



## CSA official: 'Demand for services has never been higher'

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A crowd of more than 250 people honored the Community Services Agency's 2009 Hometown Heroes at the annual recognition breakfast Sept. 11 at the Crowne Plaza Cabaña in Palo Alto.

CSA recognized Mary Lou De Natale, Ed.D., advocate and coordinator for the University of San Francisco's geriatric nursing program, as its individual Hometown Hero. El Camino Hospital won as corporate Hometown Hero for its commitment to community health care, especially to the underserved.



**Myers**

El Camino Hospital CEO Ken Graham accepted the award, bestowed for the hospital's "faithful and generous" support of community-based health care.

CSA Executive Director Tom Myers said that El Camino has donated more than \$100,000 for a case-management program for the underserved to eliminate time in the hospital and reduce Medicare costs.

The Community Services Agency, which provides social services to needy residents in Los Altos, Los Altos Hills and Mountain View, has experienced unprecedented levels of visitors and requests recently.

"You get a message from statistics when you see the line at the door," Myers said. "With people laid off and more homeless arriving, we have a 34 percent increase in meals provided."

Myers said a recent Town Crier article publicizing the agency's bare cupboards helped replenish their food stock.

"After the story was published showing empty shelves, we received 2,500 pounds of food and \$10,000 because they saw the picture in the paper," he said. "Never in any community have I experienced a response like that."

CSA Associate Director Maureen Wadiak said CSA has provided more than 5,000 people with emergency assistance in 2009. The demand for services has never been higher, she said.

Jose Antonio Vargas, a Pulitzer Prize-winning graduate of Mountain View High School and journalist with the Huffington Post, spoke at the recognition breakfast, referring to himself as "local boy makes good." Vargas worked for the Washington Post for five years, winning the Pulitzer for his coverage of the massacre at Virginia Tech in 2008. His 2006 series on HIV/AIDS in Washington inspired a feature-length documentary, "The Other City," slated for release next year.

For more information, visit [www.CSAcares.org](http://www.CSAcares.org).