Objective

Dr. Palmer has dedicated his life’s work to helping those in need. His professional focus is the creation of long-term self-sufficiency and stability among the least, the last, and the lost by going beyond traditional temporary solutions to address the underlying causes of transitional and chronic homelessness.

Servant Leadership

Under Dr. Palmer’s visionary leadership, The Orange County Rescue Mission (OCRM) has received national recognition for success rates of client graduates and entrepreneurial approaches to developing self-sufficiency, including the 211th Presidential Point of Light award, Governor Schwarzenegger’s Service Award, and recognition from President George W. Bush at the Faith-based Initiatives Conference in Washington, D.C.

As president, Palmer established The Village of Hope on the former Tustin Marine Corps Air Base, and developed the House of Hope, Hope Family Housing, Hurtt Family Health Clinics, the Double R Ranch, Operation OC, Tustin Veterans Outpost, the Inland Empire Rescue Mission, and Restoration Roasters coffee shop.

President George W. Bush nominated Dr. Palmer for the position of a Director on the Board for the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS). Sixty days later, the United States Senate unanimously confirmed Palmer’s nomination. CNCS is the largest grant maker in the field of civic and volunteer service. Dr. Palmer oversaw a team of 125,000 staff and AmeriCorps Vista workers, and an annual operating budget of $1.2 billion.

Dr. Palmer is the first person in the United States to have served on three levels of government simultaneously. He served as a City Councilmember, County Commissioner, and Presidential Appointee. While serving on the Tustin City Council, one of his significant achievements was authoring and implementing one of the most comprehensive local government transparency laws in California.

Dr. Palmer was awarded the title of Orange County Local Elected Official of the Year for his outstanding service on the Tustin City Council.
From 1998 to 2013, Dr. Palmer served as a County Commissioner for the Orange County Housing Commission & Housing Authority, and has served as its Chairman four times. Dr. Palmer was instrumental in the development of the Continuum of Care Leadership Cabinet, a sub-committee of the Housing Commission that assists in the development of regional strategies for homeless programs that focus on advocacy, homeless prevention, outreach and assessment, transitional and emergency shelters, and affordable housing.

Dr. Palmer served as the Commander of the Orange County Sheriffs’ Department Volunteer Professional Services Responders. He commanded a group of over 400 law enforcement volunteers that provided $5 million worth of service. He has personally volunteered more than 2,600 hours in the areas of Homeland Security and Unit Commander.

Dr. Palmer is an advocate for children’s issues in Orange County. He fostered nine children and adopted three and was named Child Advocate of the Year in 1999.

**Skills & Abilities**

Dr. Palmer has excellent communication skills. He knows how to verbalize his dreams and goals and can explain them to his team. For Dr. Palmer, communication isn’t one-sided. In addition to sharing his vision for the future, he is also an active listener. As more people “catch the vision”, Dr. Palmer listens to their ideas and thoughts, incorporating them into the larger goal. He involves others in reaching his milestones and helps the team members meet their personal goals.

Dr. Palmer’s authenticity, vision, guidance and leadership is seen by many as inspiring. As such, he has the ability to extract extraordinary performance levels from his staff.

Dr. Palmer is an organizer-in-chief. He is skilled at establishing key departments and functions that run logically and efficiently to produce optimal results.

Dr. Palmer’s actions are well-thought-out and he is willing to take calculated risks on something he believes in. Mr. Palmer is creative and takes the initiative with appropriate action. Dr. Palmer’s plans tend to start small by taking measured steps that lead to larger scale action with bigger risks with anticipated outcomes based on previous smaller scale results.

Dr. Palmer is an innovator. He was recently recognized for successfully creating a public / private partnership to build a campus for homeless veterans. He not only accomplished the rehabilitation of the facility but instituted a complete continuum of services to meet the needs of these veterans. This campus is called the Tustin Veterans Outpost and it is currently a National Model for caring for our homeless veterans.
Experience

President and CEO — Orange County Rescue Mission Inc. (1992 – Present)

