

STAFF REPORT

DATE: April 19, 2022
TO: City Council
FROM: Carrie Dyer, Administrative Analyst
SUBJECT: Human Relations Commission Minutes – March 31, 2022

Recommendation

1. Receive draft minutes from the Human Relations Commission meeting of March 31 as informational, with the exception of item of 6A. **Attachment 1**
 - a. Ratify the following nomination recommendations from the Human Relations Commission for the 2022 Thong Hy Huynh Awards.
 - Lifetime Achievement: Anne Kjemtrup
 - Young Humanitarian – Max Maurantonio
 - Civil Rights Advocacy – Natalia Baltazar
 - Excellence in Community Involvement – COVID Yolo Community Response Facebook Group, Davis Food Coop, Steve Streeter
 - Public Servant of the Year – Catherine Bernstein

March 31 – Agenda Item 6A

The Human Relations Commission annually seeks nominations for the Thong Hy Huynh (“*tong hi win*”) Awards. The awards are presented once each year in memory of the stabbing death of Davis High School student Thong Hy Huynh on May 4, 1983. The award was established to raise awareness about and to honor community members whose actions exemplify the goals of diversity, community, social justice and equal rights.

The Human Relations Commission reviews the nominations and if they determine that a nomination might be suited in a better category, there is flexibility to move it.

The awards will be formally presented to the recipients after ratification, on a future date. As per policy, staff brings the Commission recommendations to the City Council for review and ratification prior to issuing the awards. The Commission is recommending the following nominations to the City Council:

These excerpts are taken directly from the nominations **Attachment 2**

Lifetime Achievement: Anne Kjemtrup

Anne has over three decades of community volunteerism and social action work that has benefitted everyone in Davis. She is a leader who walks the walk, not just talks the talk. She is admired by those who know her and looked up to by younger generations who seek to follow in her footsteps. Anne's achievements speak for themselves, but what is remarkable is how very humble she is. She never seeks credit or praise for her work or successes. She just truly wants to bring people together. Our community and our world needs more people like Anne. She has dedicated so much of her life to forming bridges across racial, religious, and cultural lines.

Young Humanitarian: Max Maurantonio

Max should be given this award because of his long-standing volunteerism in Davis. All of his activities have been as a volunteer and not part of any employment. Max is a kid with a big heart who cares about the people in our community. He wants to make a difference in the world, and he has by giving back his time to these worthy organizations in our area.

Civil Rights Advocacy: Natalia Baltazar

Through Natalia's work, she has impacted hundreds of thousands of Yolo County residents, including those living in the city of Davis. Her work has allowed for thousands of survivors to flee violence into a safe shelter. Natalia is an exceptional individual who cares deeply about bettering her community and her leadership is commended by many around her. She often works behind-the-scenes and never takes credit for the successes that have come to bettering her community.

Excellence in Community Involvement: COVID Yolo Community Response Facebook Group

The group aims to connect individuals, organizations, and local businesses seeking assistance with community support so that all county residents can avoid spreading the virus and remain safe and secure during the COVID-19 pandemic. The group provides an inclusive, respectful virtual space to build community for shared strength, resilience, resources and purpose. As of March 2022, there are over 5,100 members in the group, and it continues to grow.

Excellence in Community Involvement: Davis Food Coop

The Davis Food Co-op is committed to creating and sustaining a diverse, equitable and inclusive community. The Co-op encourages members of historically underrepresented racial and ethnic groups, women, LGBTQ community members, individuals with disabilities, veterans, and others committed to this same vision to seek employment with the Co-op. The Co-op has taken steps to make the store more inclusive by adding staff pronouns to name tags, acknowledging the native land the Co-op occupies adding accessibility adjustments to their website, and publishing the Equitable Representation Business List so shoppers and Owners can see which brands are BIPOC-, woman-, Veteran-, and LGBTQ-owned.

