

Friends of Leaps & Bounds Pediatric Therapy  
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***Friends of Leaps & Bounds Pediatric Therapy  
Chosen as a 2023 Nonprofit of the Year by Senator Kelly Seyarto***

**NORCO, CA** – Friends of Leaps & Bounds Pediatric Therapy (FOLB) is proud to announce it has been selected as a 2023 California Nonprofit of the Year by Senator Kelly Seyarto, California Senate District 32, and will be recognized at the State Capitol on June 7, 2023. FOLB was chosen by Seyarto from among more than 80,000 California nonprofits for its outstanding contribution to the community.

“To be recognized at this level, for the work we are so passionate about, is a testament to the impact we are having on the lives of children with disabilities,” said Founder Cassandra Sanders-Holly. “One child at a time, our goal is nothing short of improving their quality of life and helping them reach their goals. We are rewarded daily, watching children overcome their obstacles, however this honor exceeds anything we could have imagined. It truly validates the efforts of so many individuals who have come together to collectively make a difference in the life of a child.”

FOLB was founded in 2012 by members of the community who noticed a lack of access to specialty, medically-necessary therapy services for children with disabilities in the Inland Empire. Utilizing the magic of the horse, the nonprofit seeks to support people with disabilities through physical therapy, speech therapy, and occupational therapy using a research-based treatment strategy called hippotherapy to achieve rapid improvements in functional skills such as walking, talking, and independent physical functioning. FOLB seeks to assist all children in need, but specializes in meeting the needs of economically-disadvantaged children who may not have access to these treatment strategies due to lack of financial resources.

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The Nonprofit of the Year, an annual initiative in its eighth year, gives California state legislators an opportunity to recognize an outstanding nonprofit organization for impactful work in their district. More than 100 nonprofits will be recognized at this year’s luncheon.

“When anyone talks about delivering meals to seniors, inspiring with music, protecting fresh water, educating children, championing the disadvantaged, speaking out for human rights, caring for animals . . . they are talking about work that nonprofits do,” noted Jan Masaoka, CEO of the California Association of Nonprofits (CalNonprofits), which serves as a partner for this awards program. “California Nonprofit of the Year gives elected leaders the opportunity to shine a light on what nonprofits are accomplishing for the people in their districts and for everyone to appreciate the collective impact of nonprofits across our state.”

The nonprofit sector is the fourth largest industry in the state, employing more than 1.2 million people. Each year, California nonprofits generate more than \$273 billion in revenue and bring in \$40 billion in revenue from outside of California. The unpaid labor contributed by volunteers at nonprofits is equivalent to 330,000 full-time jobs every year.

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*Photos available upon request.*

