

# Valley News Group



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## Inspirational Women of the Valley Named

by VNG Desk / April 3, 2026



The United Chambers Inspirational Women Awards annually recognizes women of outstanding achievement who have inspired others with their individual stories and accomplishments. They are highlighted not only for their successes, but for how they have inspired others, served as mentors and, through their contributions, made the San Fernando Valley a better place.

The 2026 award recipients are Pat Bates, Josie Casarrubias, Tessa Graham, Jordyn Grohl and Chantel Lopez.

Prior to her current environmental work, Pat Bates earned a PhD in Experimental Psychology/Biology at the University of Arizona, recycled to a 35-year CPA practice as a partner at a local Encino firm, continues forays into the art world, and is happiest working outdoors. The intersection of our fragile urban habitat and fire concerns in our community led her to a long relationship with the Los Angeles City Fire Department, whether helping with an LAFD native pollinator garden or advising on

the Valley so that no family ever faces hardship alone. She advocates at the local and state level for policies that strengthen services for all children, grounded in the well-established understanding that communities are healthier and stronger when children and their families receive the support they need from the very start.

Jordyn Grohl is a Los Angeles–based community advocate known for her support of charitable initiatives addressing homelessness and food insecurity in the San Fernando Valley and greater Los Angeles area. Through her involvement in volunteer efforts and nonprofit events, often alongside her husband, Dave Grohl, she helps elevate awareness and encourage public engagement with organizations serving vulnerable populations. Her presence at community service activities reflects a commitment to using visibility to promote compassion, collective responsibility, and meaningful local impact.

Chantel Lopez serves as the Government Affairs Manager for Hope The Mission. She is the liaison between the organization and government entities to address and end homelessness throughout Greater Los Angeles.

Born and raised in the San Fernando Valley, Lopez is the daughter of immigrant parents and a first-generation Latina working in the government affairs space. Her advocacy has meaningfully advanced housing solutions for those in need. Drawing from her lived experience, she is deeply committed to expanding access to housing services and strengthening support systems for her community.

Lopez brings authenticity, resilience, and compassion to her work, using her role to drive meaningful policy engagement, mentor others, and ensure that vulnerable communities are seen, heard, and supported.

These five honorees were selected from a wide array of industries including, but not limited to, business, social services, health care and medicine, education, community advocacy, arts, government and non-profit.

The honorees were nominated by fellow community members and the finalists were chosen by a United Chambers committee composed of previous award winners and community leaders.

The 12th Annual Inspirational Women of the San Fernando Valley Awards lunch will be held on Thursday, May 7, at The Odyssey in Granada Hills. For tickets and sponsorship opportunities, visit [unitedchambers.org/2026-inspirational-women.html](https://unitedchambers.org/2026-inspirational-women.html).