

2023



STARS OF LIFE



March 7-8, 2023
Sheraton Grand
Sacramento, CA

CALIFORNIA AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION

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Congratulations to the



2023



Award Recipients



From all of us at **TEAM AMBUSERVE!**



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James Pierson
President,
Board of Directors
*California
Ambulance Association*

Congratulations to all of our 2023 Stars of Life. Your actions, whether from a single heroic incident or a career-long performance record, demonstrate that you have shown the spirit and commitment that it takes to be the best of the best.

Too often the work of paramedics, EMTs, nurses, emergency medical dispatchers, and other key support personnel goes without notice. Neither the public nor the media get the opportunity to see the contribution each of you makes to ensure that highly specialized pre-hospital medical care is delivered day in and day out to the communities you serve. The single common thread that links you all here today is that you do not do it for the money or the glory; you do it because you love it. Let's not forget about the families and friends that support you. EMS can be very stressful from time to time and for those that support you, we thank you.

The California Ambulance Association advocates for you in the regulatory process by working to ensure that proposed changes in education, training, equipment, or other areas that impact your work environment are fair, practical, and necessary.

Tonight, we celebrate you, the private ambulance industry's Stars of Life. We thank you for your commitment to your patients, co-workers, companies and communities you serve. 



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Thomas Allgaier
Paramedic
Medic
Ambulance Service

Thomas Allgaier has worked with Medic Ambulance as a paramedic for the last five-and-a-half years. He is married with three adult children and has four grandchildren. When he is not taking care of his mother-in-law who has Alzheimer's, he enjoys taking the grandkids on cruises and beach vacations, as well as four wheeling in the mountains near his family cabin. He has been a paramedic for 13 years. He began his EMS career in 1990 as an EMT with Cordova Ambulance (the future Medic Ambulance Sacramento). After leaving EMS to work construction, he returned to EMS and obtained his paramedic license. His first job was with AMR on the Gulf Oil spill in Alabama. From there he went on to First Responder in Sacramento, then in 2017 Medic Ambulance in Solano where he worked for us first as a paramedic, then supervisor. He later transferred to Medic Ambulance, Sacramento Division where he spent time as Operations Manager, Training Supervisor and field Paramedic. His proudest moment as a paramedic does not come from work however, it comes from his volunteering as a trail medic for the Wheelers for the Wounded. A grass roots group who takes wounded combat veterans on off road camping trips. With just a few years left in his career, he is proud to say he is a paramedic with Medic Ambulance. Tom is being recognized as Medic Ambulance Sacramento Division Co-Paramedic of the Year. Whether it is working late, covering extra shifts, or going above and beyond to provide exceptional patient care. He has shown time and time again that he can be relied upon. Great job, Tom! 🌟

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Roesli Antonis
Paramedic
Falck – Alameda

Paramedic **Roesli Antonis** was selected for the Star of Life for his service commitment to Falck Alameda County. “Roos” has been serving Alameda County as a dedicated and experienced Paramedic since 1990. Over the course of his career he has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to providing high-quality emergency medical care to those in need and earned a reputation as a respected leader and mentor within the county’s EMS community. Roos has held a variety of positions with Falck Alameda County. He has served as a field supervisor, responsible for overseeing and coordinating the activities of other paramedics and EMTs in the field. He has also been a member of the tactical EMS team, which provides specialized medical support to law enforcement during high-risk incidents. Additionally, Roos has served as a member of the honor guard, participating in ceremonies and events to honor fallen first responders. As a field training officer, Roos has played a key role in training and mentoring new Paramedics and EMT’s, helping to ensure that they are well-prepared to provide lifesaving care to patients. He has also served as a Field Team Medic, responding to emergencies alongside members of the specially trained medical teams of the Oakland Raiders, Oakland Athletics, and California Bears. Despite his many accomplishments, Roos remains committed to providing the highest possible standard of care to every patient he encounters. He is widely respected for his professionalism, expertise, and compassion, and is a valued member of the Falck Alameda County team. *



Gina Arendtson
EMT
Falck-Alameda

Gina Arendtson was selected for the Star of Life for her commitment to employee wellness. She is a highly dedicated and compassionate EMT for Falck who has been serving the people of Alameda County since 1992. With over three decades of experience in the emergency medical services industry, Gina has become a highly respected and valued member of the community. Throughout her career, Gina has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to the well-being of her patients, but she has also taken on the responsibility of leading the Falck Employee Wellness team during a particularly challenging time in the EMS industry. Her leadership during this stressful period was instrumental in supporting her colleagues and ensuring that they were able to provide the highest level of care to their patients. Gina’s dedication to her work and her colleagues is a true inspiration to all who know her. It is with deep gratitude and admiration that we honor her service as an EMT and as a leader in the wellness of her peers here at Falck Alameda County. *

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Eric Brister,
Paramedic
Medic
Ambulance Service

Eric Brister started out as a paramedic in the commercial diving industry in the late 1990s. He later transitioned to Emergency Medical Services in 2003. He has worked in a variety of EMS systems, including Alameda, San Mateo, San Joaquin, and finally landed in Sacramento County. He says he learned a great deal from each of these systems. He has witnessed great changes in the industry but a core foundation of compassion towards our clientele leads him to true amazement each and every week. Though EMS continually changing, he always looks forward to tomorrow's challenge. He has never been surrounded by so many likeminded individuals and truly loves our people. Eric gives thanks all for the lessons, the times, and the adventures we have shared as EMS providers. Eric is being honored as Medic Ambulance Sacramento Division Co-Paramedic of the Year! Throughout the year, Eric was always willing to help, whether it was to pick up extra shifts or change his schedule last minute. He is hard working, reliable and a dedicated employee. Great job, Eric! ✨



Joel Brown
EMT
Medic
Ambulance Service

Joel Brown started in EMS in 2013 when he got his EMT license through the Army. Upon being honorably discharged from the military in 2018 he began to pursue EMS as a career. He started working with Medic Ambulance in February 2022 while also working for Cordelia Fire Protection District. He is currently in his internship for paramedic in his hometown of Solano County. His ultimate goal is to be a Firefighter/Paramedic. We are recognizing Joel today, due his quick actions on a cardiac arrest call. He and his partner were notified of an unresponsive patient near the stage at a fair standby, upon arrival patient was found to be pulseless and apneic. CPR was started, AED placed, oxygen administered, and treatment and care was provided until a transporting ALS unit arrived on scene. We are proud to honor him as one of Medic's Stars if Life. Great work, Joel! ✨

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Roger Brown
Training Supervisor
Liberty Ambulance

Roger Brown has been an integral member of the Liberty Ambulance team and has spent the better part of a year revamping their training, education, and orientation processes. He started working as an EMT with Liberty Ambulance over 10 years ago, while simultaneously completing his paramedic internship. Upon completion of the internship and becoming a licensed Paramedic, he continued to work with Liberty. Soon after, he became a paramedic preceptor and supervisor and has remained in a leadership position for over ten years. Currently, he is the Training Supervisor and a Paramedic Preceptor. Roger has always had a strong interest in the healthcare industry, particularly paramedicine. He shows a lot of pride and compassion for this field and his community and feels the best way to give back is to involve himself in training and education to help produce the most qualified and experienced personnel. Roger spends his off time heavily involved with family, traveling, exploring new places, and attending concerts with his wife. *



Christopher Castillo
Paramedic
Amwest Ambulance

Christopher Castillo has been a Paramedic with Amwest Ambulance for a little under a year. However, in that time, he has helped restructure, organize, and solidify our ALS program. Christopher is also a proud serving Staff Sergeant in the US Army Reserves and this year, Amwest Ambulance partnered with him in participating in Boss Lift Day for our first time. Mr. Castillo brings leadership, charisma, and dedication to the Amwest leadership team and it has spread throughout the entire ALS Division. Few people have the work ethic, let alone ability to come into a new environment, see an opportunity for growth, and succeed at accomplishing it so quickly. Mr. Castillo continues to prove that he has that ability and more. Amwest Ambulance is proud, honored, and excited to nominate Mr. Christopher Castillo for the 2023 Star of Life Award. *

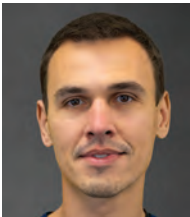
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Daniel Caverhill
Paramedic FTO
Liberty Ambulance

Daniel Caverhill is a true representation of a patient advocate and prides himself on making the best decisions for his patients. He has dedicated his career to EMS, beginning his career as an EMT with AMR for nearly five years. While there gaining experience, he became a Field Training Officer. After attending Paramedic school, he worked almost ten years at Hall Ambulance in Kern County. During that time, he was a Paramedic Preceptor and ultimately became a Field Supervisor. Danny worked almost a year at Kern County EMS, the local EMS Agency, before realizing his passion was out in the field. He has spent his last five years working as a Paramedic for Liberty Ambulance, where he currently is a Field Training Officer. Danny is very well respected among his peers and seen as a leader throughout our organization. Outside of work, Danny enjoys spending time with family, camping, and off-roading. ✨



Pavel Cherednichenko
CCT-RN
Medic Ambulance Service

Pavel Cherednichenko started in the medical field as an EMT working on BLS, ALS and CCT units. After working on the ambulance as a CCT EMT, he knew this is what he wanted to continue to do as an RN. Pavel graduated from Sacramento State in 2019 with a BSN in Nursing. He joined Medic in 2020 and quickly became an asset to our growing Sacramento Division. With Pavel's prior knowledge of EMS and his eagerness to progress his skills and knowledge as an RN, he has become an essential part of the team. Pavel is always looking for ways Medic can be the best provider for our patients and the community we serve. He is the nurse trainer for our new hire RNs in Sacramento and a very dedicated employee to our company as well as to the patients he treats. As a CCT RN, Pavel manages all types of patients in the acute care setting and provides excellent patient care. It is an honor to have Pavel as our RN of the year for Medic Ambulance Service. Great work, Pavel! ✨

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Joseph Clifford
Field Supervisor/EMT
AlphaOne Ambulance

In 2017, **Joseph Clifford** started working for AlphaOne as a non-emergency medical transportation driver. Soon after his employment began, Joe upgraded his position within the company to an EMT, operating within the Basic Life Support Division. While working within the BLS Division, Joe honed his basic skills to prepare him for his future path within AlphaOne Ambulance. After some time in the BLS Division, Joe completed his Advanced Life Support training and was fully cleared to begin working within AlphaOne's Emergency ALS Division. Joe's first ALS assignment was a 24-hour station where he worked for four years. Over the course of the next four years, Joe went on to become a Field Training Officer where he proved to have a contagiously positive attitude and a depth of knowledge in which he imparted to all of his trainees. After some time as an FTO, Joe applied for an Interim Field Supervisor position and was selected to join the Supervisor team. Joe has since become an invaluable member of the Supervisor team. In 2022, Joe became a full-time Field Supervisor and won the prestigious award of Supervisor of the Year, within our organization. Joe is well respected by his peers and by the employees of AlphaOne. He is a compassionate leader who embodies the core values of AlphaOne and will have a bright future within the organization. *



