

**FONTANA, CA**

**Mayor Acquanetta Warren**

## **Kindness is Powerful, Pass it On**

In the aftermath of the mass shootings that occurred across the country in the summer of 2019, Mayor Acquanetta Warren launched the Fontana Kindness Challenge at the city's National Night Out event on August 6. The challenge encourages members of the Fontana community to perform a random act of kindness each day, and tag their family and friends on social media by using the hashtag #FontanaKindnessChallenge.

"The Fontana Kindness Challenge empowers our community to be part of the solution," says Mayor Warren. "We all have the power to do something, and that is, to be kind to one another."

The concept, the Mayor explains, is that everyone can participate in the challenge. It is as simple as smiling at a stranger, providing a compliment or holding a door open for someone. The list of possibilities is infinite.

The initial month-long Kindness Challenge evolved into a yearlong initiative based on overwhelming community support. As part of the campaign, the Community Services Department established kindness stations at all recreational facilities to provide the public with free and fun ways to help create a kinder world together.

Fontana's challenge was inspired by 11-year-old Ruben Martinez's El Paso Challenge to complete 22 random acts of kindness to honor the lives lost in the August mass shooting in that city. The challenge is based on the belief that random acts of kindness are contagious and can make a difference in the lives that need it the most, and that everyone has the power to make a difference through a simple act of kindness.

*Additional information is available from Martha Guzman-Hurtado, Communications and Marketing Manager, at [mghurtado@fontana.org](mailto:mghurtado@fontana.org) or 909-350-6520.*