

Women History Month 2021

Recognizing Women Making a Difference in the Inland Empire

In honor of Women's History Month, a month designated to highlight the contributions of women to history and contemporary society, AmPac is putting the spotlight on a few women who are running thriving businesses and leading non-profit associations in the Inland Empire.



First, we'd like to spotlight **Kenya Blane**, the founder of Nursing Infusion Centers of America (NICA) and CEO of Infusion Partners 360. Both companies focus on delivering medication by infusion (injection with a needle). While Infusion Partners 360 serves as a nurse registry that has a network of nurses skilled to provide infusion and general nursing services, NICA serves as a local infusion center where patients can get their necessary infusions, instead of going to a hospital or undergoing the procedure at home.

During the pandemic, Kenya's companies have not only survived but thrived. "It's actually a very exciting time to be a leader of woman owned, nurse owned businesses and dedicate my life's work to ensuring patients receive the care they need to lead productive lives."

In 2014 Kenya was presented with The Spirit of the Entrepreneur Award and Annual Faith Based Business Award. She is an active member of Vistage, Global Society for Female Entrepreneurs, Infusion Nurses Society, Immunoglobulin National Society, & Cooperative Economic Empowerment Movement. Kenya was recently honored as a Black Future Maker by AT&T.



We also want to shine the spotlight on **Palbinder Badesha**, the Riverside-Corona franchisee for Express Employment Professionals, an international full-service staffing company. She opened in 2006 and since then, her team has been able to find jobs for over 15,000 people with local businesses, increasing sales by 60 percent since 2009.

Palbinder is passionate about giving back to her community and is active in the following organizations: Asian Business Association, Business Resource Connection and Corona-Norco United Way. Palbinder was a 2008 finalist in the Spirit of the Entrepreneur Award and recipient of the Inland Empire Asian Business Association Entrepreneur Award in 2012. She received the 2014 Small Business of the Year Award from the IMPACT Foundation. Most recently she received the Express 2021 Ralph Palmen Spiritual Leadership Award which honors an individual who inspires others and always does the right thing.

"Palbinder is genuinely amazing, generous, empathetic and a true friend," Express CEO Bill Stoller said. "She lives the Express values, and her spirituality shines through in her day-to-day interactions. Others want to be around her due to her warm and welcoming spirit, and she always makes each individual feel like they are the most important person in the room."

Finally, the spotlight is on **NoRhett Walls**. Commercial Real Estate Women (CREW) Network was founded in 1989 by Anne Hanyak and Linda Hollemon to bring together women involved in the many aspects of commercial real estate to exchange information, develop business contacts and help



each other succeed professionally. Today, with 12,000 members, CREW Network is the premier business network dedicated to transforming the commercial real estate industry by advancing women globally.

CREW Inland Empire began serving the San Bernardino and Riverside County regions in 2007. The current chapter president is NoRhett Walls, Vice President of National Commercial Services at Stewart Title.

NoRhett has worked in the title industry since 1999. She launched a career in the lending field as a loan officer and loan processor while still in college, and eventually transitioned into escrow. Though her early years were spent working with residential real estate clients, she enjoys the challenges associated with commercial transactions.

NoRhett's approach is simple and straightforward: "I get the job done," she states. "That has allowed me to consistently build a successful business. When I tell my clients I'll take care of something, I do it."

These three women are making a tremendous impact in the Inland Empire and we salute their efforts. May women speaker louder so that their voices reverberate every room that they enter and may they bring a calm, peace and desire to lean in when they begin to whisper.