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Janet Marinaccio, leader of MEND, named a 'San Fernando Valley Woman of the Year'

State Sen. Bob Hertzberg names MEND leader "Woman of the Year" for the 18th Senate District



Janet Marinaccio, pres and CEO of MEND. (Photo courtesy of MEND)

By **HOLLY ANDRES** | handres@scng.com | Daily News

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Janet Marinaccio, president and CEO of MEND, has been named a "San Fernando Valley Woman of the Year" for 2022 by State Sen. Bob Hertzberg (D-Van Nuys).

"I am speechless and humbled to be selected! Thank you to the Senator and the Legislative Women's Caucus for this honor," Marinaccio said in a March 8 statement. "A piece of Native American wisdom comes to mind: 'To honor one woman is to honor all women.' I am so grateful for the women innovators and pacesetters who broke down and continue to break down barriers; these women have inspired and made possible my work today — serving alongside so many — the crisis needs of vulnerable people in our community."



“The San Fernando Valley is brimming with extraordinary and accomplished women of all backgrounds and Janet Marinaccio represents the very best the Valley has to offer,” Hertzberg said. “Janet’s impeccable leadership guiding MEND since 2017 is well-known throughout the Valley because of the countless lives she has touched. Her work has helped lift many out of poverty, even in the darkest days of the pandemic, and has made the Valley a better place to live, especially for our region’s most disadvantaged.”

The California Legislature’s “Woman of the Year” program was founded in 1987 by Assemblymembers Bev Hansen and Sally Tanner, who noted that that the legislature had no formal event planned for Women’s History Month in March. The California Legislative Women’s Caucus hosts the recognition.

Honorees were invited to the state capitol for a ceremony but due to the continuing Covid-19 pandemic, this year’s ceremony is cancelled.

MEND, an acronym for Meet Each Need with Dignity, a nonprofit organization helps low-income people and families through its food pantry, clothing service, one-on-one case management and connections for other support services. It was founded by [Carolyn and Ed Rose in 1971](#) in their Mission Hills garage. The nonprofit is now based in Pacoima.

More information: MEND, 10641 San Fernando Road, Pacoima. 818-897-2443. mendpoverty.org

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