



**SAN MATEO COUNTY
COUNTY MANAGER'S OFFICE**

Date: September 26, 2007

Board Meeting Date: October 2, 2007

Vote Required: Majority

To: Honorable Board of Supervisors

From: John L. Maltbie, County Manager

Subject: 2007 Jefferson Award Nominations

Recommendation

Recognize and accept the 2007 County of San Mateo nominees for the Jefferson Awards for Public Service.

Vision Alignment

Commitment: Leaders work together across boundaries to preserve and enhance our quality of life.

Goal: Residents accept individual responsibility for contributing to the quality of life in the County as a whole.

2007 Jefferson Awards Nominees

Sister Marguerite Buchanan, Catherine's Center
David Lewis, Free At Last
Ian Keane, Serra High School
John Blickenstaff, Serra High School

"How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single minute before starting to improve the world."

These are the words of Anne Frank, a young girl with so much potential. The four San Mateo County nominees for Jefferson Awards did not wait to start improving the world, to realize their potential. They looked around and knew they could make a difference and we are all the beneficiaries of their selfless hard work.

In the most simple of terms, the four nominees exemplify public service.

David Lewis, Sister Marguerite Buchanan, Ian Keane and John Blickenstaff are San Mateo County heroes. Each has worked tirelessly and without remuneration to open minds, change opinions, break barriers and build community. They are courageous, ordinary people who have worked to enhance the quality of life for the people of San Mateo County.

I am proud to present the nominees for the 2007 County of San Mateo Jefferson Awards for Public Service.

Background

The Jefferson Awards for Public Service is a national program to enhance civic engagement by recognizing extraordinary work by ordinary people. Established 30 years ago, the Jefferson Awards for Public Service is the "Nobel Prize" for public service.

Locally, the 2007 Jefferson Awards sponsors include First National Bank, KPIX Channel 5 and the San Francisco Chronicle. Throughout the year the media are featuring the San Francisco Bay Area Jefferson Award winners with special segments to highlight the nominees and their good works.

Discussion

Participation in the Jefferson Awards provides an important opportunity for the County of San Mateo to publicly recognize those who share a commitment to excellence in public service. Your Board and County Department heads were asked to recommend individuals for consideration of a Jefferson Award. Many County employees work directly with community volunteers and nonprofit partners in many successful programs and services that benefit us all. While the spotlight is on these four individuals, there are many "unsung heroes" in San Mateo County deserving of this distinguished recognition.

Fiscal Impact

There is no fiscal impact to the County General Fund; however, the four awardees provide priceless contributions to the community.