

# Door of Hope to Honor Bales, Barger

The Rev. Andy Bales and Los Angeles County Supervisor Kathryn Barger are being honored at Door of Hope's annual "Hope for the Future" benefit on Sunday evening, Oct. 1, in Pasadena.

Bales has spent his entire career, including 18 years at Union Rescue Mission on Skid Row, helping society's most vulnerable and at-risk by treating them with the compassion of Jesus Christ. During Bales' tenure at URM, the organization added two new facilities for women, children and families experiencing homelessness — Hope Gardens in Sylmar and Angeles House in South L.A. Under his direction, URM navigated the Great Recession and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Bales has been one of the region's most outspoken and influential leaders on homeless issues, a vocal critic of harm-reduction methods, and a fierce advocate for recovery. He was instrumental in ending the common practice of hospital drop-offs on Skid Row.

Bales has many awards and honors for his

community service and leadership and was declared a "Treasure of L.A." by the Central City Association in 2017. He has been featured on CBS' "60 Minutes," NBC's "Dateline" and CNN and has been a frequent guest speaker at conferences, schools and clubs.

He and his wife, Bonnie, have six grown children and many grandchildren. The couple has also welcomed more than 25 children in foster care alongside their children.

Barger comes from a family with deep roots in public service. She is married to a retired sheriff's deputy and lives in the San Gabriel Valley.

She began her career in public service in the office of former Supervisor Mike Antonovich and rose to become his chief deputy in 2001, where she served until her election to the Board of Supervisors in 2016. She both served as chair of the board and was reelected for her second term in 2020.

Barger has frequently addressed homelessness in the Southland. With her expertise



Andy Bales



Kathryn Barger

in mental health, economic development, foster care and public safety, she has delivered a hands-on and results-driven approach to address the systemic failures which have contributed to the crisis. She has led the charge to overhaul homelessness bureaucracies, expand access to mental health and substance abuse services, as well as growing affordable housing solutions.

"Door of Hope does the critical, compassionate work of keeping families together," Barger said. "Their supportive services and faith-based model have proven results. I am particularly excited about their homelessness prevention program, which is successfully serving families across the region. That's why I allocated \$40,000 to support the initiative earlier this year. The numbers speak for themselves — 96% of their clients retain their housing for at least a year after graduating from their program. Door of Hope aims to serve 190 families this year in Pasadena and the surrounding communities. I proudly support their mission to end family homelessness. I commend their successful client-centered approach and look forward to our continued partnership."

Barger added: "Rev. Bales embodies what it means to be a public servant. For more

than three decades, he has given his all to answer the call to serve the most in-need individuals in our county. Skid Row is not for the faint of heart [and] Rev. Bales has been a light in the darkness who tirelessly modeled how to help those suffering on our streets with respect and dignity. His ability to garner the community's support for URM's mission, especially for the mothers and children at Hope Gardens, is a testament to his vision and ability to unite people. He has been a passionate voice for healing that I have always appreciated and heeded. He will be greatly missed in his role at URM."

Megan Katerjian, Door of Hope's CEO, is pleased to be recognizing two people who have helped combat homelessness for much of their careers.

"In addition to Supervisor Barger making homelessness a top priority for her district, she has been an extraordinary advocate for Door of Hope," Katerjian said. "Always ready to listen, learn and challenge a one-size-fits-all approach, she has been influential in creating better partnerships between the government and faith-based providers like Door of Hope. Her funding assistance

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## El Portal Celebrates Mexican Independence

OUTLOOK staff photo

Pasadena Mayor Victor Gordo served margaritas alongside El Portal owner Abel Ramirez, whose restaurant was nearly filled to capacity for its annual Mexican Independence celebration last Friday evening.



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