Excellence in Community Involvement: Steve Streeter

Steve's involvement as a "helper" in this community certainly predates the launch of the Respite Center, although his contributions since then have been invaluable. To that end, Steve has served as one of the primary drivers for Yolo Food Bank pick up and deliveries. This commitment has provided nutrition for the many guests frequenting the Center each day. To do this, Steve had to receive special training to drive our City van –which was a considerable effort in itself. In addition to the Food Bank support, Steve provided daily support to the City's emergency winter shelter by volunteering to drive the van out to the site (located roughly 7 miles outside of town) each day, in unpredictable weather, to ensure that our most vulnerable population had a warm place to sleep at night.

Public Servant of the Year:

Catherine should be recognized for the years of dedication to Davis (and Yolo) for independently creating, then coordinating our Trauma and Grief Support (TAGS) program. This program has helped our public safety personnel process trauma, has freed up valuable resources for our police and fire units, and helped hundreds of local families move through unexpected tragedy/grief in times of crisis by providing "emotional first aid" and connection to resources.

Attachments:

1. March 2022 Human Relations Commission Minutes
2. Thong Hy Huynh Award Nominations



**City of Davis
Human Relations Commission Minutes
Thursday, March 31, 2022
6:30 P.M.**

1. Call to Order & Roll Call (6:30)

Chair Mvondo called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

Commissioners present: Lizelle Festejo-Hsu (left at 7:30), NJ Mvondo (Chair), Judith Plank (left at 8:09)(Vice Chair), Jordan Varney, Angela Willson, Edgar Wong-Chen (6:40)

Ex-Officios present: Leanne Friedman (Faith Based), Alistair Coate (ASUCD), Kate Snow (DJUSD)

Commissioners absent: None

Others present: Carrie Dyer, Kelly Stachowicz

2. Approval of Agenda (6:31)

Willson moved to approved the agenda with second by Festejo-Hsu

Approved as follows:

AYES: Festejo-Hsu, Mvondo, Plank, Varney, Willson

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

Absent: Wong-Chen

3. Brief Announcements from Staff, Commissioners and Liaisons (6:35)

Dyer – Cesar Chavez Celebration

Snow – April 11, DJUSD will be lifting indoor mask mandate

DJUSD will be presenting to Social Services Commission on Mental Health activities happenings

Past Board of Education meeting, was disrupted by Sacramento Chapter of Proud Boys

Lots of positive things happening

Coate – Collaborating with UCD groups about presenting to the HRC and will add to long range calendar

Mvondo – Check out UCD Cross Cultural Center calendar for many events happening this spring.

Festejo-Hsu – Today is Transgender Day of Visibility

4. Public Comment (6:40)

Bart Wise – Concern with rising tide of fascism in our country. Ask to HRC to begin to address this in media and local institutions. Requires confronting directly. Urge commission to think more radically.

Alan Hirsch – Ask HRC to discuss Anti-Semitism. Zoom meetings have gone on too long. Only 7% of communication is words. Face to face communication is important. Need to see people’s faces. Reconnect as human beings is civility.

Connor Gorman – Will be a commissioner effective the April meeting. Concurs that rising fascism is an issue for the HRC to discuss. Would like HRC to discuss ways meetings are conducted. Favors hybrid meetings. April 1 will be action at UCD for discussing raises.

5. Consent Calendar (6:45)

A. February 24, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Willson moves with second by Plank approval of the minutes as presented:

Motion passed as follows:

AYES: Festejo-Hsu, Mvondo, Plank, Varney, Willson, Wong-Chen

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

Absent:

6. Regular Items (6:50)

A. Thong Hy Huynh Award Nominations Review

The Commission reviewed nominations for the annual Thong Hy Huynh award and made recipient recommendations to the City Council.

Commissioner Comments:

Suggestion to move Natalia Baltazar to Civil Rights Advocacy

Suggestion to move Anne Kjemtrup to Civil Rights Advocacy

Suggestion for Catherine Bernstein for Public Servant of the Year

Suggestion for Natalia for lifetime

Affirms moving Anne to Civil Rights advocacy

Suggestion for Anne for lifetime

Suggestion for Natalia and Catherine for Public Servant of the year

Suggestion to keep Anne in lifetime and moving Natalia for Civil Rights Adcovcay

Suggestion for Anne as lifetime, Max as YH, Natatlia as Civil, Covid, for excellence and Catherine Public Servant

Public Comment:

Connor Gorman – Concurs that Yolo Facebook Group on Covid has done great work that has served the community.