Nick Coibion
Lead Supervisor/EMT
AlphaOne Ambulance

Mr. **Nick Coibion** began his career with AlphaOne as a wheelchair van driver in September of 2012. Since his beginning with the company, Nick has moved up the ranks working as a BLS EMT, ALS EMT, Field Training Officer, Lead Field Training Officer, 24-hour Supervisor and is currently serving as AlphaOne's Lead Supervisor. Nick is the epitome of dedication and time after time has shown that he is not only willing but able to take on tough tasks that many do not want. A great example of his willingness took place last year when he took on the challenge of re-engineering our scheduling processes. Since taking on this enormously difficult task Nick has been able to keep our scheduled shifts overwhelmingly full! Mr. Coibion is always willing to come in early and stay late while having consistent enthusiasm and a lighthearted sense of humor. In his 10-plus years of service, Nick has won multiple AlphaOne annual awards including ALS EMT of the Year, FTO of the Year, and three-time Employee of the Year. He has mentored hundreds of EMS professionals and leads by example with his unyielding integrity. *

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Dana Cox
EMT
ProTransport-1

Dana Lawrence Cox is being recognized for the Star of Life award for a call he ran recently. The patient was being sent home for hospice, but the hospice equipment was going to be delayed. The hospital director contacted ProTransport-1 and asked for a huge favor. They wanted to send portable oxygen with the patient to bridge the gap until hospice equipment showed up. There was concern that the patient might not make it through the night, and they needed to get the patient home to be with family. Dana had a personal emergency and needed to be off because his home was flooding with water damage. Dana put the patients' needs before his own and offered to stay as long as needed to run this important call. Dana's actions illustrate our values and the care we have for our patients here at ProTransport-1 as well as the character we in EMS must exemplify. ✨



Stephen Crabtree
CCT-RN
ProTransport-1

Stephen Crabtree started his career as an EMT, working as a volunteer for the fire department and decided to become a nurse. His experience in both ICU and ED positions in hospital settings led to a transition as a flight nurse in 2006. During his 17-year flight career, Stephen continued to inspire others through developing continuing education workshops as well as running flight transports and developing ground and flight programs in his community. Since coming to ProTransport-1, Stephen has continued to make major contributions to further nurse education and expand his skill set. He brings a spirit of excellence and has gotten out of bed many times to go on emergent calls when he's off duty. He has a passion for EMS, and it shows in all that he does. Stephen's talents were obvious, and he was promoted to the RN Supervisor/Clinical Educator for the ProTransport-1 CCT Program. His passion for education and expert clinical knowledge is evident and he is always working on something to make PT-1 CCT program the best it can be. Stephen's hobbies include spending time with his wife and family as well as running a flower shop established by his mother and father 45 years ago. He also enjoys hiking. ✨

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Matthew Cullen
Paramedic
Falck – San Diego

Paramedic **Matthew Cullen** and his partner responded as a Multiple ALS unit and Engine response to a two-vehicle head on collision with multiple patients and a fatality. Matthew and Daniel were on medic xx and their patient was a 29-year-old 10-week pregnant female with her first pregnancy. The patient was found supine on the pavement upon their arrival, complaining of back, pelvic, and abdominal pain. The patient was a restrained, rear seat passenger. Upon assessment, the patient had a tender lower abdomen and pain to the touch of the pelvic region. Bruising and crepitus was noted during the exam. The patient was packaged quickly with attention to supporting her hips during transport. The patient was taken to the trauma center to meet the trauma team for admission. Mr. Cullen, a paramedic with Falck San Diego, has a passion to serve others and to do his best to impact people in a positive way. He grew up around public service – his mother was a sheriff's deputy, and his father was a firefighter, both for over 30 years. With a strong belief in serving others and making a difference, Matt serves as an instructor at a local paramedic program as well as a preceptor for paramedic students at Falck. He is also a member of the Falck Peer Support Team. Off duty, Matt enjoys fishing, paddleboarding, lobster diving, and operating a side business making beef jerky. *



Anthony Dana
EMT
Royal Ambulance

Anthony Dana started his career at Royal in August of 2022 as an EMT with goals of being accepted into a fire program. His incredible drive to perform at a high level, both with his clinical knowledge/skills and professionalism, quickly put him on the map with Operations as a future healthcare leader. He works very closely with Operations providing continual feedback on how to improve processes within his home county in San Francisco to ensure that his peers have the best experience possible. Anthony prides himself on his clinical knowledge, and advocates for every patient that he encounters. Even while running BLS IFT calls, he approaches them with incredible professionalism and attention to detail. Anthony was involved with a long-distance transport to Northern California, which ended up taking an unexpected turn. Four hours into the transport, through continual assessment of his patient, he identified that they were experiencing crushing chest pain with a significant distance to their destination. He recognized that this was far from ordinary and made the decision to divert to the closest facility, hundreds of miles from his home county. With his quick decision-making skills and medical knowledge, he was able to make the appropriate interventions to keep the patient as stable as possible, and ensured a safe transport to a hospital where it was confirmed the patient was having an acute MI. Anthony's quick actions avoided a potentially deadly situation from happening, all due to his compassionate nature and attention to detail. *

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Jerry Darrow
EMT
*American Legion Post
No. 108 Ambulance*

On the morning of December 4, 2022, Medic 2 was dispatched code 3 to a motor vehicle accident involving one vehicle. EMT **Jerry Darrow** along with his partner Paramedic David Kolet-Mandrikov arrived on scene within six minutes of dispatch. On arrival, EMT Darrow immediately assisted a local Jackson police officer with CPR on the 66-year-old male driver. After aggressively working on the patient for over 20 minutes, return of spontaneous circulation was achieved, and the patient had a femoral pulse. The patient was placed in full spinal precautions and loaded for transport to the local hospital one mile down the street. The patient was treated at the local hospital and later flown to UC Davis Medical Center in Sacramento. The patient remained in the ICU on a ventilator for a week. The patient made good progress every day and eventually was discharged home with no deficits. It was determined that the patient had experienced a cardiac event prior to the vehicle accident. The quick actions of EMT Darrow and his partner led to the successful outcome of this patient. 🌟

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Chalysa David
Paramedic
Supervisor
Medic
Ambulance Service

Chalysa David was born in San Diego along with her two sisters and were raised by their grandparents in Santa Rosa. After high school, she decided she did not want to go to college even though she had been in a pre-college program throughout her high school years. She had multiple dreams of different careers like oceanography and child development, even aspiring to be a firefighter. At 19 she found out she was pregnant and moved to Yuba City. She had another child in 2012 and decided she needed a better job to financially take care of her two children. She then enrolled in EMT school to pursue a career as a firefighter. She fell in love with being an EMT on the ambulance and made the decision to go to paramedic school. Chalysa was volunteering with a fire department, working 50+ hours a week on the ambulance, going to paramedic school and raising her two children. She has now been a paramedic for almost seven years and with the last six of those years with Medic Ambulance. In 2018, Chalysa promoted to Paramedic Supervisor, and recently transferred from our Solano Operations to our Sacramento Division. She describes it as a rewarding career and loves that it sets a great example for her children. She is now married with five children and looks forward to the rest of her career helping those in need. During a seemingly routine interfacility transport, Chalysa was managing a 34-week pregnant female patient in active labor. This was scheduled as a non-critical ALS transport going to a specialty mother and baby delivery unit in Roseville. Chalysa was the only provider in the back with the mother, and per the sending facility, birth was not imminent, or so they thought. Prior to arrival at the patient's specialty center, the patient's active labor rapidly progressed, and the patient began delivering the baby in the back of the ambulance. Upon delivery, the umbilical cord was found to be wrapped around the baby's neck two times. The baby was blue and not breathing. Chalysa was able to unwrap the umbilical cord and provide immediate resuscitation measures. The baby then began crying and Chalysa safely oversaw the completion of the transport of mom and baby. Upon follow-up the baby is doing fine with no deficits. This amazing act is just one of the reasons we are honoring Chalysa for a Star of Life! Great job, Chalysa! ✨

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Michael Davis
Paramedic
American Ambulance

Michael Davis was selected by his American Ambulance peers as Paramedic of the Year in 2022 for Fresno County Operations. Mike Davis came to American Ambulance in August of 1983 as an EMT-B. In 1987 Mike became a Paramedic and has served Fresno County and its surrounding community since then. Mike has served as a Field Training officer and a Paramedic Preceptor, but his most significant accomplishment has been working as a Paramedic Field Supervisor for over 20 years. Mike Davis's Paramedic of the Year nomination included the following statement: "I will never forget when I had my first pediatric code. After the call, I came to Mike and gave him a play-by-play to make sure I didn't miss anything. He sat there and listened intently and then said, "sounds like you did everything right," I felt like I could breathe again. He instantly made the stress of the call go away and has always been there to listen. He is one of the great ones!" Mike is always a resource for new paramedics and EMTs. He takes great care of the crews during his shifts. Mike Davis's son also works as an EMT for American Ambulance. His son describes his dad as a laid-back guy who loves to come to work, do a great job, and go home and relax. Mike enjoys traveling and collecting coins. Mike plans to retire soon and is excited to see more sights worldwide. ✨



Marc DeKlotz
EMS Administrative
Supervisor
Medic-1 Ambulance

Marc DeKlotz joined the Medic-1 Ambulance team as an EMT on March 22, 2009. Over the years, Marc has filled many shoes in his time with the company, including EMT, Dispatcher, Field Training Officer, and most recently EMS Administrative Supervisor. Marc first entered EMS back in 1982. Marc has worked for a handful of companies over the years, learning about the streets and freeways of Southern California. His knowledge of our community has earned him tremendous respect among his peers. Marc can literally provide his partners with the correct routing to any location within our service area, by memory, off the top of his head. Supervisor DeKlotz is quick to offer help to anyone who appears in need. He is known for keeping his unit immaculate and ready to go. Marc conducts the practical portion of driver training and has trained more employees than any other FTO we employ. Marc belongs to several clubs and volunteers regularly on Medical Missions to Mexico through his church group. Mr. DeKlotz is our longest-serving field employee who consistently performs above expectations and is a well-seasoned member of our team who is always looking out for new employees. ✨

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Jordan Dombrowsky
Basic Life Support
EMT
AlphaOne Ambulance

