

VENTURA COUNTY CONTINUUM OF CARE

# Chronicle



JANUARY, 2025

## CELEBRATING CHRISTY MADDEN: 39 YEARS OF SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP

A Look Back at Christy Madden's Impact and Legacy as Community Development Senior Deputy Executive Officer



## CHRISTY MADDEN

*Community Development  
Senior Deputy Executive Officer*

After 39 years of dedicated service to the County, Christy Madden, Community Development Senior Deputy Executive Officer, is retiring. Join us in honoring her remarkable career.

# CHRISTY MADDEN'S LEADERSHIP JOURNEY: *A LEGACY OF SERVICE AND DEDICATION*

After nearly four decades of dedicated service, Christy Madden, Community Development Senior Deputy Executive Officer, is retiring at the end of January 2025. Christy's career has been marked by exceptional leadership, a commitment to housing for all, and an unwavering passion for mentorship.



Over the years, she has been a champion of collaboration and engagement, notably serving as director of the Corporate Games. Outside of work, Christy's energy is boundless, she is a dedicated marathon runner and a devoted dancer with World Dance for Humanity, blending her love of movement with a commitment to making a difference. Her passion, dedication, and vibrant spirit will be greatly missed as she embarks on this exciting new chapter.



## A REFLECTION BY JENNIFER HARKEY: A PERSONAL TRIBUTE TO CHRISTY

Christy has been an inspiration to many of her peers, staff, and community partners through the years. Our Community Development Division has been well supported by Christy's leadership and we have looked to her for guidance when tough decisions must be made. Her years of public service experience, ability to problem solve various issues, and her willingness to step in whenever needed has made our team successful. Christy has created a culture of mentorship by offering advice and direction for staff to grow in their leadership roles. She has led by example and has a whatever it takes approach in the interest of serving our community well. It will be very difficult to fill Christy's shoes, as she is a dynamo, fearless leader, and an avid marathon runner who has inspired so many.

On a personal note, she brings a zest for life and inspires us with her adventurous stories, such as climbing and surviving Mount Kilimanjaro. We also follow her on social media when she rocks out with Dance for Humanity. Christy reminds us to always live life to the fullest and follow our passions. She has contributed so much through her public service and helped our community thrive!



## A REFLECTION BY TRACY MCAULAY & FELIPE FLORES: A PERSONAL TRIBUTE TO CHRISTY

Christy's exemplary drive, genuine encouragement, solutions-oriented attitude, and valuable professional and career advice have been an inspiration. Her personal and professional accomplishments motivated those around her to conquer new heights. Having run several marathons in the past couple of years while facing obstacles is only one example of her stamina and fortitude.



Christy was skilled at selecting the right employee for a task, as well as identifying and matching employee motivations and skills sets to job duties, while also providing stretch goals to support each employee's individual growth. The team she assembled continually benefited from her vast knowledge, leadership and coaching directed at strengthening our skills and furthering our professional development.

Employees lucky enough to work with Christy were consistently provided with inspiration and guidance from a leader who deeply believed in the mission of our team. To facilitate a broad and effective response to the challenges our team works to address (housing, homelessness, public services and facilities), Christy continually empowered her team to make decisions and believe in their own abilities.

Over the years, she has touched many, many people with her deep knowledge, understanding and passion. Beyond being a mentor to each of us, she has inspired members of her team to serve as mentors to foster strength on our team and in our local nonprofit partners.



In addition to mentoring County employees, Christy generously shared her knowledge and expertise with community partners. One current team member recalled meeting Christy to discuss grant funding when working at a partner nonprofit organization before coming to the County. During that discussion, Christy asked thoughtful questions about the program; How potential grant money would be used and how the community would benefit the most. During the chat, the team member could see Christy's eyes light up while her mind was busy at work. She provided excellent suggestions to strengthen the program and made recommendations to stretch potential grant monies to help fulfill the mission. As she spoke, she inspired this team member to build a rapport with the County, and her words stayed with the staff to this day. As a result, this set a motivational example of service and commitment to strengthening the County and its partners. It also became the inspiration to ultimately seek employment within the County to broaden impact on the community.