Varney moves with second by Willson to recommend the following nominations to the City Council for ratification:

Lifetime Achievement: Anne Kjemtrup

Young Humanitarian – Max Maurantonio

Civil Rights Advocacy – Natalia Baltazar

Excellence in Community Involvement – COVID Yolo Community Response

Facebook Group, Davis Food Coop, Steve Streeter

Public Servant of the Year – Catherine Bernstein

Passed as follows:

AYES: Mvondo, Plank, Varney, Willson, Wong-Chen

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

Absent: Festejo-Hsu

B. Principles of Civility for City Council, City Commissions, and Other Legislative Bodies Authorized and Governed by the City Council

The Commission reviewed an informational staff report regarding Principles of Civility and provided input.

Stachowicz provided background on the Principals of Civility development. The intent is to acknowledge all view points and sides. Goal is have healthy, civil discourse and listen and speak up in a way that is not threatening or bullying.

Commissioner Comments:

- Document could speak to open debate and that it is encouraged and understanding of different communication styles.*
- Worrisome that civility is deeply rooted in specific culture*
- Promote productive and respective disagreement*
- Not sure how ideas get enforced in community meetings, etc.*
- Clarification that document is for how Council interacts with public and if extended would apply to commission. Is not intended for entire community.*
- Definition of Civility needs to change – this document can be a good place to address what it currently means and what is striving for – Keeping community safe in a new and evolving way to hear voices that have not been heard in the past.*

Public Comment:

- Bart Wise – Agrees with what has been said, but would like to include is that the contents of speech is also subject to interpretation. To vigorously speak up could be understood as being uncivil. However, it is needed to make changes.*

- Connor Gorman – Glad that HRC is having this as regular item. The focus is on the interpersonal rather than the structural. The structural level is important as well. Suggestion to explicitly mention interpretation of civility is different. Power structures, etc. effect people differently.

C. Media & The Role of the Human Relations Commission

The Commission discussed stories and news headlines as portrayed by various media outlets and how they may add to the stress many are already under.

The subcommittee provided an update on their discussion and questions they determined that the commission might want to address. What is the role of the commission? What is the role of the City? What are the limitations? Want to address pro-actively, but how do we act on it? What are specific states that the commission can take to address these issues.

Willson moves with second by Wong-Chen to further the conversation at next meeting. Motion passed as follows:

AYES: Mvondo, Plank, Varney, Willson, Wong-Chen

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

Absent: Festejo-Hsu

D. Annual Cesar Chavez Celebration Update

The Commission received an update for the annual Cesar Chavez Celebration to be held on Saturday, April 2.

E. Committee Updates

Committees provided updates as needed

- *Anti-Hate Subcommittee (Festejo Hsu, Mvondo, Wong-Chen)*
 - *No Update*
- *Local Voices Project (Mvondo, Varney, Willson)*
 - *Finalizing material, reaching out to partners*
- *UC Davis Connection (Coate, Wong-Chen,)*
 - *Arranging for presentations from UCD to come and share presentations to work they are doing. Women's Resource Center will hopefully speak at next meeting.*
 - *Wants to understand if they offer resources for the community*
 - *What are current critical issues the groups see with the people they are working with and for*
 - *Put item at top of agenda with designated amount of time. 5 - 10 minutes for presentation and 10-20 for questions.*
- *Event Sponsor Process (Festejo Hsu, Wong-Chen)*
 - *No Update*
- *Community Calendar (Festejo Hsu, Mvondo, Villalobos, Wong-Chen)*

- *No Update*
- *Land Acknowledgment (Coate, Snow, Varney)*
 - *No Update*

7. Future Agenda Items/Long Range Calendar

- *Event planning for future*
- *Healing Arts Project*
- *Multi-culturalism event for youth in Davis*
- *Look into housing language to see if it includes non-discrimination*
- *HRC role in providing feedback on statues, murals, etc.*
- *Critical Race Theory/Ethnic Studies Counter Narrative*
- *Continue Media Hate (April)*
- *Speakers (Women's Resource Center – April)*
- *Interactions with other commissions*
- *Discuss Commission outreach*

8. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 8:49 p.m.