EMT Katya Rybikov and EMT **Jordan Dombrowsky** responded Code 3 as a backup unit for a CPR in progress to an unresponsive patient. Upon arrival and after quick patient assessment, EMT Dombrowsky began immediate compressions. In coordination with an additional AlphaOne unit, EMT Lin and Paramedic Whittlesey arrived on scene. Paramedic Whittlesey took over primary patient care and reassessed EMT duties on scene. He instructed EMT Rybikov to place pad on and insert IGEL, and for EMT Lin to prepare the four-lead on the patient. Paramedic Whittlesey delivered a shock to the patient, then compressions were continued. After multiple attempts to regain pulses, a change in rhythm occurred, but patient remained pulseless. Another shock was given, and CPR continued. Paramedic Whittlesey and EMT Lin then transferred patient onto stretcher and initiated transport to the closest hospital. At that time, EMT Rybikov and EMT Dombrowsky had been relieved of their duties and cleared from scene. *



Scott Dorff
EMT/Supervisor/FTO
ProTransport-1

With great pleasure we nominate **Scott Dorff** for the Star of Life Award in recognition of his exceptional contributions to Emergency Medical Services. Scott has been with ProTransport-1 for seven years and, in his various roles, has positively impacted both patients and coworkers. He is always the first person to step in and help, no matter the situation and goes above and beyond without thinking twice. In addition to being a new Supervisor and working on a dedicated bariatric unit, Scott has held the position of Field Training Officer for the past three years. Scott has influenced some of the best EMTs in the field. We are honored to work alongside Scott and have witnessed firsthand his positive impact on our team and the patients that he serves. Scott's commitment to providing the highest level of care and dedication to the profession is truly inspiring. *

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James Dunsford
EMT
Royal Ambulance

James Dunsford is an asset to the Critical Care team and Royal at large. He has demonstrated his clinical proficiency, trained a total of 5 EMTs and participated in many critical care transports. James was instrumental in streamlining the Critical Care Team's inventory ordering process, especially around airway procedures, noting that not all parts were compatible with each other. James runs many of our long distance transports, often working for 16+ hours to ensure patients get to a place that they can call home. On one of his long-distance transports to Santa Barbara, he noticed a car fire that his unit was First-On-Scene for and proceeded to get out and help as much as he could, while ensuring his safety, and the safety of his team members. James also has the record for Royal Ambulance's longest transport, going to Seattle, WA in order to ensure a patient could get closer to their family members. Outside of his CCT duties, James brings value to the Royal Ambulance Marketing Team. As a drone pilot and videographer, he blends a clinical and creative eye as he approaches the task of elevating Royal's visual brand identity. ✨



Sadie Eirich
Paramedic
Riggs
Ambulance Service

For the past 17 years, **Sadie Eirich** has worked for Riggs Ambulance Service serving her community. During those 17 years, Sadie has held the positions of EMT, Paramedic, FTO, Preceptor, Part Time Supervisor, and site VP for the local TEMSA/USW union. Sadie is a passionate clinician that plays an integral role in training a large majority of our new employees, as well as precepting many paramedic students from various areas. Sadie's passion for excellent pre-hospital emergency medical care and high standards for training new paramedics has been a huge contribution to our industry. Sadie's excellent clinical care has helped countless residents of Merced County during her years of service with the most recent being a code save of a 42 year old female who suffered cardiac arrest. Sadie's critical thinking and honed set of skills played a key role in this patient walking out of the hospital. Sadie's commitment to excellent patient care and training new paramedics is a shining example in our industry deserving of a Star of Life award. ✨

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Pete Empleo
Advanced Life
Support EMT
AlphaOne Ambulance

Pete Empleo began his EMS career in 2019. Prior to his employment with AlphaOne, Pete worked at another ambulance company. While he was working there, he learned many valuable skills that helped set the foundation for his future. Pete came to AlphaOne highly regarded and has been fully engaged at AlphaOne since the start of his employment. Although he has only been on our team for eight months, he has fully committed himself with his hard work and passion which does not go unnoticed. Since he began working at AlphaOne, it has been very clear that Pete has a passion for patient care and for the professional development of those around him. Pete has rapidly progressed in a variety of ways since joining the AlphaOne team. He is now an Advanced Life Support EMT who also serves as a member of the company's FTO Team. Pete is always willing to pick up shifts or come in last minute to help with coverage. He has what seems to be an almost inexhaustible work ethic. He is also the proverbial life of the party. Pete has a positive and magnetic personality that is immediately noticeable. He is outgoing, kind, and has a great sense of humor. He consistently looks for opportunities to help new EMTs feel comfortable and welcomed to the team. Pete is currently in nursing school in hopes to pursue a career as a Critical Care Nurse. Pete exemplifies our core values by coming to work with a contagious positive attitude and we see him as a bright star in our organization. ✨



Dylan English
Education Manager/
EMT
AlphaOne Ambulance

Dylan English has proven to be a committed and driven individual at AlphaOne. As the AlphaOne Training Manager, Dylan is responsible for the quality of training all EMTs and Paramedics receive at AlphaOne. Dylan consistently creates a safe learning environment for all AlphaOne employees to thrive in. He is responsible for leading his team of 24 Field Training Officers daily to ensure each new hire and upgrader receives the highest quality of instruction and mentorship. His continued commitment to develop and refine the AlphaOne training program through peer-based reviews has led to a significant decrease in employee injuries, accidents, and protocol/policy errors. This continuous improvement culture that Dylan has created helps to engage all AlphaOne employees in the process of learning and elevating their fellow employees. Dylan also represents AlphaOne in the Sacramento community by way of instructing several modules at local care facilities. These modules assist each care facility staff member in increasing their knowledge base on a variety of professional development topics. Dylan's eagerness to share his years of experience and expertise in EMS has proven to support all AlphaOne field crew members in their daily efforts. ✨

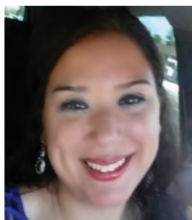
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Brandon Fong
Field Training Officer,
CCT EMT
LIFewest

Brandon Fong first became interested in becoming an EMT from his grandfather, who was a volunteer EMT firefighter in southern Indiana. Growing up, any time Brandon would have the opportunity to visit his grandfather's home, he would take any chance he could to listen to his scanner. After Brandon graduated from college, he pursued his lifelong dream and became an EMT in 2011, and he has not looked back, saying that he has truly enjoyed working on ambulance rigs ever since. During his time at LIFewest, Brandon has been promoted to Field Training Officer (FTO) and is currently embarking on his next chapter in healthcare – he will begin nursing school soon! Brandon has said that he believes that being an EMT first has definitely helped him develop the skills, tools, and mindset to succeed in helping others through healthcare. When asked what he looks forward to the most, Brandon said he is really looking forward to continuing his education because it will offer opportunities to help more people. Brandon is an integral part of the LIFewest team, managing complex situations and patients with incredible outcomes, including saving lives. Brandon is the definition of what the ideal of healthcare is: he is dedicated to good service for patients while providing exceptional clinical care. ✨



Mary Garcia
EMT
King American
Ambulance Co.

In 2006 **Mary Garcia** joined King American as an EMT. Through her many years, she has proven to be a steadfast and skilled professional. Though she now lives in Vacaville with her family and pets, Mary was born and raised in San Francisco. With her diligent work at King American, she gives back to the community that raised her. While maintaining her full-time working schedule, Mary has taken classes in order to further herself, cared for her three children, giving them opportunities she never had and still manages to take time for herself by exercising and reading regularly. On the job, Mary is easy to work with because of her ability to get along with everyone and extensive knowledge born from experience. While interacting with the public, Mary takes care of everyone she comes across, but goes above and beyond with those people who will not come home to anyone to help them with healing and their health. For these reasons, we are honored to present Mary Garcia with the 2023 Star of Life award. ✨

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Paul Gilbert
EMT FTO
Liberty Ambulance

Paul Gilbert's EMS service started eight years ago and he has been a part of the Liberty Ambulance family for the last four years. He has also served as a volunteer firefighter and as an EMT with the Pasadena Fire Department's EMS Reserve program. At Liberty, Paul is an Assistant Supervisor, Field Training Officer, and most recently has taken the lead on building Liberty's first Peer Support Group to ensure his fellow EMTs, paramedics, and CCT nurses have their mental wellness tended to so they can stay sharp and compassionate providing the best possible patient care. Outside of work, Paul likes to listen to podcasts and spend time with his family. ✨



Matthew Gill
Advanced Life
Support EMT
AlphaOne Ambulance

Matthew Gill has been with AlphaOne since November of 2020. He has since become part of our Field Training Officer team. Matt is a highly regarded FTO, who exemplifies great compassion and kindness for his patients and fellow EMS members. In 2022, Matt was awarded ALS EMT of the Year for his dedication to AlphaOne and our community. Matt is known for his genuineness and commitment to help new hires discover their roles as EMTs. The Training Division is given constant feedback on how Matt makes people feel welcome and empowers them to be the best versions of themselves. Matt reflects all seven of the AlphaOne pillars and we are proud to have him as a member of our family. ✨



Veronica Guzman Parra
SST
Medic
Ambulance Service

We are honoring **Veronica Guzman Parra** as Medic Ambulances Solano Division SST of the Year! Veronica comes from a family of immigrants and was always taught to work hard and strive to reach her goals. The healthcare and medical field is where she always wanted to be. This past year she started her journey in EMS by taking courses to become an EMT. She was fortunate enough to have an opportunity to start working with Medic Ambulance as an SST. Just as she was taught to do while growing up, she did her best in doing her work and helped where she could. While working as an SST she continued with her education to become a certified EMT. Just recently Veronica passed her NREMT and is working to transfer over and begin working out in the field. She is truly honored to be receiving this award and recognition. This is just one more steppingstone in her career path and she looks forward to being able to make a difference and impact in the lives of many more people as she continues in this journey. Veronica always has a positive attitude and is a true team player who is always willing to lend a helping hand. Great job, Veronica! ✨

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Kevin Hahn
EMT
Royal Ambulance

Kevin Hahn is an extraordinary individual who goes well above the call of duty. After four hours into a long distance transport, his patient began to exhibit acute signs and symptoms of cardiac distress. Kevin and his unit were able to identify the situation, administer BLS treatment, and divert to a STEMI center in an unfamiliar area. Once at the hospital, the patient showed ST elevation when placed on a monitor. Kevin and his unit were quick to act, and minimized the extent of cardiac damage. Kevin is also known for his leadership outside of the clinical setting. He received a letter of commendation from the EMS Director of San Francisco after leading one of the many school presentations he has attended. It was noted that Kevin's school presentations are engaging, informational, and that he is empathetic towards the students. Kevin displayed exemplary teachings with EMS initiatives. Recently, Kevin has stepped into an Operations team lead role, and is taking to it extremely well. He has shown extreme competency for complex situations, focusing on the important details, and solving the issues in a timely manner. In his new role, he has been a great advocate for our team, and a huge asset to day-to-day operations. ✨