- Reports directly to the Board of Directors. Provides spiritual, organizational, and fiduciary leadership to the ministry. Develops vision and strategy, both long and short-term, for the ministry.
- Develops and proposes annual business / ministry and budget plan to the Board of Directors.
- Implements policies set by the Board of Directors. Maintains and promotes Ministry’s adherence to the mission statement.
- Acts as the primary contact in the community for the promotion and presentation of the ministry.
- Develops and implements systems of accountability in all areas of the ministry.
- Develops outcome-based measurements that support the Biblically based multi-step new life programs that are focused on Jesus Christ.
- Integrates strategic planning, technology applications and leadership systems to maximize the ministry’s resources for the fulfillment of its mission.
- Oversees a combined operating budget of over $22 million.
- Leads and encourages a leadership team made up of executives reporting directly to the President. Maintains direct involvement in recruiting and training C-Level direct reports.
- Supports the overall ministry team by directing annual or as needed performance appraisals of all ministry staff.
- Reports to the Board of Directors for all ministry finances, human resources, fundraising, and ministry operations.

Founder and Chairman of the Board— Hurtt Family Health Clinics Inc. (2005 – Present)

- Founder and currently serving as the Chairman of the Hurtt Family Health Clinics Inc., a Federally Qualified Health Clinic system that provides primary care, pediatric care, chiropractic care, optical care, and dental care to thousands of men, women, and children in need.
- Pioneered the use of mobile primary care clinics in California.


- Provided leadership to county staff to develop Orange County’s first Continuum of Care System.
- Authored a successful grant to the California Endowment resulting in a $350,000 award to establish OC Partnership as the arm of Orange County’s Continuum of Care System.
- Provided ongoing leadership and guidance to the County and OC Partnership on annual Continuum of Care Homeless Assistance Grant Applications from 1998 – 2013 resulting in the cumulative award of $185,444,934 in federal homeless assistance funds to provide permanent supportive housing, transitional housing, supportive services, and the Homeless Management Information System.

**City Councilmember- City of Tustin (2006 – 2010)**

- Elected to serve on the Tustin City Council in November of 2006.
- Led the efforts for strong public safety, safe neighborhoods, traffic improvements, new park development, and strong schools.
- Authored and implemented one of the most comprehensive local government transparency laws in California.


- Nominated to become Director on the Board for the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) on July 3rd, 2007. Sixty days later, the United States Senate unanimously confirmed his nomination.
- Oversaw a team of 125,000 staff and AmeriCorps Vista workers, and an annual operating budget of $1.2 billion.
- Directed and supported CNCS efforts to provide high-impact service to meet pressing needs, from illiteracy and homelessness to hunger and disasters.
- Provided leadership guidance to CNCS to support ongoing efforts to help communities recover and rebuild from natural disasters, and preserve our nation’s natural resources in our parks and public lands.


- Raised $3.5 million capital campaign for the Orange County Rescue Mission Board of Directors.
- Advised Last Days Ministries on organizational strategy and issue resolution.
- Advised Mercy Ships Ministry on fundraising strategy.
- Raised the resources needed to fund a one-time need for several organizations. Most cases involved the funding of a building that met the needs of the community served by the organization.

**Executive Director— Community Counseling Service Inc. (1988 – 1990)**

- Directed capital fundraising campaign that raised $3 million for the Hina Mauka Drug and Alcohol Rehabilitation Center in Kailua, Hawaii.
Directed capital fundraising campaign that raised $2.5 million for the Alliance for the Arts in Thousand Oaks, California.

Directed capital fundraising campaign that raised $5 million for the Ventura County Economic Development Association in Ventura County, California.

Directed capital fundraising campaign that raised $500,000 for the Monrovia Historical Museum Foundation in Monrovia, California.

Directed capital fundraising campaign that raised $2.5 million for the Buena Park Cultural Art Center in Buena Park, California.

Directed capital fundraising campaign that raised $500,000 dollars for the Lutheran Church of America, Camp Yolijwa Project in Oak Glen, California.

**Executive Director — Irvine Temporary Housing Inc. (1986 – 1988)**

- Co-Founder of Nonprofit that focused on helping homeless families and families living in poverty.
- Grew organization from start-up to self-sufficient fully funded nonprofit organization.
- Developed and implemented all client programs and fundraising strategies.