Written Statement:

Natalia's passion to build a stronger and healthier community, particularly in Davis can be shown through her professional work as the Director of Development and Community Relations at Empower Yolo and in her personal role as a wife and mother of two children.

Empower Yolo is the county's largest provider of services to women and children and only residential and counseling agency whose primary purpose is to provide specialized services to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, dating violence, stalking, human trafficking and other forms of abuse.

As a family resource center, Empower Yolo also offers financial coaching, credit counseling, rapid re-housing, homeless prevention and case management.

She has secured millions of dollars to uplift the communities in Yolo County, including the city of Davis. Although she completes this through her work, Natalia has long been a champion of sexual assault and domestic violence survivors before her employment at Empower Yolo, dating back to 1997 during her time as a student at Brown University, where she earned her bachelor's degree.

Through her work, she has impacted hundreds of thousands of Yolo County residents, including those living in the city of Davis. Her work has allowed for thousands of survivors to flee violence into a safe shelter. Natalia is an exceptional individual who cares deeply about bettering her community and her leadership is commended by many around her. She often works behind-the-scenes and never takes credit for the successes that have come to bettering her community.

This is the exact reason why she should be recognized for her achievements and contributions to the Davis community. She genuinely serves her community because she believes in creating safe and healthy spaces for all those around her. Natalia is not the loudest in the room, but she is an effective leader and role model who creates a positive impact on many lives without people even realizing it.

She performs acts of service with character, integrity, and graciousness. Natalia Baltazar is absolutely the epitome of a selfless public servant who strives to enrich her community through her professional and personal work. She has worked tirelessly over the past 30 years to serve her community, especially marginalized and vulnerable communities and is an excellent candidate for the Lifetime Achievement Award. Thank you for your consideration.

Nomination for Dr. Anne Kjemtrup, Thonh H. Huynh Award (Category: Lifetime Achievement)

I would like to nominate Dr. Anne Kjemtrup for the Thong H. Huynh Lifetime Achievement Award. I met Anne about five years ago in Sacramento at the SALAM (Sacramento Area League of Associated Muslims) Center. My son was attending Sunday School there, and Anne was there giving a rabbi (Rabbi Greg Wolfe of Congregation Bet Haverim in Davis) a tour of the mosque. I knew Rabbi Greg because my son was attending the Bet Haverim preschool (oh, the irony that I met a fellow Muslim through a rabbi!).

Since meeting Anne, I have been absolutely AMAZED by her tireless efforts to bring diverse communities and people – particularly people of different faith backgrounds – together. Anne believes wholeheartedly in the power and community benefit of interfaith dialogue and understanding, and she volunteers **significant** hours toward this goal. She does this all as a volunteer, aside from her professional work as a Veterinary Research and Development Scientist with the California Department of Public Health.

Anne has lived in Davis for more than two decades and, through the years, has become a well-known and admired leader in the community for her social justice, community-building, and interfaith work. She is one of the organizers of the annual Celebration of Abraham event. The mission of Celebration of Abraham is “to create a welcoming tent of people of all faiths and beliefs to nurture a sense of compassion, respect, appreciation, and foster learning and understanding among the three Abrahamic traditions while welcoming all to join us.” The Celebration of Abraham was started after 9/11, when clergy and others representing the Jewish, Christian, and Muslim faiths organized to “honor those who had died and, at the same time, increase understanding and respect among the three major Abrahamic faiths in Davis and Woodland.” In a world where religious differences still drive people apart, initiatives like the Celebration of Abraham are impactful and bridging.

In addition to the Celebration of Abraham, Anne is one of the co-founders of the regional Sacramento Sisterhood of Salaam Shalom groups. The Sisterhood of Salaam Shalom is a nationwide group of chapters that bring Muslim and Jewish women together to form friendships, fight hate, and engage in other social justice actions together. Anne got me involved with this group, which now has six chapters (and growing) region-wide. The group participates in charity drives, social justice initiatives and events, and so much more.

