

Sand Canyon Residents Richard and Marian Sandnes to Receive 2012 “Silver Spur” Award



For more than three decades, longtime Sand Canyon residents Richard and Marian Sandnes have embodied the definition of philanthropy, by continually giving of themselves and striving to make their community, and indeed the world, a better place through countless acts of kindness and overwhelming generosity.

As a result, the College of the Canyons Foundation has named Richard and Marian Sandnes recipients of the college's prestigious “Silver Spur” Community Service Award for 2012.

“This is the most important recognition that we at College of the Canyons can afford to anyone, and given the support that Richard and Marian have given to the college for so many years, it is only fitting that we honor and celebrate their contributions,” said College of the Canyons Chancellor Dr. Dianne G. Van Hook. “They are truly unsung heroes and amazing role models, who do the right things for the right reasons, and help others in a quiet, consistent and significant way.”

Tireless advocates for education, children's services and the importance of family values, the Sandnes'

have dedicated much of their lives to helping others, and have had a profound impact in doing so.

Richard and Marian are both active supporters of several key projects and programs at the college, including the COC Foundation student scholarship program, the Santa Clarita Performing Arts Center (PAC) K-12 Arts Education Outreach Program, the annual Silver Spur celebration and the COC Athletics department.

In fact, the couple's relationship with College of the Canyons first began as football fans, when their son, all-conference safety Michael Sandnes, roamed the defensive backfield for the Cougars' 1975 Western State Conference championship football team.

A natural leader and inspiration to all those he knew and played with, Michael tragically lost his battle with cancer in 1979 at the age of 21, just as his life was beginning to blossom.

In the years that followed, Richard and Marian continually looked for a meaningful way to honor their son, eventually deciding to establish an endowed scholarship fund at the college dedicated to Michael's memory, in 2005.



By participating in the COC Foundation's recent Bernard Osher Foundation matching grant initiative, the Sandnes' were able to significantly enhance the endowment's value to the point where it now awards 11 annual \$1,000 scholarships to COC student athletes studying kinesiology.

However, the Sandnes' reach into this community also extends far beyond College of the Canyons. Richard and Marian are major supporters of the Boys and Girls Club of Santa Clarita, The Canyon Theatre Guild, the Henry

Mayo Newhall Memorial Hospital Foundation and the SCV Child & Family Center.

Richard is also a member of the Bank of Santa Clarita's founders group and an active member, and past trustee, of the Elks Lodge 1625, in Lancaster, CA.

The 2012 Silver Spur Celebration will take place Saturday, March 3, 2012, at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library Air Force One Pavilion located at 40 Presidential Drive, in Simi Valley.

The event begins at 6 p.m. and the dress code is "black tie optional." The evening will include a dinner, live auction and a tribute video to the honorees. This year's Silver Spur event is being co-chaired by Jeff Hacker and Randy Moberg, members of the COC Foundation Board of Directors. Mr. Stax, Inc. is the Presenting Sponsor, while Harold and Jacquie Petersen and Wells Fargo Bank will serve as Dinner Sponsors for the event.

Previous recipients of the Silver Spur award include: Diana Cusumano, Myrna and Gary Condie, Harold and Jacquie Petersen, Wayne Crawford, Rita Garasi, Tom Veloz, Charlotte and Frank Kleeman, Gary Cusumano, Jay and Joyce Rodgers, Tom Lee, Lou Garasi, Michael Berger, Roberta Veloz, Dick Luechtefeld, Robert Ormsby, LaVerne Harris, John Hoskinson, Tom Dierckman, Scott and Ruth Newhall, Elisha "Aggie" Agajanian and Cliffe Stone.

Considered to be one of the community's most popular and elegant evening events, proceeds from the annual Silver Spur event benefit College of the Canyons student programs, providing options for an affordable and accessible college education for all those with a desire to succeed.

Tickets to the 2012 Silver Spur Celebration are \$175 per person and can be purchased through the COC Foundation.

For more information about tickets or other sponsorship opportunities please contact the College of the Canyons Foundation at (661) 362-3737 or (661) 362-3435.



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