Christian Hiris
Paramedic
Medic Ambulance Service

Christian Hiris learned from an early age the importance of compassion for others, perseverance, determination and necessity of teamwork being an AVM/aneurysm survivor. Hiris survived due to the incredible care provided to him by Medic Ambulance paramedics, local fire department, nurses, and wonderful team of specialty doctors. Christian grew up wanting to be a part of that team to give back to his community in some way. Persevering through therapy, Hiris took to any challenge thrown his way. Hiris spent time first as a preschool teacher gaining helpful experience with interacting and communicating with children. Christian began his career as an EMT and started volunteering at a local fire department. Christian thrived being a part of a team of emergency responders. Dedicating time to become accustomed to the field of emergency services. Christian was an EMT for two years before beginning paramedic school. He then became a paramedic and started working at Medic Ambulance. He puts his utmost compassion into his work every day, whether leading calls with critically sick or injured patients or taking the time to ensure the comfort of non-critical patients on the way to the hospital, Christian is always prepared to go the extra mile for each of his patients and makes sure his team members feel appreciated and respected for the quality work that they do. Christian knows the best outcomes are when the whole team works together. We are honoring Christian as a Medic Ambulance Star of Life due to his exemplary work on multiple critical pediatric calls. From delivering a baby on the side of the freeway to multiple cardiac arrests, Christian always maintained a calm, patient focused state of mind delivering the best of prehospital emergency care. Great job, Christian! ✨

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Matthew House
Field Training Officer,
CCT EMT
LIFewest

Matthew House became an EMT to help people and make a difference in the communities he has the opportunity to serve. Matthew received his EMT credentials, but he did not stop there – he went on to attend Fire Academy and obtained his FF1 certifications shortly thereafter. Matthew continued on as a volunteer firefighter in Sacramento County, where he has served for the past four years. In 2021, LIFewest was thrilled to bring Matthew onto the team, where his hard work, dedication, and compassionate care have led him from BLS to CCT units in just two short years. Matthew was quickly promoted to Field Training Officer (FTO) at LIFewest, all while continuing his fire career path, having been hired on as a Firefighter EMT for Cal Fire, Mendocino. When asked what he looks forward to the most in his career path, Matthew stated that his end goal is to be hired by a municipal agency, to continue his path of getting a paramedic license – all to be able to continue to provide selfless service to the communities he serves. Whether Matthew is resuscitating patients and saving lives or helping to transport nonemergent patients, he provides the utmost level of quality care and compassion on every single ambulance call. Matthew is the ultimate team player because he knows this helps him achieve his goal of selfless service to the communities he serves. LIFewest is honored to have Matthew serving on our team because we know he will continue to facilitate exceptional quality care for every patient he comes into contact with. *

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Jesse Izaguirre
Paramedic
AmbuServe
Ambulance Service

Jesse Izaguirre joined AmbuServe Ambulance Service as a paramedic on July 1, 2015. Growing up in the central valley of California in the 1960s, Jesse is no stranger to hard work. At age 13 in 1965, Jesse began contributing to his family by hoeing in the fields, and throughout high school, he drove tractors, forklifts, and his 1947 Ford pickup. Jesse graduated from Patterson High School in 1970 and quickly enrolled at Modesto Junior College attending general classes including cinematography. In 1975, Jesse entered EMS serving his community working at Patterson Ambulance prior to receiving his certificate as an EMT which he received a year later in 1976. In 1979, at age 26, Jesse received his California Paramedic License and Stanislaus County Paramedic accreditation where he began helping others at Doctors Ambulance of Modesto where he worked for 18 years until 1996. Jesse returned to Patterson Ambulance and worked there full-time and also at Oak Valley Ambulance part-time for five years. He then went to work for Priority One Medical Transport as a paramedic shortly thereafter he served as the northern California Operations Manager for Priority One for 12 years. From 2006-2008, Jesse also worked in Priority One's Texas division, causing him to become licensed in Texas as a paramedic. During his 48 years of service in EMS, Jesse has held paramedic accreditations in six California LEMSA jurisdictions and the state of Texas. At AmbuServe, Jesse works as a field paramedic and as an emergency paramedic in the City of Pasadena working as a part of the medical event team provided by AmbuServe in support of the Rose Bowl and its related community events throughout each year. Paramedic Izaguirre lives in Modesto where he also operates his professional photography business, which he started in 1969. Over the past 53 years, Jesse estimates he has photographed more than 1,800 weddings. At age 70, Paramedic Izaguirre is looking to soon retire. But until then, he is happy to tell any young EMT assigned to work with him about how EMS was done before 911 existed. ✨

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David Jara
Paramedic/FTO
*King American
Ambulance Co.*

David Jara is a highly skilled and dedicated paramedic in the emergency medical services field. He started work at King American in 2019. He was promoted to FTO in October 2022. Throughout his career, David has responded to countless emergency situations and has provided life-saving medical care to patients in need. He is well-versed and is known for his calm and reassuring demeanor in high-pressure situations. In addition to his work in the field, David is also actively involved in continuing education and training initiatives. He regularly participates in refresher courses and volunteers at SF City College paramedic school. David is a respected member of the SF EMS community and is highly regarded by his peers and supervisors for his exceptional dedication and commitment to patient care. He is a true professional who consistently goes above and beyond to ensure that every patient he serves receives the best possible medical care. During his off-time David likes to spend time with his wife and travel. Congratulations David! ✨



Jennifer Kang
EMT
*LifeLine
Ambulance Service*

Jennifer Kang joined LifeLine-EMS in 2022 and, in this brief period, has identified herself as an intelligent and reliable EMT. She has received many commendations from partners and supervisors for her enthusiasm to make the everyday workflow possible. Many of her peers appreciate her positivity and ability to quickly use critical thinking during transports. Jennifer has expressed great interest in furthering her skills and has elected to participate in LifeLine-EMS's TECC course as well as special programs to help with staffing while we onboard our newly hired clinicians. ✨

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William Keegan
EMT
Medic
Ambulance Service

William Keegan has worked at Medic Ambulance as an EMT for almost four years. Before starting his EMS career, he had another career working as an accountant. William graduated from San Diego State in 2014 with a bachelor's in accounting and worked for a few years in public accounting in San Diego before returning home and starting his own accounting practice. He left public accounting and San Diego to return to Vallejo, CA, because he wanted to help small businesses in his home community. His business grew fast, and he really enjoyed helping his clients grow their businesses. However, he still had a desire to do more in his community that would be more impactful and rewarding. William states, "Working as an EMT and for Medic Ambulance has been one of the most rewarding experiences I've had. I really take a lot of pride in the job and being a great EMT." He always makes it a priority to do everything he can on a scene of a call so he and his partner can provide the best care possible to patients. William is being honored as a Star of Life due to going above and beyond on call that included climbing and walking along a high fence, avoiding multiple barking dogs, where he found a patient lying face down and suffering from a stroke in their backyard. William was able to turn the patient over and clear her airway before going through the patient's home to unlock the front door for his partner. He has a lot of passion for the job and recently became an FTO to help train new EMT's. We look forward to the next step toward building his EMS career. Great work, William! 🌟



Natasha Kent
Dispatcher
Medic
Ambulance Service

Natasha Kent started with Medic in 2018. She has shown tremendous improvement in her dispatching skills as well as her ability to take on any task that is thrown her way. Natasha is being honored for her outstanding service as an Emergency Medical Dispatcher, as she has one the highest rated EMD scores in Medic's dispatch center. As an FTO she has been essential in the training of new dispatchers and at times has helped train multiple dispatchers at a time. Natasha is also dependable and whenever we need help in dispatch, she is quick to pick up shifts and help out! Natasha is a single mother who also finds the time during her busy schedule to be there for her son. She exemplifies what it means to be a dedicated Emergency Medical Dispatcher and employee! Natasha is being honored as Medic Ambulance's Dispatcher of the Year 2022. Great job Natasha! 🌟

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David Kolet-Mandrikov
Paramedic
*American Legion Post
No. 108 Ambulance*

On the morning of December 4, 2022, Medic 2 was dispatched code 3 to a motor vehicle accident involving one vehicle. Paramedic **David Kolet-Mandrikov** along with his partner arrived on scene within 6 minutes of dispatch. On arrival, Paramedic Kolet-Mandrikov observed a local Jackson police officer initiating CPR on the 66-year-old male driver. Due to the mechanism and nature of the incident, he had a high suspicion that the occupant of the vehicle had sustained a medical event that precipitated the vehicle accident. After aggressively working on the patient for over 20 minutes, return of spontaneous circulation was achieved. The patient was placed in full spinal precautions and loaded for transport to the local hospital. During transport, the patient had a normal blood pressure, pulse rate and his respirations were spontaneous and assisted. A 12 lead EKG done in the field revealed a 1st degree heart block. The patient was treated at the local hospital and later flown to UC Davis Medical Center. The patient remained in the ICU on a ventilator for a week. The patient made good progress every day and eventually was discharged home with no deficits. It was determined that the patient had experienced a cardiac event prior to the vehicle accident. The quick actions of Paramedic Kolet-Mandrikov and his recognition that the trauma was not the likely cause of the patient's cardiac arrest led to the successful outcome of this patient. *



Jolene Kopp
EMT
San Luis Ambulance

Throughout her career at San Luis Ambulance (SLA), **Jolene Kopp** has risen to the challenge in every aspect of EMS. Over her four years as an EMT she's accomplished a tremendous amount and maintained a standard that most staff members aspire to. Jolene has a heart to serve others and is always looking to see where she can help. Earlier this year, SLA was searching for a new scheduler. This is a critical role in any organization and requires a lot of attention to detail. As we searched for a replacement, Jolene offered to assist. As a seasoned EMT and company Field Training Officer, we knew she would be a great fit for the role. Jolene brought forth many new ideas and offered a fresh perspective on how to get things done. This is just one example of Jolene's work ethic and passion for EMS. Not only does Jolene care about the patients she serves, but she also wants what's best for the entire EMS system. We're happy to report that Jolene also committed to the next step in her career. In January, Jolene enrolled in Paramedic school at Cuesta College in San Luis Obispo. Soon, she will be using her gifts and talents to help others as a Paramedic. Jolene is an incredible asset to SLA and the community she serves. We are proud to award this year's Star of Life to EMT-Jolene Kopp. Congratulations on a job well done. *