**Board of Directors, Vice President — Irvine Temporary Housing Inc. (1984 – 1986)**

**Awards & Recognition**

- 1996 – Awarded the “Rainbow of Hope Award” for Dedication to the Homeless of our Community by HomeAid Orange County
- 1999 – Awarded “Child Advocate of the Year” by Olive Crest Treatment Centers
- 2000 – Awarded “Outstanding Community Leader & Homeless Issues Advocate” by the Orange County Board of Supervisors
- 2002 – Awarded “Outstanding Community Planner & Leader” by the Orange County Board of Supervisors
- 2004 – Awarded the “Service Award” by California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger
- 2004 – Awarded the “Compassion in Action” designation by President George W. Bush at the Faith-based Initiatives Conference
- 2005 – Appointed to the Orange County Mental Health Board by the Orange County Board of Supervisors
- 2005 – Awarded “Citizen of the Year” by Rotary International 5320
2008 – Awarded the “United States Gold Presidential Volunteer Service Award” by President George W. Bush

2009 – Recognized as a “Certified Pastoral Addictions Counselor” by the American College of Certified Forensic Counselors

2010 - Awarded the title of Orange County Local Elected Official of the Year for his outstanding service on the Tustin City Council in 2010

2010 – Recognized for “Excellence in Leadership & Community Service” by the California State Senate

2010 – Recognized for “Excellence in Leadership & Elected Service” by the California State Assembly

2010 – Recognized for “Service to the City of Tustin and its Residents” by Congressman John Campbell

2010 – Awarded the “Servant Leadership Award” by Concordia University Irvine

2014 – Awarded “Community Champion” by the Public Broadcasting System (PBS)

2014 – Recognized as one of the “100 Most Influential People in Orange County for his good works and changing lives” by the Orange County Register newspaper

2016 – Award for “Service to Veterans” by Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez & Congresswoman Mimi Walters

2016 – Awarded “Orange County’s Top Work Places” by the Orange County Register

2017 – Recognized as one of the “OC 500 Orange County Influential” by the Orange County Business Journal

2017 - Awarded “Orange County’s Top Work Places” by the Orange County Register

2017 – Awarded & Recognized as a “Gem of Tustin” by the City Council of the City of Tustin

2017 – Awarded “Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition” by Congresswoman Mimi Walters
Education & Advancement

1999-2002  Priority Living, Inc.  Tustin, CA

• Completion of The Master’s Program, a 3 year intensive leadership development program for Christian professionals.

1984-1985  CORO Foundation  Los Angeles, CA

• Graduate of Advanced Public Leadership Training Program.

1990-2000  National Society of Fundraising Executives  Arlington, VA

• Completed Certification by NSFRE to be a Certified Fundraising Executive (CFRE), 1990.
• Re-certified as a Certified Fundraising Executive (CFRE), 1993
• Re-certified as a Certified Fundraising Executive (CFRE), 1996
• Re-certified as a Certified Fundraising Executive (CFRE), 1999
• Re-certified as a Certified Fundraising Executive (CFRE), 2002

1998-2000  A.A.C.C.  Fort Wayne, IN

• Awarded the status of Certified Pastoral Addictions Counselor.

1999-2005  Orange County Sheriff’s Academy  Santa Ana, CA

• Graduated Orange County Sheriff’s Academy Level 4, Reserve Program, 1999.
• Sworn into the Orange County Sheriff-Coroner Department by OC Sheriff as a Level 4, Deputy Reserve, 2000.

1994-1996  West Coast Bible Training College  Tustin, CA

• Elected and served as Dean and Chairman of the West Coast Bible Training College, which was part of the IUGM system.

2009-2017  Trinity International University  Deerfield, Illinois

• Doctor of Laws (J.S.D.) Honoris Causa
What others have to say:

“Jim’s compassionate work for others is a great example to our Nation.”
- George W. Bush
  President of the United States

“Jim is one of my heroes and a modern-day saint.”
- Baroness Carolyn Cox, Deputy Speaker,
  British House of Lords

“Jim is someone who’s willing to think outside of the box.”
- State Senator John Moorlach

“Jim is an impressive person. You have to put him near the top of what’s happening that’s really meaningful in Orange County.”
- General William Lyon (ret)

“I wholeheartedly endorse Jim’s commonsense approach for helping people by offering them “a hand-up, not a hand-out.”
- Dr. Laura, Radio Show Host

“Jim is a true inspiration to me, and our community is lucky to have you as one of its leaders.”
- George Kalogridis, President, Disneyland Resort

“Jim is one who lives a life of service to others. This world would be a better place if there were more leaders like him.”
- David Kuo, The White House