In spite of a busy job and extensive volunteerism, Anne also founded the Muslim DEIN (Davis Engagement and Interfaith Network), whereby Muslims in the city meet to hold interfaith events and work to encourage interfaith respect and understanding. Each year, Muslim DEIN holds a community *iftar*, open to everyone in Davis, following the Muslim holy month of Ramadan. The community iftar features a meal after sundown, as part of the fasting tradition during the month of Ramadan. Additionally, Anne serves on the board of the Shifa Clinic, a medical clinic in Sacramento run by students that provides low-cost medical care to those who need it.

Anne has over three decades of community volunteerism and social action work that has benefitted everyone in Davis. She is a leader who walks the walk, not just talks the talk. She is admired by those who know her and looked up to by younger generations who seek to follow in her footsteps. Anne’s achievements speak for themselves, but what is remarkable is how very humble she is. She never seeks credit or praise for her work or successes. She just truly wants to bring people together. Our community and our world needs more people like Anne. She has dedicated so much of her life to forming bridges across racial, religious, and cultural lines. She truly is someone who I believe deserves the honor of this Lifetime Achievement Award.

Thong H. Huynh Memorial Award Nomination for Max Maurantonio for Young Humanitarian

I am pleased to nominate my son, Max Maurantonio, for the Thong H. Huynh Memorial Award under the category of Young Humanitarian. He epitomizes the ideals set forth for this award.

Max is currently a junior and honor student at Davis High School. He is 17 years old and is someone who genuinely cares about his local community and the larger world in which he lives. He wants to major in Social Policy in college and go on to become a politician, to help make larger changes in society.

Max has been involved in Scouting for the last 11 years and has volunteered at the Yolo Food Bank through the Scouting for Food program. He built several planter boxes and led a much-needed cleanup at Explorit Science Museum here in Davis for his Eagle Scout project there, achieving the rank of Eagle Scout in November, 2020.

He has been a long-time docent at Explorit Museum for several years, volunteering his time on the weekends explaining the science exhibits to young visitors or helping at birthday parties hosted there, which are also a major source of income for the museum. He has volunteered for several years at the Yolo Food Bank handing out food to the needy and also packing boxes of food for hungry residents in our area.

Max has been an active member in all three service/volunteer clubs at Davis High School including Key Club, NHS (National Honor Society), and CSF (California Service Foundation). They require a combined 80 hours of volunteering time yearly, most of it done giving back in our local Davis community.

He has been an enthusiastic member of YLA or the Youth Leadership Academy for three years now. This is a regionally competitive program run by SACOG (Sacramento Area Council of Governments) where high school students are chosen through applications and interviews. The students learn about issues facing their local communities like housing costs, transportation issues, pollution, and the like. This year, Max was chosen as only a handful students to be a Peer Leader within YLA. He did a presentation last year on the affordable housing crisis in Davis.

He has also volunteered in projects outside of Davis. He traveled last summer, 2021 with me to the Blackfeet Nation in Montana to work there on several projects in an Indian reservation. He helped rebuild houses in rural Sunflower, Mississippi through Delta Grace charity in the summer, 2020 and January, 2018. Both projects gave him a great deal of insight into how extreme poverty can affect communities and led to his current interest into becoming a politician to help people affected with these issues.

Max should be given this award because of his long-standing volunteerism in Davis. All of his activities have been as a volunteer and not part of any employment. Max is a kid with a big heart who cares about the people in our community. He wants to make a difference in the world, and he has by giving back his time to these worthy organizations in our area.

We (Lucas Frerichs & Gloria Partida) are nominating the COVID-19 Yolo Community Response Facebook Group (and the 3 primary moderators) for the 2022 Thong Hy Huynh Award, in the category of Excellence in Community Involvement. This is neither a business or a non-profit organization, but an online forum (headed by a group of three women who stepped up) to help the Davis (and greater Yolo) area in a significant time of need. This is a somewhat unorthodox nomination, but it is fitting as the last two years was also entirely an unorthodox period of time.

