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## Early risers salute Community Services volunteers

By Janet Duca Norton / Society Columnist

The Community Services Agency of Mountain View saluted individuals and companies for their service to the agency at the annual "Hometown Heroes Recognition Breakfast." About 200 friends, supporters and volunteers turned out for the early morning event at Palo Alto's Crowne Plaza Cabana Hotel on Sept. 12.

Carol Olson, last year's board chairman, summed up Community Services' work, saying, "CSA is a safety net for basic needs. For more than 50 years, the agency has operated its food and nutrition program, has provided emergency services for individuals and families, and case management services for seniors and the homeless in our community. Last year, the Center provided 33,000 hot lunches for seniors and distributed food to 3,000 people.

Event co-chairs Bill James and Lisa Kasperzak said it was a record-setting occasion with all three local mayors in attendance - Jean Mordo of Los Altos Hills, Tom Means of Mountain View and Val Carpenter of Los Altos - as well as Assembly member Ira Ruskin and many political types.

Honoree John Day, who has volunteered for 40 years, said, "CSA exists because 700 (volunteers) make these programs work; the staff is augmented by all of you in this room. I hope you all continue to volunteer and help CSA." Day began his relationship with CSA when his daughter was in Girl Scouts. Over the years, Day has volunteered as part of the homeless project and been a part of the board. Recently, he brought Internet service to the senior services center.

Honoree Kathleen Lynch, who is a clinical social worker and former board member, smiled when she said, "I am honored and humbled. Thank you to the board and all the volunteers."

Dennis Young and Ray Skitt accepted the award on behalf of the accounting firm RSM McGladrey/McGladrey & Pullen. The firm has been involved for 20 years in advising, contributing and advocating for the agency, as well as other nonprofits.

"CSA cares. We're proud to receive the award. We will display it in our lobby," Young said.

Skitt, who emphasized the need that exists for services and volunteers, stated his philosophy, saying, "A lot of inequality exists here. All of us should work to that point. Everyone needs to find something to do in our community - find something and commit."

Keynote speaker Keith Moody, principal of Mountain View High School, knows firsthand what a difference the agency makes in the lives of low-income individuals. After his mother died, Moody became the head of his household at the age of 20.

Everyday in the Mountain View and Los Altos high schools he sees the range of economic diversity. "You are my teammates," Moody said to the crowd. "I challenge you to keep up the great work you are doing."

The teammate term was a reference to his football career as a cornerback and wide receiver for the 1980 Super Bowl-winning Pittsburgh Steelers. He tells his students the Super Bowl ring is worth \$20,000, but his master's degree in education is priceless.

Some of the early risers enjoying quiche and lots of coffee included Sherie Dodsworth and Jan Fong of Borel Private Bank & Trust, and former Hometown Heroes Debbie Wu, Jim Cochran, Mary-Jo Di Muccio, Jean Taylor, Pam Martello and the Foothill Disposal Company.

Preparations for the holiday sharing program are under way. The goal is to give each family food, a new game and gifts for each child. For information, visit [www.CSAcares.org](http://www.CSAcares.org).