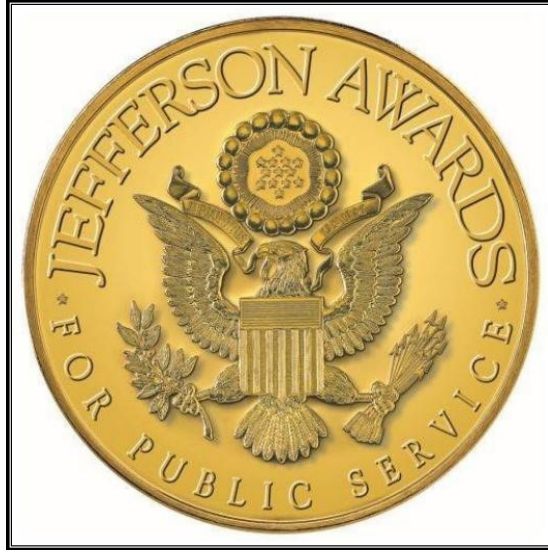


HOMELESS IN PARADISE
March 30 – April 6, 2018

HUMPTY DUMPTY HOUSING - Part 6



AND THE JEFFERSON AWARDS HONOREE GOING TO WASHINGTON, DC IS? . . .

By Wanda Sue Parrott

CITING homelessness as a growing problem, KSBW 8 anchor Dan Green opened Monday's 2018 Jefferson Awards ceremony at the Steinbeck Center in Salinas by announcing, "One of tonight's nominees will represent the Central Coast at the National Jefferson Awards ceremony in Washington, D.C."

If this wasn't enough to arouse curiosity, a strange thing happened when the Jefferson Awards logo crashed from the dais with a bang.

Thus began the 21st Jefferson Awards Program presented by KSBW and sponsored by Union Bank as an annual celebration of local volunteers doing what's right through community effort.

The Jefferson Awards Foundation, located in New Jersey, was founded in 1972 by Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, Senator Robert Taft Jr. and Sam Beard. Via celebration, the Jefferson Awards Foundation inspires action through programs and partnerships that drive Americans to change their communities and the world.

Details at www.jeffersonawards.org or e-mail at info@jeffersonawards.org.

Half This Year's Nominees Help The Homeless

Three of the six 2018 Central Coast nominees are homeless advocates involved in affordable, low income and others forms of housing issues. They are:

John Clark of Pacific Grove: Retired dean at the Defense Language Institute and 32-year community outreach activist with his church, John was a founder of the Interfaith Homeless Emergency Lodging Program (I-HELP) which has provided meals and overnight shelter for homeless men for 25+ years (and more recently for women) in more than 30 faith-based organizations across the Monterey Peninsula.

He is active in Homeless Outreach which meets monthly at the First Presbyterian Church, 501 Eldorado St., Monterey. Next meeting is Mon., April 16, 1 p.m. For Homeless Outreach information, contact Sandy Larson at slarson2130@gmail.com.



Tia Fechter of Monterey:

Tia now holds a doctorate in education (Ed.D) and specializes in psychometrics (academic testing of everything from attitudes to aptitudes), but she was the daughter of a mother who was temporarily homeless, so she is empathetic to being poor and unable to afford rent.

Tia has voluntarily spent nights in cars with frightened women who have nowhere to live but in autos. She has focused special attention on finding shelter for senior women as old as 85 who have been sleeping in their vehicles. She founded the One Starfish Safe Parking Program & Supportive Services five years ago to allow women to sleep in safety in their cars at participating churches throughout the area. Today, One Starfish helps women find housing, increase income, and improve mental and physical health.

For One Starfish Safe Parking and Support Services information visit

www.wehelphomelesswomen.org/one-starfish.html.

Eric Johnsen of Salinas:

Chief Executive Officer of The Future Citizens Foundation/First Tee of Monterey County, Eric combines his income from his insurance business with his Christian faith to help young people of Monterey County build better lives by playing golf.

For information, visit www.fcf-ca.org.

He is also currently active in a venture known as 3R (Rehabilitation, Restoration and Respite), a unique non-profit dedicated to developing very low cost tiny home villages tailored especially for homeless individuals, farm workers, veterans and ex-prisoners.

Other Jefferson Awards Nominees:

Ralph Love of Carmel, a coding mentor for Monterey Unified School District, Ralph started with a handful of elementary students and quickly attracted masses of computer-savvy kids who flock around him to practice hands-on coding on their key boards;

Mariana Del Valle Prieto Cervantes of Seaside, a Monterey Bay Aquarium volunteer, educates about ocean conservation (danger of plastics.). She trained school children to approach restaurants as advocates for removal of straws and other plastic items from food service;

Rebecca Jackson of Santa Cruz, founder/artistic director of Music in May, is a violinist who uses classical music to build bridges with people outside the formal settings, such as at-risk youth, special needs students and incarcerated or detained youth at juvenile hall.

Cedar Street Times congratulates all the winners.

COPA's Monterey County Housing Strategy Coming Up

Turning from individual to organizational-group activism, all COPA member institutions (mostly houses of worship) are urged to send leaders to an important House Meeting to identify critical housing issues impacting our community and to craft COPA's Monterey County Housing Strategy.

Date is Thurs., April 5, 7 p.m. at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church, 1745 La Salle Ave., Seaside.

For details, contact janlindenthal-cox at janmlinco@comcast.net.

So, what else did Dan Green reveal about this year's KSBW 8 Jefferson Awards?

Well, he predicted the National Jefferson Awards logo won't be held up with Velcro, and our Central Coast honoree going to Washington, D.C. will be Tia Fechter!

Congratulations, all. Happy Easter and Passover.

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