The three primary moderators (and the intended Huynh award recipients) of this group are: Rachel Warren Terpstra, Kate Mellon-Anibaba, and Anoosh Jorjorian. The mostly volunteer efforts of these three working women (each of the three are moms too) during the COVID pandemic were vital to the quality of life for Davis residents in the areas of public health and human services.

The COVID-19 Yolo Community Response Facebook group was created in early March 2020, and its mission is to inform the residents of Davis & Yolo County about resources, services, government announcements, and (perhaps most importantly) factual reporting regarding the COVID-19 pandemic.

The group aims to connect individuals, organizations, and local businesses seeking assistance with community support so that all county residents can avoid spreading the virus and remain safe and secure during the COVID-19 pandemic. The group provides an inclusive, respectful virtual space to build community for shared strength, resilience, resources and purpose. As of March 2022, there are over 5,100 members in the group, and it continues to grow.

The COVID- 19 Yolo Community Response Facebook Group is mostly operated on a volunteer basis, (although they did receive some small stipends from Yolo County to help keep the group running.)

They were essential in so many ways, and relevant tasks and objectives performed included: sharing relevant local, regional, and national messages and articles, and amplifying Yolo County's and Healthy Davis Together's public health posts.

They also continue to ensure discussions remain on topic and are factual and science-based, encouraged compliance with the various public health orders, and helped community members promote our local businesses who are complying with orders to keep our community safe.

Additionally, they explained the breakdown and math behind the Yolo County COVID dashboard, connected folks with a vaccination scientist who has volunteered to explain the science, answer questions, and help convince vaccination-hesitant people to get the shot and booster.

They regularly shared and updated info on Healthy Davis Together testing locations and answered direct questions about testing locations, where to get vaccinated, and who is eligible and when.

Finally, they routinely answer any questions from members/followers regarding COVID-19 to aid in folks' risk assessment decisions using safety information provided by the county guidelines and researching to providing factual information sources.

As local elected officials, it was so helpful for us to be able to count on them as partners as we faced the pandemic as a community, and we feel that they are deserving of the Huynh Award for Excellence in Community Involvement for the above & beyond work performed by the COVID-19 Yolo Community Response Facebook group during the COVID pandemic, which has benefited the health and well-being of Davis & Yolo for the last two years.

The Davis Food Co-op exists to serve as a community store and has done so with boldness, compassion, and unending resolve for the last 50 years. It's notable that the Co-op chooses to refer to itself as a "community store" rather than a "grocery store," but it isn't surprising. Community is behind every decision the Co-op makes.

As a cooperative business, the Davis Food Co-op is actually owned by over 9,000 local households making it Davis' ONLY community-owned grocery store. Although these 9,000 local households own the Co-op, they trust Co-op staff, management, and the democratically elected Board of Directors to uphold the Co-op's Ends and the Seven Cooperative Principles, which govern all cooperatives. Principle #7, Concern for Community, can be seen in nearly every decision the Co-op makes.

The Co-op supports our local economy by giving priority to local farms, businesses, and artisans. The Co-op works with Kitchen Table Advisors and the Center for Land Based Learning to connect with Yolo County farms, like Picnic Table Farm, Fiery Ginger Farm, and Leak & Lark Farm, which are too small to sell their produce elsewhere.

Each month, the Davis Food Co-op highlights a different local non-profit/organization to receive "Round Up at the Registers" funds. In 2021, the Co-op raised \$15,259.34 through the Round Up program. These funds directly benefited Thriving Pink, Veteran Farmers Guild, Yolo Food Bank, CommuniCare, Progress Ranch, The Bike Campaign, Tree Davis, Kitchen Table Advisors, Meals on Wheels Yolo County, NAMI Yolo County, Fourth & Hope, and Friends of the UC Davis Arboretum. Although some organizations receive Round Up funds year after year, the Co-op seeks new organizations to support each year as well.

In 2021, the Co-op supported Purple Tree Cafe, Little Free Libraries of Davis, the Gender Health Center, Planting Justice, Yolo Mutual Aid, California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation, California Indian Legal Services, Yolo Interfaith Immigration Network, the FIRE Foundation, Family Hui, and Davis Senior High School Friendship Days which commemorate the death of Thong Hy Huynh and encourage kindness and friendship among different folks. These donations and sponsorships totaled \$17,237.

