

OC Human Relations Honors Arinder Chadha



BY A STAFF REPORTER

ANAHEIM, CA - OC Human Relations recognized the most outstanding schools, community members and community-policing projects from across Orange County at the Human Relations Awards 39 Gala Celebration attended by over 450 people on May 6 at the Grove of Anaheim. Placentia resident, Dr. Arinder Singh Chadha, was recognized with a Community Leader Award for his extensive Interfaith activities in Orange County.

"On its 39th anniversary, OC Human Relations takes great pride in honoring these extraordinary people," says Nadia Bettendorf, chair of the OC Human Relations Commission. "These are Orange County's unsung heroes, the people who dedicate tremendous amounts of their own time with no expectation of reward or recognition to make the county a better place for all people to live, work and do business. It's a privilege to highlight their efforts."

For the past decade, Chadha has worked diligently to promote a greater understanding among various faith communities in Orange County and around Southern California. He is a co-Director of Interfaith Activities for the California Sikh Council, a nonprofit entity formed after 9/11 to create awareness about the Sikh religion and to address issues of harassment and discrimination. In this role, he and the volunteers he coordinates, make presentations to law enforcement, schools, colleges and places of worship explaining the Sikh faith.

However, Chadha's vision extends beyond the horizons of his own faith. He is a founding member of the North Orange County Interfaith Coalition, a volunteer faith-based group with members from Placentia, Yorba Linda and Brea. Their annual events include "Light the Darkness", a 9/11 remembrance; a multi-cultural music and dance concert; and interfaith and youth dialogues.

Chadha's interfaith work reaches across the County as he is on the Board of Directors of the South Coast, Garden Grove, South Orange County and Fullerton Interfaith Councils. Chadha is also a Director of the Orange County Interfaith Coalition for the Environment, a faith-based group addressing environmental conservation and creating awareness amongst faith leaders and believers through annual events such as an Earth Day celebration. In short, he is a dedicated volunteer who is committed to proactively building bridges between communities of faith.