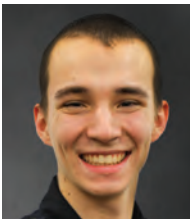
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Ashley Landa
EMT
ProTransport-1

Ashley Landa is a phenomenal EMT. Her hard work ethic and infectious smile not only resonates with her peers at ProTransport-1, but with every patient that she encounters. We have received several commendations from patients, partners, and hospital staff regarding just how great she is. NICU/PICU transport nurses have praised her adaptability to very quickly changing situations. Patients are thankful for her caring attitude, attention to detail, and compassion towards them during what are usually very worrisome times. Ashley sets the standard for what EMTs should be every day. Thank you, Ashley, for a continued job well done. ✨



Drake Lightfield
EMT
*Medic
Ambulance Service*

Drake Lightfield started at Medic Ambulance in our Sacramento Division as an SST. He quickly moved to the position of EMT and has worked in that capacity for just over two years. There, he learned the fundamentals of talking with patients, driving an ambulance, and professional patient care. After about a year, he left Medic to join Sierra College Fire Academy. He finished in June of 2022 and decided to go back to work for Medic Ambulance. However, this time he came back to the Solano division where he could get 911 experience. Drake considers himself to be living the 911 dream. His ultimate goal is to become a Firefighter/EMT and be a servant to the community in more than just EMS. He considers himself lucky to have been married for almost three years and plans to start a family within the next five years. Drake has proven himself an EMS professional who goes above and beyond. He is always willing to put in the extra effort to make sure everything is done right. We are proud to honor Drake as one of Medic's Stars of Life. Great work, Drake! ✨

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Janice Lim
Assistant Manager
Clinical Operations/
CCT RN
Royal Ambulance

Janice Lim has been with Royal since 2020 and has played an integral role within our Clinical Operations Team. She was instrumental in the creation of our CCT/ALS charting system and has worked extremely hard to make enhancements that create efficiencies for our CCT Team. Janice has developed a team of CCT Leads, elevating positions for Royal's EMTs bringing them up into Leadership positions. Her sharp eye for process improvement helps her create standardized workflows, and training programs for Royal's critical care department and her enthusiasm makes her peers feel confident and supported. She has been an incredible asset to Royal. ✨



Candy Lin
Advanced Life
Support EMT
AlphaOne Ambulance

EMT **Candy Lin** and Paramedic Andrew Whittlesey responded Code 3 to an unresponsive patient with CPR in progress. Before the crew arrived on scene, AlphaOne EMT Rybikov and EMT Dombrowsky had responded as the backup unit. Upon their arrival, EMT Dombrowsky had already begun compressions, after family stated there had already been 20 minutes of CPR performed. With multiple attempts to regain pulses and continuous compressions, patient pulses were still undetectable. After a couple more minutes of CPR, there was a rhythm change and patient was deemed in ventricular tachycardia. EMT Lin and Paramedic Whittlesey transferred patient onto stretcher. After the patient was loaded into the ambulance and began transport, additional shocks were administered, and pulses were then felt. Enroute to the nearest hospital, CPR remained in progress. Upon arrival, EMT Lin and Paramedic Whittlesey transferred patient from stretcher to hospital bed, where hospital staff recovered pulses. ✨

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Daniel Linares
Paramedic
American Ambulance

Daniel Linares was selected by his American Ambulance peers as Paramedic of the Year for 2022 for Kings County Operations. Daniel Linares came to American Ambulance in 2019 after spending several years in Law Enforcement. "I had a 15-year career in law enforcement, but I knew I could do more for my fellow man. I decided to make the jump and become an EMT at a huge pay cut, but it was the most important, meaningful, life-changing experience. I became a Paramedic shortly after and realized I should have gone into this industry so much sooner." He has been a paramedic for less than a year but is widely recognized as a leader and a role model. His fellow paramedics appreciate his kindness and generosity of spirit. He is kind and treats everyone with care and respect, regardless of the individual. One seasoned paramedic stated, "I could not think of a person more deserving of representing what we strive to be." Daniel is the son of migrant farm workers who grew up in a labor camp in Five Points, California. "I grew up knowing I wanted to help people." He is a fan of cooking and all outdoor activities. "I love to cook and hear me out, and I love to clean up afterward." ✨



Brittany Malone
Dispatcher
Royal Ambulance

Brittany Malone is an inspiration to many, particularly to young women in EMS. She has been serving her community with distinction as a Dispatcher and Trainer in the Royal Ambulance Call Center. Brittany started her career as a customer service representative, balancing work and school while she completed her undergraduate degree. Brittany's work ethic, engagement with the team, and dedication to our local healthcare community have enabled her growth at Royal where she now plays an instrumental role as a leader in the Dispatch Center. Outside of work, Brittany continues to inspire her community. As a Certified Doula, she provides support to new mothers across the Bay Area. Needless to say, her peers, patients, community, and Royal at large are grateful for all that she does and recognize her as a true role model. ✨

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Aster Martinek
Manager, Special
Programs and
Projects
LifeLine EMS

Aster Martinek began her work with LifeLine four years ago as an EMT. Knowing she wanted to pursue a graduate degree, EMS was a stop along the way in her academic pursuits. Four years later, Aster is now a leader within the organization and the creator of the Award-winning program FIELD, focusing on EMS Leadership development. Aster has created over 10 Special Programs and Projects to assist the EMS community in doing better tomorrow than they did today. Aster will soon announce a novel program promoting EMS development with a focus in Tactical Medicine so candidates can be quickly transitioned to one of the greatest Law Enforcement agencies in the nation. Aster will tell you that she only does this job, or whatever is asked of her, for fulfillment. She continues to progress and fine tune her skills ensuring everyone in her wake comes along for the very productive and meaningful ride. Congratulations Aster. ✨



Kevin McCarthy
Advanced Life
Support EMT
AlphaOne Ambulance

Kevin McCarthy began working in Emergency Medical Services in early 2020. Kevin, like many others, got his start working at a company that was primarily interfacility oriented. While he was working at that company, he learned some of the basics but knew he wanted a little more from his EMS career. In 2021, Kevin joined the AlphaOne family, and has become a true pillar of the team. Since his arrival, Kevin has refined his skills on the ambulance and has become a much more well-rounded EMT. Kevin began working in AlphaOne's BLS Division and is now currently working with a Paramedic as an Advanced Life Support EMT. Kevin is well respected amongst his peers and is known for his reliability and sound decision-making skills. Not only is Kevin reliable and intelligent, he has a work ethic that is unmatched by most. This year he caught the eye of the AlphaOne Training division; Kevin applied and was accepted to the FTO team. According to AlphaOne's Training Manager, "Kevin takes his duties seriously and communicates accurately and consistently regarding the status of his trainees." Kevin plans on becoming a Paramedic in the future and possibly joining the fire service. Keep up the great work Kevin! ✨

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Rolando Michel
Dispatcher
LifeLine
Ambulance Service

Rolando Michel has been a vital member of our Communications team since 2012. Rolando is very flexible and dependable and has been the “go-to dispatcher” for many years because he will always get the job done. Rolando answers every phone call with the intent of bringing a solution to the caller’s day. His inherent kindness shines through, and many of our callers request to speak with him directly due to past positive experiences. Rolando is entrusted with training new members of the Communications team, and his team admires his work ethic immensely. *



David Nava
Paramedic
Medic-1 Ambulance

David Nava joined the team at Medic-1 Ambulance on February 21, 2022. Paramedic Nava quickly established himself as a detail-oriented Medic who holds himself to high standards. His dedication to his profession is demonstrated by his astounding work ethic. Over the past 12 months, David has accepted more ambulance strike team deployment assignments than anyone else in our organization. Every time he has been called upon for deployment, even with a busy home life, Paramedic Nava has made the necessary arrangements to answer the call for help. Paramedic Nava began his EMS career in Los Angeles County nine years ago as an EMT in June 2014. In June 2018, David received his license to practice as a California paramedic accredited in the County of Los Angeles. He has worked in the fire service, private ambulance sector, and in EMS education as an ACLS and PALS instructor. David is a well-liked member of the Medic-1 Team by his coworkers and patients. He mentors new EMTs every day and shines as an example of a qualified caring EMS provider. *

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Vincent Nguyen
EMT
Medic
Ambulance Service

Vincent Nguyen has worked as an EMT for Medic Ambulance for just over a year. He is also a reserve Firefighter for the City of Fairfield and an EMT skills instructor for Sacramento State's EMT program. His end goal is to become a firefighter paramedic, and he plans on attending paramedic school within the next year. During his tenure at Medic, he met many new faces, had amazing partners, and learned a tremendous amount of emergency medicine. On his days off, he enjoys rock climbing, taking his truck offroad, and going on adventures. His drive and passion for EMS and firefighting come from the loss of his father, but this life event has strengthened him and has fueled him to help people in and out of EMS. Vincent has proven himself time and time again as an astounding EMT. He consistently goes above and beyond to ensure his work is of the highest quality. We are proud to honor him as one of Medic's Stars of Life. Great work, Vincent! ✨



Victoria Oliverius
Communication
Center Manager
ProTransport-1

Victoria Oliverius has been a huge help to the ProTransport-1 Communication Center for the past two years and we wanted to recognize Victoria for all of her hard work, late hours, and overall excellence in nominating her for the Star of Life award. Victoria has a strong background in dispatch and county protocols, as well as local hospital knowledge. She brings a positive attitude and energy to work that inspires others. Communications and dispatch are critical to ensuring crew and patient safety, and Victoria's leadership has been a breath of fresh air in our Communication Center. She has stepped up on many occasions by working nights due to callouts and goes the extra mile to ensure our patients get the care they need. ✨

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Skylar Ostrom
EMT
Medic
Ambulance Service

Skylar Ostrom received his EMT certification in 2012 when he was serving as a volunteer firefighter for the Montezuma Fire Protection District in Solano County. During this time, he was also working as a hand and heavy equipment operator on a ranch. After some time working alongside Medic Ambulance crews on calls, Skylar decided to apply for a position with Medic and was hired in June 2015. Within a year at Medic Ambulance, Skylar started working in rural 911 response in south Sacramento County and Solano County. He enjoyed working many years with great partners in and around Rio Vista, which also happens to be his hometown. He finds pleasure working with and helping people in the community he has known most of his life. In 2019, Skylar resigned from Montezuma as a volunteer firefighter after 10 years of service so he could have more time to pursue other life goals. Near the end of 2021 he started working out of Sacramento Division as operations had been expanding and the growth created a need in that area. He spent 2022 in good company with great partners and supervisors. While working in IFT may not be considered the glory of EMS, he sure has had a great time. Skylar is always willing to help out last minute and is a go to EMT in our Sacramento Division. Skylar is being honored as Medic Ambulance Service Sacramento Division EMT of the Year and will receive a Paramedic School scholarship to the school of his choice. Great work, Skylar! ✨



