

# SAN DIEGO BUSINESS JOURNAL

THE COMMUNITY OF BUSINESS™

## THE 2023 SAN DIEGO



### SPECIAL EDITION | THE MOST INFLUENTIAL PEOPLE IN SAN DIEGO

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**CAROL DEDRICH**  
CEO, GIRL SCOUTS OF SAN DIEGO



**WHY:** Dedrich is responsible for developing the vision, direction and strategies to achieve GSSD goals with a dedicated board, more than 100 employees and thousands of volunteers. **NOTABLE:** Served as a Captain, Air Defense Artillery (Patriot Missiles), in the U.S. Army. As a combat arms officer, served in Desert Shield and Desert Storm. **SOCIAL IMPACT:** She is board advisory for the City Scholars Foundation. **WORDS OF WISDOM:** "Trust the wait. Embrace the uncertainty. Enjoy the beauty of becoming. When nothing is certain, anything is possible." – Mandy Hale

**STEVE DINKIN**  
PRESIDENT & CEO, NATIONAL CONFLICT RESOLUTION CENTER



**WHY:** Dinkin has been the president of the National Conflict Resolution Center since 2003. **NOTABLE:** He has secured federal contracts with the U.S. departments of Homeland Security, Navy and Treasury. He has also expanded the organization's programming outside the USA to Europe, Asia and Latin America. **SOCIAL IMPACT:** He co-authored two books on conflict resolution: "The Exchange, A Bold and Proven Approach to Resolving Workplace Conflict" and "The Exchange Strategy for Managing Conflict in Health Care." **WORDS OF WISDOM:** "The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams." – Eleanor Roosevelt

**PAUL DOWNEY**  
PRESIDENT & CEO, SERVING SENIORS



**WHY:** Downey guides Serving Senior's efforts to provide supportive services for low-income seniors to keep them independent and healthy. **NOTABLE:** Since his 1995 appointment, Serving Seniors has developed a nationally recognized model of support. **SOCIAL IMPACT:** Downey initiated and led the 2021 Serving Seniors Needs Assessment report, a groundbreaking study focusing on older adult homeless in San Diego. **WORDS OF WISDOM:** "We have two ears and one mouth so that we can listen twice as much as we speak." – Greek philosopher Epictetus

**KRISTINE ENTWISTLE**  
CEO, CHALLENGED ATHLETES FOUNDATION



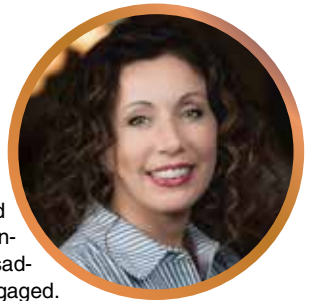
**WHY:** Entwistle is CEO of CAF, a San Diego-founded charity that his impact worldwide, helping those with physical challenges thrive through sports. **NOTABLE:** Entwistle has helped build the reputation of the Challenged Athletes Foundation as a fiscally sound and innovative organization that fulfills their mission with heart and compassion. **SOCIAL IMPACT:** Under Entwistle's leadership some of the most profitable and impactful San Diego events have been brought to life, including the Million Dollar Challenge charity cycling event from SF to SD. **WORDS OF WISDOM:** "People will forget what you said. People will forget what you did. But people will never forget how you made them feel." – Maya Angelou

**MICHAEL HOPKINS**  
CEO, JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE OF SAN DIEGO



**WHY:** Hopkins has led JFS of SD for nearly 12 years, helping the organization expand its reach, impact and sustainability. **NOTABLE:** He shepherded the group through an \$11M capital campaign that resulted in the Joan & Irwin Jacobs Campus. **SOCIAL IMPACT:** He previously led Nehirim, a national Jewish LGBTQ organization. **WORDS OF WISDOM:** "Hard work. It's not easy." – Hopkins' father

