

“Celebrating Community” – the Best of the Napa Valley in 2011 Napa Valley Community Awardees Announced

The art advocate whose collaborative creations include a popular downtown sculpture tour and the inaugural Napa Valley ARTS festival. The Latina student – first in her family to attend college – who lifts others up by helping direct a youth leadership academy and the Napa Valley Dream Act Coalition. The hospice nurse, also a co-facilitator of a “Bosom Buddies” breast cancer support group, whom many of her patients know as “Saint Adele.”

These are the caliber of people who make the Napa Valley not merely a place, but a thriving and genuine community. And they are among the ordinary yet extraordinary heroes being honored by “Celebrating Community,” the fifth annual Napa Valley Community Awards co-sponsored by the Napa Chamber Foundation and Mechanics Bank.

This year’s winners include:

- Outstanding Public Safety Person Omar Salem, a Napa police officer who specializes in English and Spanish community outreach – and who also founded and organizes the annual “Hoops to Stop Youth Violence” fundraiser basketball playoff between city police and firefighters.
- Outstanding Hospitality Tourism winner Clay Gregory, president and CEO of the Napa Valley Destination Council, who succeeds at promoting the valley as a place visitors should savor in the off-peak season as well as Sundays through Thursdays.
- Outstanding Community Booster Chuck McMinn, head of Vineyard 29, who has plunged into civic engagement with organizations such as NapaLearns – and transformed every nonprofit he has led.
- Outstanding Nonprofit Employee Kristina Young, executive director of Arts Council Napa Valley, who not only pushed innovative ways to link the arts with the community but also secured grant funding to turn her vision into reality.
- Outstanding Napa Valley Community College Student Karla Gomez, a local activist who was one of 22 Latina youth selected for the “Latinas Learning to Lead” program of the National Hispana Leadership Institute in Washington.
- Outstanding Healthcare Professional Adele Cotter, veteran RN and “nurse navigator” at Queen of the Valley Medical Center who now brings her calm and empathetic care skills to patients through Napa Valley Hospice & Adult Day Services.

This year’s winners for Outstanding Teacher and Outstanding Nonprofit Organization* of the Year will be announced at the event.

The 2011 Awardees will be honored at a luncheon on Tuesday, May 24 at the Napa Valley Marriott Hotel & Spa along with the 2011 nominees and past winners. The event is from 11:30 – 1:00 p.m. and costs \$55 per person. To purchase tickets or for more

information, contact the Napa Chamber at 707-226-7455 or online at napachamberfoundation.org.

*Outstanding Organization of the Year will be announced at the event.

Nominees are below in alphabetical order:

1. Boys & Girls Club of Napa Valley
2. Ciudad de Paz Centro Familiar Cristiano
3. Community Action of Napa Valley
4. Connolly Ranch Education Center
5. CyberMill Technology Center
6. Kiwanis Club of Napa
7. Legal Aid of Napa Valley
8. Loving Animals Providing Smiles
9. Moving Forward Towards Independence
10. Napa Valley Food Bank
11. NapaLearns
12. ParentsCAN
13. Puertas Abiertas Community Resource Center
14. Rotary Club of Napa (noon)
15. St. Helena Community Food Pantry

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For Immediate Release

April 12, 2011

Napa Chamber of Commerce

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