*As Christy retires from a 39-year career in public service at the County of Ventura, the Community Development Team wishes to honor her outstanding career, dedication to service and most importantly, her devotion to the community.*



*Thank you for being a thoughtful mentor and a wonderful friend, Christy!  
Thank you for all the smiles, the laughs, the tears and the always  
anticipated Team get-togethers. You will be sorely missed.*

*Happy Retirement, Christy!*

# DEDICATED COC BOARD MEMBERS CONCLUDE TERMS OF SERVICE

BY DAWN DYER, VC COC BOARD CHAIR

## MICHAEL NIGH

AREA HOUSING AUTHORITY OF VENTURA COUNTY  
VC CONTINUUM OF CARE BOARD MEMBER (2015 - 2025)

Executive Director at Area Housing Authority of the County of Ventura (AHACV) since 2015. The Area Housing Authority is an independent, non-profit agency serving the residents of Camarillo, Fillmore, Moorpark, Ojai, Simi Valley, Thousand Oaks and the unincorporated areas of Ventura County. AHACV provides assistance to people in need of affordable housing through development, acquisitions, and partnerships, including administration of Section 8 Program, Tax Credit Properties, and Public Housing.



Michael has served the AHACV for over 36 years, starting as a computer operator in 1988, advancing to Finance Director in 2004, then served for 10 years as the Director of Finance & Housing & Section 8.

The AHACV is governed by a 15-member Board of Commissioners. Each jurisdiction appoints two Commissioners to serve a 4-year term. In addition, one Resident Commissioner is appointed "at-large". Under Michael's leadership, AHACV was named one of the nation's best run housing authorities for 18 consecutive years. Exemplary program management and efficient program implementation earned AHACV the designation of a "High Performer" from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program.

Michael spent his youth in Indiana, where he earned his bachelor's degree in accounting from Ball State University, Muncie IN. We are all fortunate that he decided to make Ventura County his home. He has been a critical voice for housing and under his leadership AHACV has developed multiple new housing communities.

***Michael, we will miss your extensive knowledge and experience on the CoC Board. We know you will continue to make a positive difference in our community. Thank you for your 10 years of service!***

# KEVIN CLERICI

DOWNTOWN VENTURA PARTNERS

VC CONTINUUM OF CARE BOARD MEMBER (2015 - 2025)

CoC Chair Dawn Dyer remembers meeting Kevin back in 2004, when he was a staff writer for the Ventura County Star. Dawn was consistently impressed with the quality and objectivity of Kevin's reporting, and his willingness to dive down deep to try and help readers understand issues more holistically. Kevin's commitment to our Ventura County community has always been evident.



Kevin earned his BA in Journalism from the University of Arizona and worked as a staff writer for the Arizona Daily Star, the San Diego Union Tribune, and the Reporter before moving to Ventura County and starting at the Star.

In 2011, Kevin was hired to lead Downtown Ventura Partners as its Executive Director. With his deep ties to the City of Ventura, broad insight into economic and business issues, energy and passion, Kevin propelled the organization into a more vital role in the community.

Formed in 2009, the Downtown Ventura Business Improvement District supports local businesses through clean and safe services, marketing and promotions, special events, business attraction and retention, and advocacy. As the "Voice of Downtown" DVA is a direct liaison for the small business community. Under his leadership, the organization has established a nonprofit Property-based Business Improvement District, whereby property owners choose to assess themselves to fund strategic programs and services that ensure the City's historic core is safe, clean, and economically viable.

Kevin's commitment to housing and providing services to those in need has been evident for decades. As a journalist, he earned accolades and was named as a "Champion of Mental Health" for a series of articles on the unhoused. In addition to his 10 years serving on the Coe, Kevin has been an active volunteer with numerous organizations throughout the community, including People's Self-Help Housing, and the VC Behavioral Health Advisory Board, among others.

***Thank you, Kevin, for your dedication and service to Ventura County! Your 10 years of service on the CoC Board have made positive changes to the programs dedicated to ending homelessness in our community.***



VENTURA COUNTY  
CONTINUUM OF  
CARE ALLIANCE

ENDING HOMELESSNESS  
IN VENTURA COUNTY

## UPCOMING EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS!

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### VC Public Information & Outreach Meeting

January 29, 2025

1:30 – 3 pm

Remote (see CoC website calendar)

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### VC CoC Board Meeting

February 12, 2025

2 – 3:30pm

VCOE, 5189 Verdugo Way, Camarillo

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### Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG)

Request for Proposals

Due February 7 by 2 pm

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### Emergency Transfer Plan Training

February 6, 2025

1:30 – 3 pm

Remote (see CoC website calendar)

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Meeting links or locations are provided on the CoC website calendar at [VenturaCoC.org](http://VenturaCoC.org)

*Christy, your contributions to the County and to the lives of those you've worked with will be remembered forever. We wish you all the best in your next chapter and thank you for your years of dedicated service. You will always be part of the Ventura County Community.*

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