**LISETTE ISLAS**  
EXECUTIVE VP & CHIEF IMPACT OFFICER, MAAC



**WHY:** Islas has been EVP & Chief Impact Officer for nearly nine years at MAAC (MAAC Project), a nonprofit that provides programs and advocacy in the areas of health, education, workforce development and housing. **NOTABLE:** She is known for her ability to build strategies, forge relationships among diverse groups and develop innovative and impactful programs. **SOCIAL IMPACT:** She helps disadvantaged communities become more prosperous and civically engaged. **WORDS OF WISDOM:** "If you're always trying to be normal, you'll never know how amazing you can be." – Maya Angelou

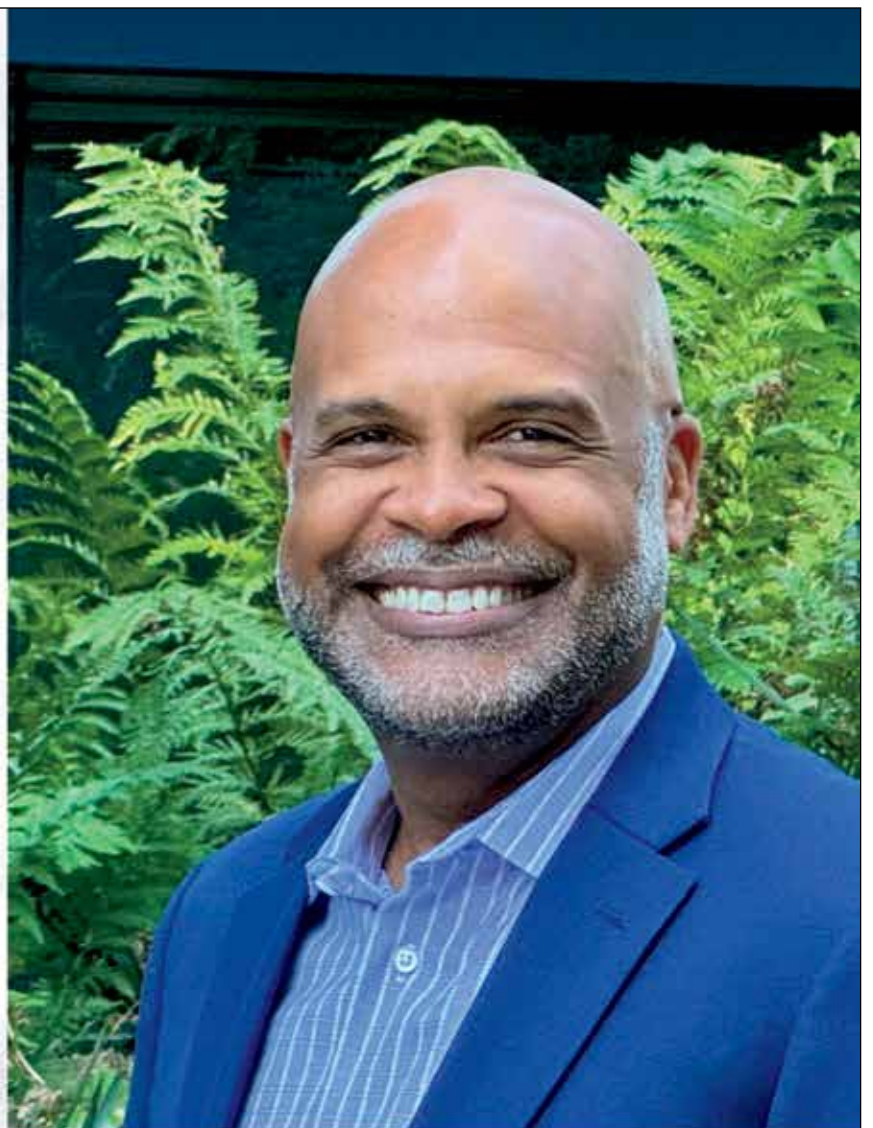
*Congratulations!*

**Sean Spear**  
President & CEO  
Community HousingWorks

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2023



**We Build Futures**  
www.chworks.org



*Community HousingWorks builds and provides life-changing affordable apartment communities with resident-centered services for working families, older adults and people with disabilities to forge stronger futures.*