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City resolution honors youth mentor programs

City Councilman Kevin McCarty recently sponsored a resolution honoring local volunteers during National Mentoring Month.

President and CEO Rhonda Staley-Brooks accepted for the nonprofit Big Brothers Big Sisters. Program Manager Emily Bender represented the South Sacramento Coalition for Future Leaders (SSCFL). Mary Lynn Perry, City of Sacramento Volunteer Coordinator, also was given one for her work.

“Mentoring youth is so important to our city,” said McCarty, who represents District 6. “For some youth, a mentor might be the only adult in their life who is listening, guiding and helping them to achieve their hopes and dreams.”

Mentoring helps youth:

- Boost communication skills and self-confidence,
- Improve academically and stay in school,
- Increase chances of those students attending college, and
- Reduce crime and violence.

“In accepting this resolution, we were pleased to be able to represent the many youth mentoring groups throughout the city,” said Bender, a Sacramento/Yolo Mutual Housing Association Community Organizer. “Programs like this make such a difference in the lives of these youth.”

By recognizing the work of these programs, McCarty and others hope to encourage more individuals such as seniors, working adults and other youth as well as businesses, foundations, non-profits, schools and faith-based institutions to become involved in mentoring.

The resolution followed a celebration and awards ceremony, sponsored by SSCFL and the Sacramento City Unified School District. Attended by more than 100 people, 35 awards were given to people at the event.

Founded in 2006, SSCFL has 150 youth and adult members. A Drug-Free Communities grantee, SSCFL is funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.



Maria Alvarez

Rhonda Staley-Brooks, Big Brothers Big Sisters; Mary Lynn Perry, City Volunteer Coordinator; Kevin McCarty; Emily Bender, SSCFL

Sacramento/Yolo Mutual Housing Association develops and operates well-designed rental housing for modest-income households. The communities have 2,700 residents, half of whom are children.

Through Mutual Housing's focus on leadership, the nonprofit also provides training and mentoring as well as educational programs, community-building activities and services for residents and neighbors. For more information, visit <http://www.mutualhousing.com>.