



Judy Sulsona to receive the 2017 NAMC Core Leaders Award

Born and raised in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Attended the University of Puerto Rico and graduated with a degree in Political Science, and minors in Economics and Spanish Literature. Attended a two-year graduate program at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM), with a focus on research in International Relations.

Moved to California in 1975 and to the Monterey Bay Area in 1981.

Worked for the Monterey County Free Libraries as Special Services Coordinator, where she was able to help develop library services for underserved communities, including rural residents, people with disabilities, refugees and immigrants from many parts of the world, incarcerated populations, and adults needing literacy services and access to computers.

Was the first director of the Community Foundation's Management Assistance Program, now the Center for Nonprofit Excellence, a program designed to support and strengthen our local nonprofit sector. Held the position of Executive Vice-President of the Community Foundation from 2002 to 2009. During those years, had the opportunity to participate in supporting many Foundation programs, including Neighborhood Grants, Communities Advancing the Arts, Poder Popular, the Literacy Campaign, and the Women's Fund.

Since leaving the Foundation, has supported a wide range of planning and assessment processes of public agencies and nonprofit organizations in the region, and has had the privilege of mentoring grassroots nonprofit organizations and emerging leadership groups throughout Monterey County. Has also served on the Board of Directors of many local agencies. Currently serves on the boards of the Big Sur Land Trust and the Hartnell College Foundation.

She has lived in Carmel Valley for 34 years with her husband Bill Rawson and their feline companions. Judy and Bill share a passion for the arts, not only as a source of personal enjoyment, but as an expression of the rich and diverse cultures that grace our community. They also share a commitment to social justice and to supporting work that broadens educational opportunities for our youth and economic and social equity for all our communities.