

For Immediate Release

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Post Event Release

Family Resource Center Celebrated 35 Years of the Because Kids Awards Celebration Made History with the Most Amount of Youth Receiving Recognition for Their Work

November 14, 2024

(Stockton, CA) On the evening of Thursday, November 7, 2024, Family Resource Center (FRC) shined the spotlight on several individuals and organizations at its annual Because Kids Awards-celebrating the accomplishments of those supporting the needs of children through tremendous action. Created in 1988 by Joan Richards, founder of Family Resource Center, and several community members, the awards recognize those outstanding members of the community that are doing more than just ‘the average’ for children.

FRC was founded on a child care resource and referral grant in order to match parents with licensed child care that best fit their needs. FRC grew tremendously to provide child care assistance, nutrition services, and professional development trainings for Child Care Providers. Child Care Providers in San Joaquin County are serving over 10,000 children in the various subsidized programs FRC administers. While the organization has diversified services to include 211 San Joaquin, connecting over 80,000 residents to local help and resources each year, as well as the Joan Richards Learning Village Preschool where approximately 200 children are receiving a quality early education every day, and children are also receiving several Family Strengthening services, FRC’s partnership with the Child Care Providers remains at the heart of the agency’s mission.

To spotlight the tireless work of key individuals and organizations who made a positive difference in the lives of children and youth, the Because Kids Awards paid special tribute to their service-sharing stories of inspiration and hope. This year’s awards made FRC history, as two of the honorary programs in the categories of, *Children’s Health* and the *Kids Helping Kids*---San Joaquin County Office of Education’s Youth Mental Health Development Academy and the Lincoln High School’s Peer Counseling Program, respectively--- had over forty youth attend and receive recognition for their work supporting the mental health needs of their peers and community.

Emceed by Adriana Brogger, Professor of Digital Media at San Joaquin Delta College, the Because Kids Awards recognized the winners of the following categories: *Child Care Provider*, *Child Advocate*, *Children’s Health*

Business, Public Agency, Kids Helping Kids, School, and Nonprofit Organization. The event included guest speakers offering their words of encouragement and gratitude for helping children build resiliency and promoting well-being.

Several local businesses and organizations showed their commitment to children and families by sponsoring the event. Bank of Stockton and Health Plan of San Joaquin were this year's Signature Sponsors and the 54 Fund and Valley Strong Credit Union were the event's Premier Sponsors. Their partnership helps create access to high-quality, affordable child care so that working parents can continue contributing to our local workforce.

To view a list of all 2024 recipients and past Because Kids Award recipients, visit <https://fresj.org/becausekidsawards/>

About Family Resource Center: Family Resource Center is committed to the health and well-being of children in San Joaquin County, and the adults who care for them. Serving the community since 1980, FRC's mission is to provide resources to parents and childcare providers to encourage healthy growth for the children in their care. That's done through advocacy, information, education, nutritional support, training, and childcare services – directly and by financially supporting community childcare providers – so that every child, and parent, has access to safe and stimulating care outside the home. Family Resource Center is the designated service provider for 211 information and referral services for San Joaquin County. Through this service, increased access to information such as child care, nutritional services and over 4,000 other resources are available to new and current residents, 24/7/365 days a year in over 250 language