Chantale Pakosz
Clinical Education
Specialist/
Paramedic
Patterson District
Ambulance

Chantale Pakosz became an EMT in 1996 and dove into EMS standby events – sporting events, craft shows, or gun shows, she learned fast and was ready for anything – craft show injuries can be brutal. She started her ambulance career in 2001 and became a paramedic in 2006. In EMS, Chantale fostered her love for helping people. And true to EMS, she has helped countless individuals and their families through life challenges. Chantale moved into management roles with ease, all while still working ambulance shifts when needed. Working in the field as a medic was fun for Chantale. Administrative duties were a snap, and scheduling was a breeze. She then moved on to strike team coordinating and strike team roles. She's even dropped into San Francisco's busy system just to help out. With those challenges behind her, Chantale has found her next EMS career adventure as a Clinical Education Specialist. She genuinely cares for EMS staff everywhere, literally everywhere, and has provided many EMS lessons and coaching sessions to help people be their best. Chantale is the epitome of a caring EMS professional and an exceptional Star of Life. ✨

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Katie Palmatier
Manager of Process
Improvement
and Support
*Lifeline
Ambulance Service*

A new addition to Lifeline-EMS (c. 2022), **Katie Palmatier** has joined the management team almost seamlessly. Her colleagues consider her insightful and inspirational because of her stellar personality and ability to visualize the most challenging problems in a digestible fashion. In her year at Lifeline-EMS, her contributions to management's workflow and the overall operations of Lifeline-EMS are substantial. Katie is also kind and tolerant, which allows for learning and individual development that helps progress all team members in the right direction. This inclusivity has helped enunciate our core values to our team leading to more honest feedback, which allows us to make beneficial organizational changes. Katie served as a field provider for much of her career as an Advanced EMT. Her field work and field management style are impressive and inspirational. ✨

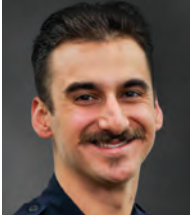


Ismael Perez
Dispatch Supervisor
*King American
Ambulance Co.*

Ish Perez is a native San Franciscan who has proudly served his community for the past 20 years. Ish started his career working at King American Ambulance in 2002 as a wheelchair van driver and in 2009, Ish transitioned into dispatch. Ish was promoted to dispatch supervisor in 2013. Ish is a proud father of both a daughter and a son. Ish has many hobbies and in his spare time he enjoys racing RC cars, bike riding and refurbishing old BMX bikes. Ish shares a love for the outdoors and when he is not in dispatch you will find him camping near a lake or on a hiking trail. We are honored to nominate Ish as our Star of Life this year and thank him for all the years of his hard work and dedication to King American Ambulance. ✨

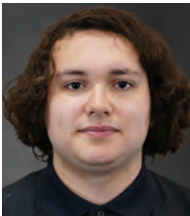
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Tristan Perez
EMT
Medic
Ambulance Service

Tristan Perez a Bay Area native, was raised by his amazing mother and sister. EMS became an interest for him in 2014 when he applied for the 'Bulldog Fire' memorial scholarship which honored the father of a grade school classmate, Captain John Nunes. He continued with his EMS journey by taking EMT and fire classes at Los Medanos College in Pittsburg. He obtained a passion for firefighting, EMS, and medicine and has been involved in EMS at several other agencies and at the Cordelia Fire Protection district. Tristan is currently an EMT with Medic Ambulance and has had the privilege of working there for about a year. After five years of being involved with the fire service and EMS, Tristan decided that he wanted to dive deeper into the medical side. He is currently enrolled in nursing school at Merritt College in Oakland where he is aspiring to be an emergency room or pediatric emergency room nurse and graduates in 2024. Outside of EMS and medicine his interests include snowboarding, lifting weights, hiking, and watching anime. Tristan is being honored today for his quick actions on a cardiac arrest call. He and his partner were notified of an unresponsive patient near the stage at a fair standby, upon arrival, patient was found to be pulseless and apneic. CPR was started, AED placed, oxygen administered and treated and care was provided until a transporting ALS unit arrived on scene. We are proud to honor him as one of Medic's Stars of Life. Great work, Tristan! 🌟



Max Peterson
SST
Medic
Ambulance Service

Max Peterson is being honored as the Medic Ambulance Sacramento Division SST of the Year! Max has been with Medic Ambulance and has held the position of Supply Service Technician (SST) for close to three years. This position has taught him how to problem solve and how to approach people more. This has helped him when it comes to training new coworkers in the position, as he can show them how to think quickly on their feet and educate them about the importance of his position. When he first started, he was the shy, quiet kid who kept to himself. Now, he is more open with people and will go out of his way to help those who may need it. Along the way he has also learned mechanic skills, utilizing tools in the workplace, as well as learning more about the EMS field and how it operates. This has also helped improve his knowledge of how a logistics department operates and he hopes to continue to learn more about Medic's own logistics department. Max is adamant that he couldn't have come this far without the help of those in the department, other SSTs, as well as our Logistics Supervisor and Manager. Max is always eager to help and willing to go above and beyond when it comes to his duties. Max is an integral part of our team and is always willing to help others. Way to go, Max! 🌟

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Jerry Pimentel
EMT/Lead Instructor
Royal Ambulance

Jerry Pimentel started with Royal in 2014 and has played a huge role in the development of our EMTs. After taking the role as an EMT, he was quickly promoted to an FTO and then Operations Supervisor. In each of these roles his passion for teaching and mentoring was invaluable, eventually leading him to take the Lead Instructor role for New Hire Academy. Throughout his seven years, Jerry elevated Royal's culture and values to New Hire Academies by serving as living proof. He consistently goes above and beyond to ensure that our EMTs are clinically sound and prepared to positively impact all patient's journeys. Jerry creates an environment that fosters growth, builds strong relationships, and creates a seamless transition into the field. ✨



Markie Prophet
EMT Field
Training Officer
Shoreline Ambulance

Markie Prophet joined Shoreline Ambulance as an EMT on March 18, 2019, after becoming certified in August 2018. After a short time, it became clear to her supervisors that she was interested in helping others learn how to be good EMTs and she was promoted to the position of field training officer. FTO Prophet's passion for EMS is rooted in her family's history of public safety. Her father served his community as a police officer for 40 years. At Shoreline, Markie assists new EMTs by teaching them local BLS protocols, ePCR policies, system orientation, and company policies. EMT Prophet works on both BLS and CCT ambulances providing a full scope of care to the patients she serves. In August of 2022, Markie started paramedic school to further her journey in EMS. Ultimately, she hopes to serve her community as a firefighter paramedic. She is always quick to tell anyone asking for career advice what her father told her, "If you love what you do, you'll never have to work a day in your life." Markie has another guiding life priority, she wants to always set a good example for her daughter, in hope that her daughter will look up to her in the same way she has looked up to her father over the years. We know she already has accomplished her goal, and all of us at Shoreline share our pride with that of her family for the many contributions Markie has made, and continues to make, in her commitment to service. ✨

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Jami Ray
Paramedic
San Luis Ambulance

As a second-year Paramedic, **Jami Ray** has proven to be engaged and interested in learning more about medicine and EMS. She isn't afraid to ask questions to improve her overall care of the patient, always keeping the patient's best interest at the forefront of her mind. As an example of this, she created a SLO County resource pamphlet to give to patients that may be in need of services other than what SLA can provide. Jami conducted a lot of research in order to create this pamphlet and did it in the hopes that she could help people find avenues to help themselves rather than rely solely on the emergency departments. She was also part of teaching a cardiac CE class that was presented earlier in the year, which shows her desire to share knowledge about medicine. In addition to this, Jami has been doing a tremendous amount of research into peer support and is currently working on a proposal for SLA. Jami takes initiative when interacting with allied agencies; numerous times she has reached out to fire department personnel to discuss calls and come to an understanding of what both sides need in order to make the call run smoothly. Again, she wants to provide excellent care to the patient and understanding how best to work together with our partners is an essential step in achieving this goal. Jami is also very engaged at her station. As an example, she put together an Oceano Dunes Response "how to" document with detailed directions about the 4x4 ambulances, including how and where to respond to dunes calls, including maps. This document was sent out to all field personnel and is very valuable information, especially given all of the new staff SLA currently employs. Jami also helped to organize a pediatric skills training at her station to ensure the highest level of care for children. Jami has an overall positive outlook on work and life and is invested in the well-being of her partners and patients. We are so proud to award this year's Star of Life to Paramedic Jami Ray. Congratulations on a job well done. ✨

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Jessica Robins
EMT
Medic
Ambulance Service

In **Jess Robins'** two years as an EMT, she has discovered her passion in EMS leading to the decision last year to become a paramedic. While continuing to work full time, she attended her paramedic program and spent whatever free time she had with her two daughters and husband. She gives everything she has to whatever she is doing which sometimes means burning the candle at both ends but finds that it is worth it because she loves the job. Jess fights hard for her patients and partners. As a partner, she strives to relieve as much of the burden off the paramedics she works with, sharing their workload as best as she can. During a particularly difficult call this past year involving a neonatal resuscitation, Jess worked seamlessly with her partner Christian to get the baby to the hospital. She made sure her partner knew he was not alone in those emotional and critical moments. Jess' final year as an EMT was absolutely one she is proud of and looks ahead at the next chapter as a paramedic. Jess is being honored as Medic Ambulance Solano Division EMT of the Year and will receive a full tuition reimbursement for her Paramedic School. Great Job, Jess! ✨



Michael Robinson
Paramedic
Medic
Ambulance Service

We are honoring **Michael Robinson** as Medic Ambulance's Solano Division Paramedic of the Year! Michael was born and raised in Vacaville and now resides in Dixon with his wife, two daughters and two dogs. Michael first started with Medic Ambulance in 2012 as a Wheelchair/Gurney Van Technician. He quickly moved to EMT, and then on to a paramedic in 2017. During his time at Medic, he has been deployed on multiple strike teams as an Emergency Response Team member. Michael is currently a Field Training Officer, who has trained multiple new hire EMTs. He has also trained new paramedics during their field internships as a Preceptor. In addition, Michael is a shop steward for the union. He is proud to serve the people of his hometown in Solano County while working for Medic Ambulance. Outside of work he enjoys spending time with his family, camping, fishing, and playing Hockey. Way to go, Michael! ✨

