

## 2013 Social Justice Superhero Award Winners



Bonnie Sorenson has worked tirelessly to lessen the impact of health disparities for children, women, and men since arriving in Clark County over ten years ago. Regardless of income, race/ethnicity, or other social discriminators, children get vaccinated, women receive cervical cancer screenings and family planning services, and men are eligible for STD/HIV/AIDS/TB screenings. In her role as the Southern Nevada Health District Director of Clinic and Nursing Services, Ms. Sorenson is responsible for numerous grants and contracts such as the Nurse Family Partnership (NFP) home visiting program which brings together young first-time pregnant women with public health nurses to work on personal solutions for ensuring the birth of a healthy baby and family economic security. Additionally, Ms. Sorenson has conceptualized a unique approach to preventing teen pregnancy and secured funds to target adolescent boys rather than girls. For those who have had the good fortune to know Bonnie, her calm demeanor, intellectual capacity, and sincere desire that every person in our community has the opportunity to be healthy is an inspiration.

Dan Wulz has been arguably the number one advocate in Nevada representing consumers against lenders, car dealers, scam artists, and big business for the past 19 years. He is currently the Deputy Director of the Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada and has numerous court victories, legislative accomplishments and organizational achievements. In the 2013 legislative session, Dan spearheaded the defeat or substantial weakening of several bills which would have eroded consumer rights. As but three examples, borrowers from almost all high interest lenders will not face an extra \$25/month in late fees, applicants for auto title loans will not be eligible for amounts they clearly cannot afford to repay, and consumers falling behind on car payments should not face the use of "vehicle interruption devices." Dan is currently litigating a major class action against a payday lender in Nevada Supreme Court. He has a lifetime of achievement and is as on top of his game today as he has ever been.

For more information visit  
[www.communitychestnevada.net](http://www.communitychestnevada.net)



Community Chest, Inc. presents:



**Institute**  
at UNLV

The Social Justice Institute showcases the impressive humanitarian work happening here in Nevada. Health and human services providers, teachers, community volunteers, public service employees, and many others come together for this event. Our intent is to provide a forum for education and networking while unifying this diverse group under the context of social justice. Too many fail to grasp the potentially transformative nature of their work. We are convinced that if they did, we'd have many more appreciating and advocating for human-friendly policies and practices in Nevada.

September 27, 2013  
University of Nevada, Las Vegas

8:00 - 9:00: Registration  
9:00 - 9:20: Welcome by Erik Schoen  
9:20 - 9:30: Break  
9:30 - 10:20: Workshop Session #1

**Mental Health in the African American Community (Room 205)**

Derrick Carroll – Las Vegas Chapter of the National Association of Black Social Workers – and Sandall Kelley, Ph.D., Marriage and Family Therapist

This workshop will teach participants how to recognize the warning signs of mental health in youth & adults with mental illness. The presentation will focus on the symptoms, causes, and effects of bipolar disorder in the African American community. This workshop will expound upon the definitions and concepts of “the mask” to focus on how self-awareness dictates the personal development and utilization of the interchangeable masks we wear.

**Gendered Violence in the Asian Pacific American Community (Room 207)**

Kathleen Ja Sook Bergquist – UNLV Associate Professor MSW Admissions Coordinator, BSW Coordinator – and, Maricar Andrade, Esq.

Kathleen will address the silence that traps Asian Pacific American women in violence. She will present on the work of Bamboo Bridges, an organization that addresses violence against APA women in Southern Nevada. Topics will include dating violence, sexual assault, domestic violence, and human trafficking. She will present work involved and discuss the challenges and successes in addressing social justice issues that impact the APA community generally, and APA women specifically.

**Social Justice in the Nevada Legislature (Theater)**

Jon Sasser – Statewide Advocacy Coordinator for State Legal Services Agencies

As a lifelong social justice advocate who has mastered the legislative process, Jon will discuss why it is so very important that we focus beyond the interests of only our own agencies and programs to place more emphasis on broader advocacy that helps all of our clients and expands the pie for everyone.

10:20 - 10:30: Break  
10:30 - 11:20: Workshop Session #2

**Environmental Justice (Room 205)**

Michelle Chino – Associate Professor Department of Environmental and Occupational Health UNLV

Michelle will present an overview of issues in Nevada, the region, and the nation that impact the health of the environment and consequently, the health of vulnerable populations. Topic issues will include community awareness, advocacy, law, and policy.

**How to Bring Social Justice to Your Community (Room 207)**

Barbara Buckley – Executive Director, Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada

Barbara will discuss some of the insights on social justice gained from her wide array of experiences from serving as a Nevada State legislator, including as the first female Speaker of the Assembly, to her current role as the executive director for the Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada.

**Advocating and Organizing for Social Justice (Theater)**

Laura Martin – Communications Director, Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada

Laura will discuss some of the many actions that PLAN has taken for furthering equality for Nevadans, how you can become more involved, and why it all matters. Topics will include advocacy, immigration, marriage equity, family rights, and the mining tax (SJR15).

11:20 - 11:30: Break  
11:30 - 11:45: Presentation of 2013 Social Justice Superhero Awards  
11:45 - 12:00: Closing Remarks by Shaun Griffin

Partner Organizations:

