



WHITTIER  
COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION  
*Today, Tomorrow, Together.*

SPRING/SUMMER 2019

# our town

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## Foundation KaBOOM!'s Broadway Park

*By Virginia Santana*

The Whittier Community Foundation joined forces again with the City of Whittier and KaBOOM!, a non-profit organization that is dedicated to ensuring all children get a childhood filled with PLAY! KaBOOM! partners with communities to connect them with a sponsor to build a playground in ONE DAY! Yes, ONE DAY! The Foundation jumped in to assist not only by providing \$8,500 to get the project started, but also provided helping hands to paint, build playground equipment, and assist with whatever else was needed to get the job done. It was a beautiful day ending with a new brand new playground for Whittier families to enjoy.



**COMING  
SOON**



**SAVE  
THE DATE**

*By Chris Hardeman*

**Boots, Beer and BBQ is returning to Whittier September 21, 2019. Now's the time to get your dancing boots polished and your western outfit ready. This evening will have great music, food and community members. We have some special surprises in store this year. Tickets will go on sale July 15th.**

## Message from the President



Spring is here and summer is fast approaching. The Foundation Board is planning more exciting events in 2019. Our first big event this year was the 8th Annual "Dancing with the Whittier Stars". It was a night to remember with great performances and fun all around. For the fourth year, the Foundation donated funds to the dancer's choice of a local non-profit agency. Agencies receiving funds this year include CAPC, Special Children's League,

Whittier City School District Education Foundation, Whittier Host Lions Club, Whittier Police Officers' Association, and the Women's and Children's Crisis Shelter. Through this program the Foundation has donated \$40,000 to local non-profits.

In addition to supporting our non-profits, the Foundation in the last year purchased a disaster preparedness vehicle, holiday banners, a police dog, police safety equipment and training and supplied the kickoff funds for the KaBOOM Project at Broadway Park.

The Board has continued its hard work raising funds for a one-time capital project that will honor Los Angeles County firefighters which will be dedicated in the fall. It will stand to honor those who serve and protect our communities when it is needed the most. The title of the piece "Stronger Together" is a tribute to the heroism and self-sacrifice of firefighters everywhere. This bronze art piece will be a valuable and lasting reminder that all people, not just firefighters, are truly Stronger Together.

I'd like to thank the Board for giving me the honor to serve as President of the Foundation for the last two years. In July, I'll be handing the reigns over to our new President Rudy Hernandez. Rudy has a true passion for Whittier, and I know the Foundation will continue to excel under his leadership.

Looking forward to seeing you at one of our events this year. Additional information on DWTWS, the upcoming "Boots, Beer and BBQ" and "Spooktacular 5K Run/Walk" events are detailed further in the newsletter.

Remember we can accomplish great things by working "Today, Tomorrow, Together." Whittier is a special place and with your help we can make sure it remains so.

*Fran Shields,*  
President



## Holiday Banners

By Chris Hardeman

Perhaps you noticed a little extra holiday cheer around Whittier at the end of last year. The Whittier Community Foundation sponsored Happy Holidays banners were installed in key areas of the city. If your area did not see extra holiday cheer this year, we will be coming your way over the next few years. If you enjoyed seeing the Holiday banners and would like to learn more of how you can participate in the foundation's Holiday Cheer program, please visit our website.







## Spooktacular 5K Run/Walk

By Greg Alaniz

This year's Annual Spooktacular 5K Run/Walk is scheduled for Saturday, October 26, 2019. This year's race will feature a new course, which definitely benefits all participants. We did away with the treacherous hill going up to Painter Ave. The new course will still go up Camilla; however, all participants will only go up to Washington Ave., then make a left turn. To make up for the difference, participants will make their way to Beverly Blvd. and loop back to run the course as in the past.

