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2016-17 Welcoming Stars

Redwood City Together, Redwood City 2020’s initiative to build understanding and empathy across class, race, and other social divides, has honored four Welcoming Stars this year. The Welcoming Stars initiative is designed to shine light on programs and organizations that are actively creating an inclusive, equitable, respectful environment for all members of the Redwood City and North Fair Oaks community, particularly immigrant newcomers.

One organization is honored per quarter and the 2016-17 Welcoming Stars are:

- Kainos Home and Training Center
- Redwood City Public Library
- Fair Oaks Community Center
- Street Life Ministries
- First Church UCC

These organizations help create a more inclusive environment and supportive network for the community through programs that include: providing services to traditionally marginalized populations, such as meals for the homeless and job training for those with intellectual disabilities, and supporting activities that celebrate the diversity of the community.

We’re also now accepting nominations for the next Welcoming Stars! Please nominate a program or organization you believe is doing outstanding work creating a welcoming environment for everyone in Redwood City and North Fair Oaks.

Local Big Lift Partners Visit SEAL Classrooms

It’s been one year since we joined the collective impact movement of The Big Lift program to improve reading proficiency of 3rd graders in Redwood City and North Fair Oaks. Co-leading the local effort with
the Redwood City School District, we and our partners continue to be committed to improving the reading levels of 3rd graders through the Big Lift's strategies of high quality preschool, family engagement, prevention of summer learning loss, and programs to reduce chronic absence.

Recently, partners in our local Big Lift Collaborative visited Selby Lane Elementary School to learn from a Sobrato Early Academic Language (SEAL) program. It was inspiring to see a stellar literacy improvement program in action.

The SEAL model (located at the following schools: Adelante, Fair Oaks, Garfield, Hawes, Hoover, John Gill, Orion, Roosevelt, Selby Lane, and Taft) aims to close the academic gap of English Learners by providing students with an intensive, joyful, language-rich, contextual and interactive approach to learning English rapidly throughout the entire Pre-K to third grade curriculum.

Thank you to those who participated in the Tuesday Tidbits Survey! We received helpful input and we'd love to continue to receive feedback on the types of information and frequency you most prefer for these updates through the survey or rwc2020@gmail.com.