



## 2010 ABC7's "JEFFERSON AWARDS" SPECIAL

**Show:** ABC7's Jefferson Awards Special  
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**Length:** 30 minutes  
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**Type:** Public Affairs, Informational and Educational

### OVERVIEW:

ABC7's Marc Brown hosts "The Jefferson Awards," a show honoring special individuals in Southern California for their commitment to their communities through public service. ABC7 is honored to partner with the National Jefferson Awards for recognizing outstanding volunteerism.

### SUMMARY:

Jefferson Awards Co-founder Sam Beard and National Director Greg Moore talk about the Jefferson Awards mission and why they were founded.

ABC7's Dave Kunz shows us how our first Jefferson Honoree Debbie Baker found a fun way to put prostate cancer in the spotlight. Ross Kroenert comments on Debbie's admirable commitment to getting men tested for prostate cancer.

ABC7's Health Specialist Denise Dador introduces us to Jefferson Honorees Dr. Babak Darvish and Bill Sears, two volunteers who have each dealt with their own serious medical conditions and both use their experiences to help improve others' lives. Crystal Barker, the woman who nominated Dr. Darvish, comments on his extraordinary work. In Bill Sears story, Marcel Barber is a young man who needs a new heart. Marcel expresses his appreciation for Mr. Sears.

Marc Brown introduces us to Jefferson Honoree John Alderete, a volunteer at Big Bear Mountain where he helps physically handicap children have some fun regardless of their physical limits. Student Fanny Jaramillo tells us how Alderete encourages her to reach far.

ABC7's John Hartung introduces us to Jefferson Honoree Coach Richard Flowers who makes a big difference in the lives of so many kids on and off the field. Marvo Hider, from L.A. Parks and Recreation, comments on Flowers commitment to the children and his community.

ABC7's Leanne Suter introduces us to Jefferson Honoree Kuulei Fahilga, a hula dance teacher who volunteers her time teaching senior citizens to hula. Josie van Otterlo is one of Fahilga's hula students. Josie expresses how Fahilga makes it so much fun to learn to dance.

ABC7's Rob McMillan introduces us to Jefferson Honoree Cherie Gruenfeld, a tri-athlete who helps at-risk children in San Bernardino redirect their lives through her program "Exceeding Expectations." Student Marlene Samano and teacher Jacquez Irons talk to us about how Gruenfeld is making a difference.

ABC7's Robert Holguin introduces us to Jefferson Honoree Adela Barajas who created an organization called "Life after Uncivil Ruthless Acts," which stands for her slain sister-in-law Laura. South L.A. resident Patricia Umana tells us how Adela helps improve the neighborhood and bring hope to families who have lost a loved one due to gang violence.

ABC7's Amy Powell introduces us to Jefferson Honoree Jerome Washington. He founded the organization "Help me, Help you" to help feed the homeless in the Long Beach area and surrounding neighborhoods. Zina Washington is the Executive Director of the organization. Zina shares how Washington's effortless volunteer work improves people's lives. Lottie Wishum receives food from Washington's organization and she expresses her gratitude for his help.

ABC7's Ellen Leyva met Jefferson Honoree Sylvia Lofftus of Glendale, who was selected as ABC7's nominee for the National Jefferson Awards ceremony. Sylvia is a nurse who decided to do something about the lack of healthcare. Ellen Leyva show us the impact she's making in her community.

In March, ABC7 celebrated our most recent group of Jefferson honorees with a reception held in our studios. The Director of the National Jefferson Awards Greg Moore spoke to the group of Jefferson nominees about the history of the Jefferson Awards and what it means to be a volunteer in this country. On this night each Jefferson nominee also had an opportunity to say a few words. Every year, ABC7 selects one nominee to attend the National Jefferson Awards ceremony held in Washington DC and it's on this night during the reception that ABC7 announces the selected person.

The Jefferson Award honorees are a remarkable group of people devoted to their special causes. ABC7 traveled to the capitol with our nominee Sylvia Lofftus for the 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Jefferson Awards National ceremony where our nominee had the opportunity to share her story of public service as well as meet other amazing volunteers.

**GUESTS:**

Jefferson Awards Co-founder; Sam Beard, Jefferson Awards National Director; Greg Moore, Jefferson Honoree; Debbie Baker, Ross Kroenert, Jefferson Honoree; Dr. Babak Darvish, Jefferson Honoree; Bill Sears, Crystal Barker, Marcel Barber, Jefferson Honoree; John Alderete, Student; Fanny Jaramillo, Jefferson Honoree; Coach Richard Flowers, Marvo Hider, Jefferson Honoree; Kuulei Fahilga, student; Josie van Otterlo, Jefferson Honoree; Cherie Gruenfeld, Student; Marlene Samano, Teacher; Jacquez Irons, Jefferson Honoree; Adela Barajas, Patricia Umana, Jefferson Honoree; Jerome Washington, Executive Director; Zina Washington, Lottie Wishum, Jefferson Honoree and National Nominee; Sylvia Lofftus.