In addition to the new and exciting course, all registered participants will receive a fantastic finishers' medal, a commemorative race shirt, a free pancake breakfast, an opportunity for someone 18 year or older to win a trip to Hawaii (flight not included), adult beverage garden for participant's 21 and over, and an opportunity to participate in the Family Friendly Halloween Costume Contest. So, dust off those old running shoes, join a running/walking club, and start working out so you can be a part of this year's historic Spooktacular event.

Hope to see you on the starting line.



## 2019 Dancing With The Whittier Stars

By Rudy Hernandez

When Dancing with The Whittier Stars (DWTWS) began 9 years ago the intent was to bring an activity to Whittier that provided the Foundation a way to fundraise for various projects. Never did I think that it would become such a grand event, it has taken on a whole life of its own. Fundraisers within the Fundraiser, competition on and off the floor and a respect for the art of dancing.

As with any project, there will always be some roadblocks, differences of opinion and in this case creative differences. In the early years, dancers didn't have much input on music, choreography or costuming. Now, with the explosion

of Reality Dance Shows, contestants have more input to the degree of providing choreographed routines to follow along, which for the most part, has been helpful but on occasion I have to make a Directors decision and cut out something they may have wanted. (Primarily for the safety of the dancers). Designing their own costumes, bringing in back up dancers and story lines for their performance, but DWTWS is more than just dancing. Dancing is just one of many tools in this project.

We have pride in our city and businesses that support our causes. Commitment to the organizations, that we are

supporting, for without them we would not have raised and given back over \$31,000 to non-profit organizations.

We have had almost a hundred participants in our 9 years consisting of business owners and/or employees of local businesses that volunteer their time to participate, create and develop a new show every year. Of those hundred only 6 have had prior dance training, but of those hundred I would say 95% were glad, excited and grateful to have participated in this show. Dancing itself is an activity that many steer themselves away from (particularly, the men) but in this arena we have no prejudice,

judgment or concern, for to stand on that stage in front of friends & family takes courage beyond belief and they do this because they know the cause is greater than the fear.

My hopes and dreams is that Dancing With The Whittier Stars will bring a new generation of donors, dancers and audience. That we can have school vs. school, business vs. business and continue to fundraise not just for a singular project but for the betterment of the Whittier community for years to come.

**Keep Giving, Keep Dancing and Keep Believing.**



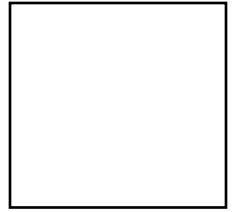
My journey with Dancing with the Whittier Stars started in 2017 when I was asked. David, my late husband had just started radiation treatments and I had to decline. I said I was interested but that just wasn't the time. After last year's performance I said I would be part of the 2019 cast if they still wanted me. I couldn't wait to start dancing. I had no previous dance experience and wanted to be sure I was up for the challenge. Michael Seril, a past champion helped me prepare in the gym. Rudy and Maria agreed to come at 5 am for my lessons. I practiced a lot because I had no dance experience and I knew my dance was challenging. This experience has been incredible and one I will never forget. If anyone is thinking about participating and want to talk, please reach out to me. I didn't have dance experience, but I had the desire to practice and to honor my late husband.

*Lawrie Perschbacher*



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PO Box 5187  
Whittier, CA 90607



## Mission Statement

The mission of the Whittier Community Foundation is to support community services activities for the education and enjoyment of the Whittier Community and to develop funding for new community service programs.

## Give Where You Live

Join online at [www.whittiercf.org](http://www.whittiercf.org)

***I want to support the Whittier Community Foundation***

### Annual Membership Levels

- ☐ Corporate Sponsor ..... \$5,000  
(a corporate sponsor includes sponsorship and prominent signage for all our events)
- ☐ Family Sponsor ..... \$250
- ☐ Friend Sponsor ..... \$100

☐ Check    ☐ Cash

Credit Card:    ☐ MC    ☐ Visa    ☐ Am Ex

Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_

Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ CVC # \_\_\_\_\_

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