

STAFF REPORT

DATE: April 23, 2024
TO: City Council
FROM: Kellie Vitaich, Parks and Community Services, Community Services Program Coordinator
SUBJECT: Ratification of 2024 Annual Golden Heart Award Selection

Recommendation

Per City Council policy, ratify the recommendations from the selection committee for the recipients of the 2024 Golden Heart Awards. The award ceremony will be held prior to the City Council meeting on May 7, 2024.

Fiscal Impact

Costs including staff time, materials and items for the reception are included in the 2023-2024 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:

- Rick LeFlore, 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
- Matt Kelley, City of Davis Recreation Coordinator

The selection committee recommends that the following recipients be awarded the Golden Heart Award for 2024.

Community Service:

- Siena Calciano, 9th grader at Harper Junior High School, for excellence in academics, athletics, and volunteering. Siena has volunteered over 300 hours in various activities, including assisting children at summer camps, planting trees at school, raising money for sports uniforms, and helping new students adjust to middle school. She is also active in Girl Scouts where she recently received a Silver Award for her project to increase monarch butterfly habitats in Davis.
- Summer Lee, 12th grader at DaVinci Charter Academy, for inclusive leadership and fostering a sense of belonging for all students through her work as an ASB Officer, Da Vinci Charter Academy Advisory Board, and as a School Recruitment Representative.

Personal Challenge:

- Benjamin Haffly, 6th grader at Korematsu Elementary School, for exhibiting positivity and resilience when faced with an unexpected cancer diagnosis and ongoing treatment.
- Antonio Smith, 12th grader at Da Vinci High School, for his remarkable perseverance and positive attitude. Despite facing personal challenges like losing his mother and caring for siblings, Antonio excels in academics, takes on leadership roles, and supports his peers, demonstrating a true spirit of an unsung hero.

The ceremony and reception for the Golden Heart Awards recipients will be held on Tuesday, May 07, prior to the City Council meeting. The recipients of the award will be recognized publicly for their achievements and presented with a certificate. Their names will be engraved on the perpetual plaque in the City Council Chambers hallway.