Recognizing CARON as a Welcoming Star

Redwood City Together is a Redwood City 2020 initiative that builds empathy, understanding, and supportive action to bridge social divides such as race, class, and immigration status in order to create a welcoming environment for all. To honor local pioneers and programs which help build an inclusive community, Redwood City Together gives a quarterly Welcoming Stars award.

At Monday’s City Council meeting, on November 25th, the City Council of Redwood City and Redwood City 2020 celebrated the 17th Welcoming Stars award recipient, CARON. CARON Director Victor Lopez, Captain Christina Corpus, CARON staff, and volunteers were present to receive the award.

CARON (Community Alliance to Revitalize Our Neighborhood) is a program under the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office. In Redwood City and North Fair Oaks, CARON helps bridge the gaps between immigrant families and law enforcement and believes that there is no better crime prevention than community engagement. A hallmark program of CARON are the Community Academies, 7-week programs that cover topics ranging from gang prevention to civic engagement. These community academies give participants of diverse backgrounds the opportunity to make a positive impact in their neighborhoods.

Community members can support CARON Community Academies and increase CARON's impact by giving their own stamp of approval and helping to spread the word. You can find more info about CARON and its programs at http://www.caronprogram.com/.

10th Annual Dream Club Dinner

The Dream Club of Sequoia High School and the Immigrant Youth Action Team, partners of Redwood City 2020, organized a powerful 10th annual Dream Club fundraising dinner on November 22nd at Sequoia High School. With over 450 attendees filling the Sequoia High School gym, more than $26,000 was raised to support the Dream Club.
Scholarship Fund to help undocumented students go to college.

The Dream Club was founded to raise awareness about the challenges faced by undocumented youth and to build a community of belonging and support, regardless of immigration status. At the event, a photo project of Dream Club alumni, created by the Bay Area photographer and CARON Outreach Program Manager Jose Luis Aguirre, was debuted. The event also featured inspiring performances by students and nationally-acclaimed poet Yosimar Reyes, as well as an immigration update presented by Sheryl Muñoz-Bergman, Deputy Director of the Immigration Institute of the Bay Area. At the end of the evening, current Dream Club members shared moving stories of their personal struggles and resilience as undocumented students.

Donations to support the Sequoia High School Dream Club Scholarship Fund can still be made. Donations are accepted through PayPal or checks can be sent and made out to "Sequoia High School," with "Dream Club" written on the memo line to:
Sequoia High School
c/o Jane Slater
1201 Brewster Avenue
Redwood City, CA 94062

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