

## STAFF REPORT

**DATE:** May 2, 2023  
**TO:** City Council  
**FROM:** Kellie Vitaich, Parks and Community Services, Community Services Program Coordinator  
**SUBJECT:** Ratification of 2023 Annual Golden Heart Award Selection

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### **Recommendation**

Per City Council policy, ratify the recommendations from the selection committee for the recipients of the 2023 Golden Heart Awards. The award ceremony will be held at the City Council meeting on May 16, 2023.

### **Fiscal Impact**

Costs including staff time, materials and items for the reception are included in the 2022-2023 budget.

### **Background and Analysis**

In memory of the death of Andrew Mockus, who was tragically killed by his peers in 1992, the City of Davis Recreation and Park Commission expanded its commitment to the youth of the Davis community. Public forums were held to discuss various issues and to brainstorm on how the community could do more to meet the needs of the teens in Davis.

After careful consideration, the Commission suggested the City Council adopt several recommendations. One of the Commission recommendations was to develop an annual Golden Heart Award as a way to recognize outstanding youth in the community, especially those students who aren't typically recognized in other forums. There are two different categories within the award: the service award and the personal challenge award. The service award recognizes individuals who have given significant service to an expressed need in the community, to their peers, and/or to their school. The personal challenge award recognizes individuals who have overcome a significant challenge in their life

These awards are presented annually at the City Council meeting.

The selection committee spent considerable time reviewing the nominations and were greatly impressed by the nominations. The committee consisted of:

- Mieko Chambers, Recreation and Park Commissioner
- Joan Sallee, former Recreation and Park Commissioner and former School Board Member

- Kate Snow, Davis Joint Unified School District Climate Coordinator
- Becky Beaman, City of Davis Recreation Coordinator
- Robert Larson, City of Davis Recreation Coordinator

After consideration, it is recommended that the following recipients be awarded the Golden Heart Award for 2023.

Community Service:

- Empower Youth Social Club Officers at Davis High School and Emerson Junior High School, for peer engagement, awareness campaigns, and leading numerous ongoing service projects that benefit families served by Empower Yolo.
- Arianna Ramirez, 12<sup>th</sup> grader at DaVinci Charter Academy, for her exceptional leadership, academic excellence and a passion for helping others.
- Isla Robertson, 7<sup>th</sup> grader at Harper Junior High School, for volunteer service with Yolo County non-profits through the National Charity League, Tree Harper, and her own philanthropic efforts benefiting Yolo Crisis Nursery.

Personal Challenge:

- Ashton Aroseteguy, 7<sup>th</sup> grader at Holmes Junior High, for exhibiting perseverance when faced with the challenge of an unexpected medical emergency and maintaining a positive outlook, supporting his teammates, and displaying outstanding sportsmanship.

The ceremony and reception for the Golden Heart Awards recipients will be held on Tuesday, May 16, at the City Council meeting. The recipients of the award will be recognized publicly for their achievements and presented with a certificate.