to increase our impact. We have always been known for our classy fundraising events. In all that we do, our focus will be on nurturing strong relationships — with our charities, donors, community, and each other.

Each year our members nominate and vote on which local charities we will partner with. We choose three that will receive the majority of our raised funds, but each year we donate to at least 15 other local charities. In addition to direct monetary grants, Las Candalistas’ members very generously collect and distribute food, clothing, educational materials, and other essential items for our philanthropies. We also “adopt” several families during the holiday season.

We have been recognized in the community for our contributions and our ongoing partnerships with the philanthropies we serve. These recognitions recently include: Community’s Child 2022 Making a Difference Award, ‘Community Service Award’ given to us by Palos Verdes Peninsula Coordinating Council in May 2018 as well as the Palos Verdes Peninsula’s Chamber of Commerce ‘Community Service Organization of the Year’ Award in November 2018.

Our next annual spring fundraising event will be held on Saturday, April 29th and we have chosen an important environmental ocean theme. We’re calling it “Jammin’ with the Jelly Fish”. Mark it on your calendar!

This year our members chose the following as our 2022-23 Philanthropic Organizations to receive the majority of the proceeds from this year’s fundraising events: 1736 Family Crisis (helping at risk and abused families), Community’s Child (feeding hundreds of local children weekly through their Healthy Bags program), and Manes for Movement (helping to improve the lives and mobility of disabled children using equine (horse) assisted therapies and activities).

The goals of Las Candalistas are that:

No Child in the South Bay should go hungry.

No Child in the South Bay should live in fear for their life because of domestic abuse or human trafficking.

Every Child should have the opportunity to visit and explore the ocean and the environment.

Every Child should have access to therapy, medical and dental care in order to lead a normal life.

Please join us in this important work.