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Katya Rybikov
Advanced Life
Support EMT
AlphaOne Ambulance

EMT **Katya Rybikov** and EMT Dombrowsky responded Code 3 as a backup unit for a CPR in progress to an unresponsive patient. Upon arrival and after quick patient assessment, EMT Dombrowsky began immediate compressions. In coordination with an additional AlphaOne unit, EMT Lin and Paramedic Whittlesey arrived on scene. Paramedic Whittlesey took over primary patient care and reassessed EMT duties on scene. He instructed EMT Rybikov to place pad on and insert IGEL, and for EMT Lin to prepare the 4-lead on the patient. Paramedic Whittlesey delivered a shock to the patient, then compressions were continued. After multiple attempts to regain pulses, a change in rhythm occurred, but patient remained pulseless. Another shock was given, and CPR continued. Paramedic Whittlesey and EMT Lin then transferred patient onto stretcher and initiated transport to the closest hospital. At that time, EMT Rybikov and EMT Dombrowsky had been relieved of their duties and cleared from scene. *



Mike Ryder
Business
Development
Manager/EMT
AlphaOne Ambulance

Mike Ryder started his EMS career in 2002 as an EMT and in 2017 joined the Business Development team. Having a foundation of EMS experience, Mike works in our community daily as the go to problem solver for the Sacramento County senior healthcare community. Mike exemplifies AlphaOne's core value of non-complacency, and this can be seen with everything he does. For example, it is impossible to find a speck of dust on his company vehicle. During the Covid 19 pandemic, Mike was instrumental in field operations training and continues to manage several programs for Covid testing and vaccine distribution to the Sacramento County region. His dedication to EMS and the senior health community can be seen through his participation with many various charity organizations. Mike is as committed to EMS now as he was when he began his career over 20 years ago. Every organization needs a Mike Ryder and AlphaOne is glad to have ours! *

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Renard Sagun
EMT
Falck Mobile
Health Corp.

On 11/15/2022 in Whittier (CA), 75 recruits from the local Sheriff's Academy were running in formation when a driver veered into the wrong lane and struck the group. LA County Sheriff Chief Villanueva stated, "There were so many bodies scattered everywhere in different states of injury that it was pretty traumatic for all individuals involved." **Renard Sagun** and his partner were first on scene, heroically triaging the area and transporting the most critical patient prior to Fire responding. His passion to help people placed him on his path to become an EMT, knowing the job also gave him a position to do something extraordinary. Renard started his career with Falck in 2017 running private transports, and since 2018 has served the LA County area of Lakewood in its 911 system. In his off time, Renard enjoys Motorsport photography, specifically taking pictures of drift racing, and has career aspirations of working in law enforcement in the near future. *



Lisa Scates
EMT
Falck Mobile
Health Corp.

On 11/15/2022 in Whittier (CA), 75 recruits from the local Sheriff's Academy were running in formation when a driver veered into the wrong lane and struck the group. LA County Sheriff Chief Villanueva stated, "There were so many bodies scattered everywhere in different states of injury that it was pretty traumatic for all individuals involved." **Lisa Scates** and her partner were 1st on scene, heroically triaging the scene and transporting the most critical patient prior to Fire responding. Becoming an EMT was a personal journey to Lisa. After life a changing event and having to all 911 numerous times in her household, she found herself very moved by the way the First Responders took great care of her family member. Ultimately, she decided to make a career change and enrolled into Rio Hondo College, becoming an EMT in 2018. While off-duty, Lisa is an avid gardener, enjoys going to the nurseries, and aims to complete her Nursing Degree. *

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Kaley Scott
LVN
AlphaOne Ambulance

Kaley Scott joined the AlphaOne team during one of the many surges of the pandemic, in November of 2022. Sacramento County Department of Public Health had several platforms to promote the Covid 19 Vaccines to the public. Many of these programs had the able-bodied participants go to a set location and receive their vaccine or booster. Sacramento County also had the *MyTurn.CA.gov* website to identify persons who could not physically get to a vaccine site. AlphaOne collaborated with the Sacramento Public Health Department to address this segment of the population. Kaley and her team took on the duty of bringing vaccines to Sacramento County's most vulnerable population, providing shots Monday through Friday, anywhere within county lines. Kaley's nursing expertise and training helped her to manage the three types of vaccine: Moderna, Johnson and Johnson, and Pfizer and the differences in their doses. Once identified and screened, Kaley would start her day at the county office to receive the days' vaccines to distribute. Once onsite at a person's home, Kaley's role was often educating and providing comfort to those about to receive their chosen vaccine. Knowing the ever-changing requirements and standards while monitoring the vaccines hourly was a constant as the whole world evolved through this process. Kaley's invaluable service to our community provided vaccinations for over 1,950 residents of Sacramento County. Kaley continues to grow within her scope of practice with AlphaOne, currently working to create a mobile integrated health care package to provide insulin management for those in need all while going to school to complete her Bachelor of Science in Nursing. *

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Christopher Sison
Critical Care
Transport Nurse
(CCT-RN)
LIFewest

Christopher Sison was motivated to get into EMS when he was 13 years old after being ejected from his vehicle during a car crash. Inspired by the teamwork, kindness, and courage exemplified by the first responders and emergency staff who took care of him and his family, Christopher decided this was the profession for him. The majority of Christopher's EMS career was spent serving the County of San Francisco, and this is where he met and worked with Critical Care Transport Nurses who would be pivotal in inspiring him to ultimately pursue a path in critical care nursing. Christopher admired nurses for their immense knowledge, technical prowess, and courage as they transported some of the sickest of patients. While continuing to work, Christopher obtained his degree and was fortunate to be hired as a new graduate Registered Nurse in the ICU and CVICU at Kaweah Health, a large teaching hospital in the Central Valley. The experience Christopher gained in their trauma, neuro, medical, and CVICU during the Covid pandemic helped prepare him to become the exemplary CCT RN he is today. After being awarded a B.S. in Nursing in 2011, Christopher came to LIFewest where he says he is thrilled to continue to serve the Bay Area and to work beside an exceptional CCT crew. Christopher continually proves he is a hugely valuable member of the LIFewest team. Christopher exceeds expectations on every single call and ambulance transport he is on regardless if he is saving lives or helping less critical patients get their needs addressed – demonstrating the compassion and courage he was motivated by as a young man. *



Steven Sonntag
Dispatch Lead
Royal Ambulance

Steven Sonntag is an exceptional leader in the Royal Ambulance Call Center. Steven started his journey as an entry-level customer service representative and quickly rose through the ranks to become a dispatcher and eventually a supervisor. Steven's leadership has been instrumental in the growth and expansion of the center and his unwavering commitment to excellence has made him a valuable asset to the team. Known for his calm and collected leadership style, he has guided his colleagues through some of their most intense days. While he consistently goes above and beyond to support the community and is an inspiration to those around him, we really love him because he knows how to make us smile during our most challenging times. Steven's leadership and passion for helping others make him an asset to the Bay Area community, the Dispatch Center, and Royal at large. We are honored to work alongside such a phenomenal individual and are proud to recognize his hard work and dedication. We are excited to see where his growth and development journey brings him, and glad to be a part of it. *

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Joel Sotelo
EMT Field
Training Officer
AmbuServe
Ambulance Service

Joel Sotelo joined team AmbuServe as an EMT on October 14, 2014, after obtaining his EMT certification earlier that year. Joel was led to become an EMT after serving as a Los Angeles County Fire Department Explorer Program volunteer in 2012. Volunteerism isn't a one-off activity for Joel, he has volunteered for many hours serving his community performing first aid and medical care at a care clinic located at the Long Beach Arena and organized by his church. He has volunteered to serve as an attendant at church functions, served as the leader of the Red Cross Club, and many other duties at his church over the years, which he continues to perform to this day. At AmbuServe, Joel works with new EMTs as a field training officer. He draws upon his nine years of experience to guide his new partners to be their best. Joel also served as one of the first team members of the company's model AMI stroke team rapid ambulance response program located at Little Company of Torrance Medical Center. EMT Sotelo served on the team alongside another AmbuServe EMTs and hospital-based RNs, and RTs. The team responds to outlying community hospitals and transfers patients back to the specialty center for advanced care. The program has served as a model which now has been replicated to serve other hospitals throughout Los Angeles and Orange counties. Joel's dedication to his patients and his community is evident to his coworkers, and anyone that spends any time with him. *



Brooklyn Thaxton
EMT
LifeLine
Ambulance Service

Brooklyn Thaxton has been an EMT with LifeLine-EMS since 2021. Brooklyn has been identified by colleagues as an exceptional partner and care provider. Brooklyn is an individual that gives their all to each transport they do. From excellent patient care to showing empathy for family members, everyone receives a universal experience. Many partners have expressed the joy that it is to work with a patient-centric and passionate partner as well as knowing that Brooklyn will also keep a calm composure when higher acuity situations arise. *

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Danielle Thomas
COO
Lifeline
Ambulance Service

Danielle Thomas (DT) joined LifeLine-EMS as the Chief Operating Officer in early 2022. Danielle has impacted LifeLine-EMS significantly despite this short time with her EMS experience and influential, can-do personality. The LifeLine staff highly regards DT because she has directed the organization toward exponential growth and implemented cultural and operational changes to help with employee morale, retention, and business strategy. Creating departments such as Special Programs and Projects has led to many employee programs, including partnerships with local government agencies, the film industry, and even one that won a CAA Service of Excellence award. Under DT, our newly formed Performance Improvement Department works in tandem with our Training and Process Improvement Departments to revamp policies to meet the dynamic challenges of EMS and provide meaningful instruction to our field employees leading to fewer operational incidents. DT is a LifeLine-EMS Star of Life because she believes it is her duty to serve the employees of LifeLine-EMS. She reinforces this belief through her daily actions, trustworthiness, and proven ability to effect change and drive results. ✨



Eddie Thompson
EMT
Patterson District
Ambulance

Eddie Thompson started his EMS career as a volunteer firefighter for the West Stanislaus Fire Protection District in 1998. He ventured out with basic first aid training and a desire to help others. He became an EMT and came to work for Patterson District Ambulance in 2003. He continues his volunteer fire duties and works part-time on an ambulance, all while working full-time at Patterson High School where he remains young at heart and helps maintain calm in high school chaos. He is part of the campus EMS response and has coordinated the "Every 15 Minutes Program" at the high school since 2002. He is a CPR instructor, a Santa Claus, and handles EMS standbys at youth and high school games. The Santa Claus gig is legit. Each year for the last two decades, Eddie rides around Patterson on a fire apparatus bringing Santa Claus to life for children of all ages. Don't let his stern demeanor fool you. Eddie has a heart of gold and a genuine love for his community. He is an exceptional Star of Life honoree. ✨

