

# Montecito Bank & Trust: Anniversary Grants

## Paying it Forward

By ERIN J. SMITH / CASA

**TEN LUCKY NONPROFITS FOUND THEIR VERY OWN POTS OF GOLD** just in time for St. Patrick's Day as part of Montecito Bank & Trust's annual Anniversary Grants program.

"I am particularly pleased that the recipient organizations are chosen by a vote of all the bank's employees," said Michael Towbes, Montecito Bank & Trust Founder and Chairman. "This gives them a personal stake in the decision, and I believe it encourages all of our staff to learn more about the nonprofit organizations which are so important to this community."

Montecito Bank & Trust opened for business 34 years ago on March 17th, 1975.



**Kim Kovol** and **Kelly Ventimiglia**, United Boys & Girls Clubs of Santa Barbara County

For the past sixteen years, the bank has celebrated each new year by giving back to the community through the Anniversary Grants program. Each year, employees

at the bank nominate their favorite local, nonprofit organization. Each employee gets ten votes, and they seem to enjoy the game of lobbying one another in support of their favorite cause. The awards come with the stipulation that organizations can receive awards every three years, which helps spread awards to many nonprofits throughout the community.

This year, the ten organizations honored were American Cancer Society, Child Abuse Listening & Mediation (CALM), Domestic Violence Solutions, Food Share of Ventura County, Foodbank of Santa Barbara, Planned Parenthood, Rock & Roll Academy of Santa Barbara (Achilles Heal Project), Santa Barbara Channelkeeper, Transition House, and United Boys & Girls Clubs of Santa Barbara County.

At a special event



Photos by Erin J. Smith/CASA

**Gerald Parent**, Montecito Bank & Trust Board Member; **Janet Garufis**, President and CEO, Montecito Bank & Trust; **Michael Towbes**, Founder and Chairman of the Board, Montecito Bank & Trust.



**Mary Ellen Tiffany**, Montecito Bank & Trust; **Pamela Van der Heide**, Domestic Violence Solutions; and **Beverly Engel**, Domestic Violence Solutions

on Monday, March 16th, representatives from each organization were presented a \$1,500 award check along with a bunch of daffodils, the American Cancer Society's symbol of hope. The nominating employee from Montecito Bank & Trust introduced

their grantees, sharing their passion and expressing gratitude for the work these nonprofit organizations do. Short films describing each organization's mission and services were shown as part of the presentation. These films were created with the help of Cox Communications to be used by the organizations for promotion or as part of their website.

"I'm just one heart standing up here saying thank you," said Diane Durst of Foodbank of Santa Barbara, "but I represent 25,000 other hearts who are grateful."

For more information, contact Montecito Bank & Trust at 564-0252 or visit [www.montecito.com](http://www.montecito.com).



**Marni Brook**, Montecito Bank & Trust, and **Bonnie Weigel**, Foodshare of Ventura County



**Michael Towbes**, Montecito Bank & Trust, and **Kathleen Baushke**, Transition House

Photo by Clint Weisman



**Jennifer Parker**, Rock & Roll Academy; **Shellie Wilkinson**, Rock & Roll Academy; and **Jessica Adams**, CALM



**Sal Perez**, Santa Barbara Channelkeeper; **Carolyn Tulloh**, Montecito Bank & Trust; and **Kira Redmond**, Santa Barbara Channelkeeper