

CELEBRATING SEVERO “JUN” SIMUNDO An Outstanding Citizen in Our Midst



Photo Credit: JAG Public Relations

The living is easy” in Gershwin’s classic “Summertime,” but for Jun Simundo, it is more likely that “the giving is easy”.

One of the most active philanthropists in his community, Simundo has been known to organize, promote and sell tickets to a benefit for people in need, cook and serve the meal at the event, donate one of his original drawings to its raffle, and even provide the live entertainment with his country and western band. Effectively, he is a one-man unincorporated non-profit humanitarian organization.

Severo “Jun” Simundo was born May 6, 1963 in Santa Barbara, Iloilo, Philippines. The eighth of eleven children to Isa-ac Simundo and Luz Solilap, he started working at his grandfather’s poultry and pig farm at an early age. On

weekends, he helped plow the fields and plant crops such as rice, corn or sugarcane depending on the season.

Simundo studied at Santa Barbara Elementary School and Santa Barbara National Comprehensive High School where he learned how to draw, play guitar and sing. He majored in Applied Electronics at Iloilo School of Arts and Trades, but was unable to complete his studies due to financial hardship. Later, while working as a salesman of books and encyclopedia, he developed a passion for inspirational writings by some of the greatest world leaders and philanthropists.

He migrated to the United States in 1989, and lived with his sister in Suisun City for six months before moving to his current place of residence, the City of San Pablo. He worked as a computer technician at USIT from 1990-1993, and later joined the US Postal Service where he continues today.

A devote catholic, Simundo spent most of his weekends singing at masses in St. Paul’s Church with the chorale group, “The Banyuhay Group USA,” that he helped establish. He formed The Jun Simundo Band in 1992, and continues to perform to this day at local venues where he plays guitar and sings lead.

When he’s not working, Simundo is committed to helping organizations such as the Hospitalized Veterans of California for whom he, in conjunction with the Richmond Women’s Bowlers Association, helped raise \$110,000 in 10 years. He has also assisted Moose Charities, Parents of Murdered Children, Boys and Girls Club of El Sobrante, San Pablo Adopt a Family Program, Pistol Program and Kids to Camp of the San Pablo Police Department, Bay Area Rescue Mission,

Victims of Violent Crimes, Victims of Tsunami's in Sri Lanka, Red Cross, Survivors of 911, and the Make a Wish Foundation as well as local senior centers and senior living facilities. In addition to helping established groups, Simundo is also the harbinger of independent fundraising efforts.

When a co-worker's son, Eric Toms, was injured in an auto accident, Simundo's band and other employees from the El Cerrito Post Office raised \$25,000 to help with medical expenses.

In 2005, Simundo launched a scholarship program at his alma mater high school in the Philippines for poor but well-deserving students. As of today, the grant has sponsored 60 high school recipients with the help of his good friend Marie Holland. The grant continues to add ten more scholars every year.

He also volunteers to cook at various fundraisers and donates his works of art for auction sales by local charities. His wife Christy and sons Joshua Jun and Nicholas Jun are typically working by his side at many of these events. He has a stepson Bryan in Alaska and a daughter Arriane June in the Philippines.

Named "Citizen of the Year" by the San Pablo Chamber of Commerce in 2011, Simundo is currently a member of the Sportsmen of San Pablo (since 2007 and on its board of directors), San Pablo Eagles (since 2007), National Association of Letter Carriers (since 1993), Banyuhay Group of USA (since 1990), and the Richmond Moose Lodge 550 (since 1996) where he was elected governor three times and garnered the awards *Legionnaire of the Year, Fellowship Degree and 25 Club*. He has also spearheaded benefits to raise funds for property tax payments at two of these organizations, and can be found cooking breakfast at the Richmond Moose Lodge on the first and second Sundays of each month.

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Attorney at Law

Plaza Two, Hilltop Office Park
3260 Blume Drive, Suite 410
Richmond
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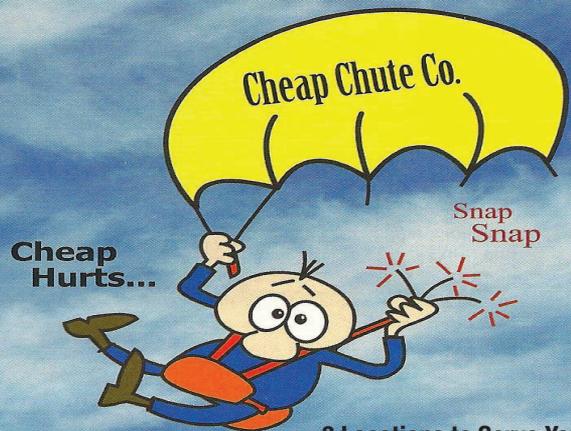


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