Committed to ending food insecurity and diverting as much "waste" away from the landfill as possible, the Co-op regularly donates food to the Yolo County Food Bank, Western Service Workers Association, Davis Night Market, Davis Community Meals, Davis Food Not Bombs, Yolo County Meals on Wheels, and the Food Recovery Network. In 2020, the Co-op installed a Freedge on-site. Staff fill the Freedge daily with produce, dairy, bakery items, and pantry staples. Anyone is welcome to take items from the Freedge at no cost.

Since 1985, the Co-op has hosted the Holiday Meal annually on December 24th. Traditionally a sit down dinner for 400-700 community members, the last two Holiday Meals were take-out style and still fed hundreds of folks a warm meal on Christmas Eve. This Davis tradition started when an LGBTQ couple, who were both employees of the Co-op, had no plans for the holidays because neither of their families would take them in. The couple, recognizing that there were others facing the same dilemma, organized a meal for any and all to attend, which continues to this day.

The Davis Food Co-op is committed to creating and sustaining a diverse, equitable and inclusive community. The Co-op encourages members of historically underrepresented racial and ethnic groups, women, LGBTQ community members, individuals with disabilities, veterans, and others committed to this same vision to seek employment with the Co-op. The Co-op has taken steps to make the store more inclusive by adding staff pronouns to name tags, acknowledging the native land the Co-op occupies,

adding accessibility adjustments to their website, and publishing the Equitable Representation Business List so shoppers and Owners can see which brands are BIPOC-, woman-, Veteran-, and LGBTQ-owned.

The Co-op truly is a Davis institution that has earned its spot in the hearts and minds of current and former Davis community members. The community owns the Co-op and the Co-op serves the community - it's a beautiful relationship which binds the community together to ensure that we have our bread and our roses too.

It is an honor and pleasure to nominate Steve Streeter for consideration of a Thong Hy Huynh award in the category of Excellence in Community Involvement. In what was, and continues to be, a very challenging time for delivery of homeless outreach services, Steve has steadfastly helped serve this population and thereby directly improved outcomes for many.

Steve's involvement as a "helper" in this community certainly predates the launch of the Respite Center, although his contributions since then have been invaluable. To that end, Steve has served as one of the primary drivers for Yolo Food Bank pick up and deliveries. This commitment has provided nutrition for the many guests frequenting the Center each day. To do this, Steve had to receive special training to drive our City van –which was a considerable effort in itself.

In addition to the Food Bank support, Steve provided daily support to the City's emergency winter shelter by volunteering to drive the van out to the site (located roughly 7 miles outside of town) each day, in unpredictable weather, to ensure that our most vulnerable population had a warm place to sleep at night.

Subsequent to the closure of the winter shelter, Steve has continued to serve as a volunteer driver in support of the City's emergency shelter motel program. Specifically, Steve has volunteered to take individuals from the motel to the Respite Center and other appointment sites as needed, often multiple times each day. Steve's continued volunteerism has meant that individuals can access their medical appointments and food.

Steve is not only generous with his time, but also with his own money which he has used over the course of the last several months to independently sponsor individuals in local hotels for respite in times of need. For the reasons enumerated above, I believe that Steve is deserving of the Excellence in Community Involvement award.

With gratitude,

Deanne Machado

1. Catherine should be recognized for the years of dedication to Davis (and Yolo) for independently creating, then coordinating our Trauma and Grief Support (TAGS) program. This program has helped our public safety personnel process trauma, has freed up valuable resources for our police and fire units, and helped hundreds of local families move through unexpected tragedy/grief in times of crisis by providing “emotional first aid” and connection to resources.
2. Catherine began this program in 2018 and has grown the program to over 7 volunteers operational here in Davis and Winters.
3. All of Catherine’s efforts have been voluntary; all of the “call outs” for TAGS are also voluntary response, 24/7 every day of the year—including holidays! Catherine and her team have made every effort to be available for our public safety members and this community.