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Linze Thompson
EMT/Field Training
Officer/Dispatcher
Amwest Ambulance

Linze Thompson has been an Amwest Family member for 5.5 years serving as an EMT, Field Training Officer, Dispatcher, and all-around helper. When someone thinks of what Amwest is, Linze Thompson comes to mind. He has a huge heart of gold, is extremely loyal and dedicated, and is always looking to help and serve others. Linze has had numerous compliments and commendations submitted about him during his time with Amwest. When new hires or student ride-alongs come in for their first experience, Linze is typically the first to greet them and guide them along the way. Amwest Ambulance is proud and honored to nominate Linze Taylor Thompson for the 2023 Star of Life Award. ✨



David Tolliver-Nazem
EMT
*LifeLine
Ambulance Service*

David Tolliver-Nazem initially joined LifeLine EMS in 2020. He later went on to work for a 911 providing ambulance company to utilize his field skills differently. David rejoined LifeLine-EMS in 2022 and has demonstrated significant personal growth in his compassion for patients, dedication to the job, mental aptitude, and pleasant personality. Many coworkers and managers alike consider his patient care to set the LifeLine-EMS standard, and for that, he was promoted to FTO shortly after rejoining our team. Additionally, David was recently selected to join the LifeLine EMS award-winning FIELD program, which readies individuals to become our next EMS leaders. ✨

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Rigoberto Valencia
EMT
Royal Ambulance

Rigoberto Valencia joined the Royal team in 2018 starting out as a BLS EMT. Rigo's positive attitude and drive set him apart from his peers very early on in his healthcare career. He is one of the most compassionate and thorough individuals when it comes to his patient care, and his positivity and energy are infectious. The level of professionalism that he exhibits on a daily basis was a clear indicator that he was a future leader within the organization. Rigoberto was promoted to a Field Training Officer, where he was able to extend his influence and level of professionalism to each of his nine trainees. He made it his personal mission for his trainees to aspire to be more than an EMT, constantly expanding their knowledge and skills to provide the best experience for each patient they interact with. As Rigo grew, he began to work on our Critical Care Units, gaining exposure to patients with much higher acuity health concerns. Putting his newfound knowledge into practice, he elevated his patient care and became a senior member of the Critical Care team. Rigo was then promoted to a CCT FTO, responsible for providing the same coaching and training at a higher level working with critical care patients. Rigoberto's drive and professionalism highlight the epitome of what an EMT should aspire to be as they start their healthcare journey. It is an absolute pleasure to recognize Rigoberto as a Star for his continued excellence. ✨



Alexandria Van Hoek
EMT Field
Training Officer
Medic-1 Ambulance

Alexandria Van Hoek officially joined Medic-1 Ambulance on September 30, 2019, however, her ties to our company go back a bit further, and she was a student of the Pasadena City College EMT program where one of our managers was teaching. By chance, her last name led to some questions and a link existed between a family member and the instructor, and the rest, as they say, was history. As a student, Alexandria was passionate about learning and excelling at patient care. After finishing the class, she was quickly recruited into our organization. EMT Van Hoek, always upbeat and friendly, has quickly established herself in our ranks as a dependable, compassionate EMT who strives to make an impact on every person she encounters. Alexandria works across all of our service levels including BLS, ALS, and CCT ambulances. EMT Van Hoek was soon promoted to the position of field training officer, where she consistently and positively impacts new EMTs, and by extension, their patients too. Her path in medicine has continued, she recently applied to a registered nursing program and was quickly accepted. Alexandria continues to work with us at Medic-1 as she attends nursing school all the while maintaining her sunny demeanor and still is always happy to mentor her fellow EMTs. With only one short semester away from finishing nursing school, EMT Van Hoek will continue to serve our community as a nurse and will no doubt continue to make significant impacts on many lives for years to come. ✨

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Ashley Whitehead
EMT
ProTransport-1

Ashley Whitehead has been an extraordinary addition to the ProTransport-1 team. She constantly goes above and beyond for her patients. She recently ran a pediatric call that didn't go as planned, and during the transport, the parent of the child started to seize. She acted quickly as her one patient turned into two. The crew luckily had just left the hospital, so they diverted back to the Emergency Room, Code 3. They remained on scene until the parent became alert and oriented to see that their child was fine before transporting once again. Just as she goes above and beyond for every patient that she encounters, she also goes above and beyond for her coworkers and our company with anything that needs attention. We appreciate everything that she does for ProTransport-1 and nominate her as one of our Stars of Life. ✨



Zachary Whiting
Critical Care RN
AlphaOne Ambulance

In 2022, Critical Care RN, **Zachary Whiting**, took on the task of building a top tier critical care transport system for AlphaOne Ambulance. This "built from the ground up" approach has revealed several qualities in Zachary that should be admired and acknowledged. His tenacity for excellence has been demonstrated through the thoroughness of the training curriculum for new nurses that want to join the team. Moreover, his commitment to research and purchasing high-end equipment, such as a fetal heart tone monitor as well as our high flow oxygen equipment, has elevated the level of care our patients and clients can expect to see from AlphaOne. His years of flight and ground critical care transport experience have proven to provide him with the knowledge, confidence, and leadership to take our critical care team to the next level. Always driven by the highest quality patient care, Zachary has developed a thorough QI review process for AlphaOne. Zachary's commitment to improve and refine the quality of care in the critical care transport system in Sacramento County will undoubtedly make a lasting positive impact on the future. ✨

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Andrew Whittlesey
Paramedic
AlphaOne Ambulance

EMT Lin and Paramedic **Andrew Whittlesey** responded Code 3 to an unresponsive patient with CPR in progress. Before the crew arrived on scene, AlphaOne EMT Rybikov and EMT Dombrowsky had responded as the backup unit. Upon their arrival, EMT Dombrowsky had already begun compressions, after family stated there had already been 20 minutes of CPR performed. With multiple attempts to regain pulses and continuous compressions, patient pulses were still undetectable. After a couple more minutes of CPR, there was a rhythm change and patient was deemed in ventricular tachycardia. EMT Lin and Paramedic Whittlesey transferred patient onto stretcher. After the patient was loaded into the ambulance and began transport, additional shocks were administered, and pulses were then felt. Enroute to the nearest hospital, CPR remained in progress. Upon arrival, EMT Lin and Paramedic Whittlesey transferred patient from stretcher to hospital bed, where hospital staff recovered pulses. *



Justin Williams
Paramedic
Butte County EMS

Paramedic **Justin Williams** was dispatched to a respiratory distress call. Upon arrival, Paramedic Williams found a female in severe respiratory distress who also was 40 weeks pregnant in active labor for the last three days. During his assessment, the patient started to decompensate and stopped breathing. He immediately was able to provide airway and ventilation support for the patient, quickly extricated and transported to the hospital. During transport to the hospital, Paramedic Williams was also delayed by a train, but due to his calm demeanor, quick and decisive actions, and early heads up to the hospital, when the patient made it to the hospital, they were able to immediately intubate and perform an emergency C-Section in the OR. The patient and the baby were discharged home a couple of days later. This is just one of many calls that Paramedic Williams has been on, where his ability to act decisively and remain calm has provided his patients with the best possible outcomes. *

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Donald Wiseman
Paramedic
Liberty Ambulance

Donald Wiseman has dedicated his adult life and career to EMS, servicing the Kern River Valley for nearly 30 years! He is a mentor to newer paramedics and is very well respected among his colleagues. He began his career in 1994 as an EMT working for CARE Ambulance in Kern County. Four years later he obtained a Paramedic license and continued working at Care Ambulance until it was purchased by Liberty Ambulance where he is still employed today. Don grew up in the Kern River Valley and has lived there since 1977. He has run thousands of calls over the years, but his most memorable call was delivering a little baby boy who was approximately 28 weeks and only three pounds; the little one persevered and is still doing great today. Off duty he enjoys many interests including fishing, gold panning, and he is a strong believer of the 2nd Amendment. ✨



Daniel Woods
EMT
Falck-San Diego

EMT **Daniel Woods** and his partner responded as a Multiple ALS unit and Engine response to a two-vehicle head on collision with multiple patients and a fatality. Matthew and Daniel were on medic xx and their patient was a 29-year-old 10-week pregnant female with her first pregnancy. The patient was found supine on the pavement upon their arrival complaining of back, pelvic, and abdominal pain. The patient was a restrained rear seat passenger. Upon assessment, the patient had a tender lower abdomen and pain to the touch of the pelvic region. Bruising and crepitus was noted during exam. The patient was packaged quickly with attention to supporting her hips during transport. The patient was taken to the trauma center to meet the trauma team for admission. Mr. Woods is an EMT with Falck San Diego. A San Diego native, he loves serving the community where he grew up. Although he has been an EMT for just over a year, he is excited to advance his career and become a paramedic in the near future. In his free time, he is a musician and avid snowboarder. ✨

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Nicholas Woods
County Manager
Royal Ambulance

Nicholas Woods began his career at Royal in 2019 starting out as an EMT. His compassion, ability to adapt, and detail-oriented mindset quickly set him apart from the rest of his peers as a leader within the organization. Nick was promoted and worked as a field training officer using his adept medical knowledge and ability to coach to help mold EMT's to help ensure that they were more than prepared for the field, making the transition seamless. Nick was monumental in operationalizing our Contra Costa Station, working closely with the Operations Team to ensure that no details were missed. Nick is a natural leader and was the obvious choice for the promotion as Operations Supervisor for Contra Costa County. Since this promotion, Nick has excelled, proving his leadership capabilities through his actions of advocacy for his team and patients alike. His compassionate coaching style creates an environment that supports learning and growth for his entire team. Nicholas is an incredible addition to the Royal team, and we are honored to have him represent Royal as a Star. ✨



Anja Young
Paramedic
*King American
Ambulance Co.*

Anja Young was born and raised in the south-west of Germany. Anja grew up in health care since her aunt and mother were pediatric nurses. Anja has been working in healthcare since the age of 18 when she decided to become a pediatric nurse as well. When she finished nursing school, she moved to the US for a cultural experience and to learn the language. Once in the US, rather than going back to work in a hospital, she decided to start a career in EMS instead. Anja became a EMT and worked in field for several years and decided to go back to school and become a paramedic. Anja has worked in San Francisco's 911 system for seven years with King American. Anya enjoys traveling with her three daughters and husband. ✨

*Medic Ambulance
would like to
congratulate the
2023 Stars of
Life. Thank you
for all you do!*



THE CALIFORNIA
AMBULANCE
ASSOCIATION
CONGRATULATES
THE 2023
Stars of Life!



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