

The Executive Committee for Chamber San Mateo Board of Directors is honored to name **San Mateo Credit Union as the 2020 Cornerstone Award recipient.**

The Cornerstone Award was created in 2016 to honor individuals and/or organizations for their ability in making a meaningful and lasting impact in their communities, devoting time, talent and resources to community development and philanthropic initiatives. They can be economic drivers — providing jobs and fueling growth; they are always exemplary stewards. Honorees include individuals or companies of all sizes and industry segments that have made a commitment to strengthening the foundation of the communities they call home. Past recipients of this award include Cañada College, the San Mateo County Transit District, and Recology San Mateo County.

San Mateo Credit Union exemplifies the true meaning behind the Cornerstone Award. In a year of crisis, San Mateo Credit Union's leadership and staff made it possible to distribute tens of millions in CARES Act, government, foundation, and corporate support throughout San Mateo County. Chief Executive Officer Wade Painter and his executive team and board of directors have always found a way to say "yes" to every request for the Community Foundation to distribute funds and save businesses, jobs, childcare, and other essential operating entities in San Mateo County. The impacts of the economic distress from the pandemic would be far worse if the San Mateo Credit Union were not an incredible corporate citizen serving San Mateo County.

The 2020 Business Woman of the Year Award, co-sponsored with Heritage Bank of Commerce, will be awarded to Kate Comfort Harr.

Heritage Bank joins the Chamber again this year as the co-sponsor of the 35-year old award. The Business Woman of the Year Award continues to recognize women who provide invaluable business intellect to the local community for the purpose of stimulating and enhancing the quality of life, demonstrate excellence, creativity and initiative in their business or profession, assist other women of all races, ethnicities and economic backgrounds to reach their professional potential within the business community, and are active and supportive participants of the Chamber.

Kate is the Executive Director of HIP Housing. Under her leadership in the year 2019-2020, HIP Housing has connected 2900 people to housing resources, raised \$237,000 for low-income families impacted by COVID-19, helped 1450 people find and maintain an affordable home, and provided 230 emergency assistance grants to low-income families and seniors.

Other notable accomplishments include HIP's partnership with Greystar to include affordable housing in their South Main mixed-use project, which is scheduled for completion in 2023. Their work with the County of San Mateo's to Project Homekey helped convert two hotels to provide 170 units for low income seniors. In October 2020, completion of their Redwood Oaks rehab meant that tenants now have completely refurbished units along with four new ADA accessible units. Kate and her team at HIP Housing also set up an emergency relief fund for tenants impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Kate is often called upon as to speak as a subject matter expert on affordable housing at various forums such as the Chamber's Leadership Program, Success Summit, etc.

Kate will receive \$1000 from Heritage Bank, which will be donated to the local charity of her choice. Heritage Bank continues to make an impact as a great partner in the business community in helping to not only recognize deserving women such as Kate, but this year again help a local charity meet their financial goals.

The decision was made to rename the Golden Apple Award to the **Tom Mohr "Champion of Education Award**, in honor of Tom Mohr. Tom was lifetime educator and community leader who dedicated more than a

half century of his life to further the cause, impact and profession of public education. He was a mentor to countless teachers, educational professionals, and business and community leaders throughout the county, an advocate for equity, diversity, fairness and social justice, and a man of deep integrity and compassion; he was a true humanitarian. Recipients of this award are committed to education and are premier examples of what great partnerships can accomplish. Past recipients of this award include Jay Paul, Swinerton Management and Consulting, Lemo Foundation, Sequoia Hospital, and Google.

This year's award is presented by the Chamber, the Redwood City Education Foundation, and the San Carlos Education Foundation to the following individuals and organizations for promoting the values and legacy for the individual for whom this award is named, Tom Mohr.:

Large Company: Alexandria Real Estate Equities, Premia Capital,

Small Company: Harvest Furniture, LV Mar and La Viga restaurants

Individual/Family: Jan Kang and Jim Kirchner, Kathy Kwan.

Alexandria Real Estate Equities has been a proud partner of the San Carlos public schools since it took over ownership of a new commercial development on Industrial Avenue. They are Platinum business sponsors of the San Carlos Education Foundation, graciously supported the recent parcel tax campaign, and donated an incredible \$1.5 million to San Carlos schools.

Premia Capital has been a great partner in education and has invested extensively in our communities. Premia is one of the largest donors to the Police Activities League, funding 22 sports teams year-round for 4th - 8th grade boys and girls, as well as contributing \$2M to support refurbishing PAL's gym facilities. More recently, Premia contributed the largest gift ever in a single year to the Redwood City Education Foundation, investing \$125,000 in distance learning tools for low-income students in Redwood City. Additionally, Premia has worked with HIP Housing to renovate and make permanent low-income housing at 3592 Rolison Road.

Harvest Furniture has been a proud partner of San Carlos public schools for the last seven years. During this time, Harvest has generously sponsored the San Carlos Education Foundation with both monetary and in-kind donations, and graciously hosted the Leadership Circle, New Parent receptions, and various other events at both their Laurel Street and Redwood City store locations.

Both LV Mar and La Viga restaurants have been involved with local schools and community since opening their doors in Redwood City in 2012. They have shown support of our students and families by donating gift certificates for fundraising to develop diverse programs, supporting the Redwood City Education Foundation with raising funds by catering at-cost during concerts for guests, as well as giving back a percentage on special dining experiences.

Jan Kang and Jim Kirchner support both their individual school community and the broader school district with contributions to the San Carlos Education Foundation, volunteering at the Spring Fling, beautification days, and School Fun Runs, as well as leading many teacher appreciation efforts. Their generous financial contributions have been matched by their employers for added impact, and have directly helped the students, teachers, and families of San Carlos.

Since the Eustace-Kwan Foundation's establishment in 2005, Kathy Kwan has helped fund a broad range of organizations and programs in the San Francisco Bay Area's education, job training, and safety net sectors. Kathy has facilitated partnerships with local non-profit such as the Redwood City Education Foundation St. Francis Center, JobTrain and Center for Excellence in Non-Profits, which support students from all ages and backgrounds.

These awards will be presented at the Chamber's 123rdnd Annual Awards and Recognition Luncheon on Friday, March 5, 2021 at 11:30 am.

About the Chamber San Mateo County: For over 122 years, the Chamber San Mateo County has been instrumental in promoting economic prosperity through business advocacy and collaboration, with an emphasis on information, education, and representation. With a countywide membership of nearly 1,400 organizations, including 60 non-profits and 40 educational institutions, the Chamber is involved in and supports many current issues including housing, infrastructure, education, transportation, economic development and governmental initiatives. The Chamber Board of Directors represents a diverse mix of

industries such as Healthcare, Education, Financial, Small Business, Non-Profit, Real Estate, Government and High Tech.

To purchase tickets to the 123rd Annual Awards Luncheon, being held virtually via Zoom, visit: <https://bit.ly/3i6dkAB>