



# MAKING A MARK

FROM LEGENDARY FIGUREHEADS TO FRESH  
NEW FACES, THESE 10 INFLUENTIAL INDIVIDUALS  
ARE PROUD TO CALL NEWPORT HOME.

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WITH HUNDREDS OF BUSINESSES, RESTAURANTS AND NONPROFITS, Newport Beach is a thriving community filled with people determined to make a difference in our coastal enclave. Whether these men and women work diligently behind the scenes or step forward into the spotlight to advocate for change, no one can doubt the lasting impact they're creating through their work.

For the second consecutive year, Newport Beach Magazine scoured the coast to find a sampling of the city's influential individuals. From philanthropists to community activists to seasoned business executives and entrepreneurs, these 10 men and women represent this year's top trailblazers in their respective fields.

## THE YOUNG ACHIEVER

# Kallie Dovel

**Best known for:** Far from the model of a typical Newport business leader, Kallie has planted a seed for change and grown her socially conscious business, 31 Bits, exponentially in just five years. She founded the company in August 2008, empowering women in Northern Uganda to rise above poverty by creating popular paper bead jewelry that's sold in nearly 400 stores across the country, including several here in Newport Beach. With just a small idea and a network of six Ugandan women, she launched a nationwide philanthropic jewelry movement. The demand has grown so much that 31 Bits has recently welcomed more than 100 additional Ugandan designers into the program, allowing women in need to develop careers and support their families independently.

**Little-known facts:** "I was not expecting to start this company at all," Kallie says. During her first visit to Uganda in 2007, the orphanage where she was volunteering closed and she was left with three months before she could return home. She stayed with a group of friends who were in the early stages of building Krochet Kids, another OC-based nonprofit supporting Ugandans, and met local women who asked her to take their jewelry home to sell in the U.S. Today, she's happily married to one of the Krochet Kids leaders who was on that trip.

**What she would like to see change in Newport:** Kallie, who loves the city's beach-casual lifestyle, would like to see the community come together more as a whole. "Villa Nova [restaurant]—I want something like that back," she says. "All different types of people come together, older [and] younger, with live bands. ... It was my favorite place in the world."

**What she would like to see change in her field:** "I would love our communication to get better. Uganda is like another world. To connect the two is so difficult," Kallie says. "I would like our customers to really understand the development and the change that's happening through the products that they're purchasing."

**Future plans:** Kallie, who today serves as 31 Bits' international director, is in the works of opening a second facility with her team in Uganda's capital.

