



San Jose Parks Foundation Honors

Thursday, August 29, 2024 5:30pm – 7:30pm
Roosevelt Roller Hockey Rink
901 East Santa Clara Street, San Jose 95116

The 2024 Honorees

The Sharks Foundation

PRNS Volunteer Crew

Helen Chapman

The Sharks Foundation



The Sharks Foundation

In 2014 and again in 2015, **The Sharks Foundation** became the lead partner in the creation of two playgrounds (**Pueblo Play** and **Sherman Oaks**). In addition to providing most of the funding for these much-needed playgrounds, **The Sharks Foundation** brought out dozens of **Sharks** employees, players and community supporters to help with the build.

Several years later **The Sharks Foundation** became partner with the **NHL** to rebuild the **Roosevelt Roller Hockey Rink**, a massive investment that has paid off for the community with this unique facility. And in yet another act of community leadership and generosity, **The Sharks Foundation** contributed a lead gift to the fund to help the farmworkers in Half Moon Bay, through a funding partnership with **San Jose Parks Foundation**

The Sharks Foundation is dedicated to enhancing the lives of underserved youth and families in the community with an emphasis in the areas of education, health and safety, and character development. The Foundation supplies emergency aid when appropriate, executes unique and relevant programming, supports the advancement of youth hockey, and provides financial support and resources to organizations that enrich the lives of those in need.

Since its inception in 1994, the **Sharks Foundation** has given more than **\$20.2 million** back to Bay Area organizations through its annual Community Assist Grant Cycle program and season-long Giving Campaign.

The importance of its contributions every year, especially those to **San Jose Parks**, are the reasons that **The Sharks Foundation** is being honored in 2024.

PRNS Volunteer Crew



PRNS Volunteer Crew

The **San Jose Parks Foundation Honors in 2024** selected the **Parks Recreation & Neighborhood Services Volunteer Crew**, (aka **PRNS Volunteer Crew**) which recruits, organizes, trains and manages thousands of community volunteers every year in support of our city parks & trails. The work of volunteers in parks and trails is worth over a million dollars annually.

The PRNS Volunteer Crew was one of **San Jose Parks Foundation's** earliest partnerships, starting when the **Volunteer** staff was just one part-time employee. Now there is a team in place and that team coordinates hundreds of clean-up projects, restoration projects, planting, maintenance, etc. This dedicated cadre of heroes did not stop when COVID hit, but created safe environments for volunteers to help keep our parks in good order.

In a city with over 200 parks and nearly 60 miles of trail, **The PRNS Volunteer Crew** serves a vital role in providing millions of dollars of donated labor from citizens, businesses, organizations, churches, youth groups and others.

The work of bringing **Volunteer** Power to the city's green treasures is a year-round endeavor. To maintain the levels of support needed, exceptional planning skills are required to match the enthusiasm and personal commitments of the **PRNS Volunteer Crew**.

Helen Chapman



Helen Chapman

The final honoree is **Helen Chapman**, who was a member of the San Jose Parks Commission many years ago. She was not alone in thinking we needed a Parks Foundation to provide private sector support for our public parks, but she was the forceful person who really made it all happen.

When I first met Helen, I was told by more than one person that she was “a force of nature”. She had been pushing to create a Parks Foundation to bring private sector support for the public parks, and idea that a few other cities had implemented successfully.

I became the person hired by the City of San José to launch this idea, so one of my first orders of business was to recruit **Helen Chapman** to the steering committee and then to the inaugural Board of Trustees, where she served with distinction for two full terms. She remains on the Emeritus Board.

In terms of service to the community **Helen Chapman** is an exemplary citizen. Though Parks are her first priority, she has also given her energy and expertise to the Lincoln High School Foundation, the Shasta Hanchett Park Neighborhood Association and currently is the Chair of the Open Space Authority Board.

But – to be perfectly clear – none of us would be here today if **Helen Chapman** hadn’t pushed this idea into existence.