Five Teens Benefit From Mentoring Program at Crush Italian Cuisine

The Boys & Girls Club of San Diego and the team at Crush Italian Restaurant in Solana Beach have partnered to create a mentoring program for teen girls that combines shadowing and one-on-one mentoring techniques to teach teens skills in the restaurant industry. Five teens from the La Colonia Branch in the Eden Gardens community of Solana Beach were selected to participate. The teens will shadow every position in the restaurant for 10 weeks to gain real-world experience. Gloria Castellanos, branch manager at the La Colina Branch, said this program is a “once-in-a-lifetime experience for most of these teens.” All five teens went through an application and interview process to earn this mentorship. By the end of the program, the teens will be able to run numerous aspects of the restaurant, including cooking, taking orders, and serving customers. Crush invites everyone to dinner from 6 to 8 p.m. any Wednesday through June 4; a portion of the proceeds will be donated to the Boys & Girls Clubs of San Diego – La Colonia Branch.

The Crush Italian Restaurant celebrates the 10-year work anniversary of its president, Ken Owen, and its president, who leads the organization through a tough economic climate and positioned the chamber as a champion of innovation, entrepreneurship and business. A former president and publisher of the San Diego Business Journal, Owen has developed numerous relationships with community-based organizations that have a stake in Crush’s success. St. Madeleine Sophie’s Center recently celebrated its 16th annual Morning Glory Brunch in the Center’s organic garden in El Cajon. Guests were treated to a ceremonial day during the unveiling of Sophie’s Vineyard. Alex Carballo, chef of urb n. stone, was also present and gave a food and beer pairing demo. There were more than 500 attendees. Proceeds will benefit adults with developmental disabilities attending St. Madeleine Sophie’s Center.

The San Diego Foundation Center for Civic Engagement awarded $182,412 in grants to six nonprofit organizations. One grant went to Earth Discovery Institute for acquisition: Earth Discovery Institute, which received a $25,785 grant; Endangered Habitats Conservancy, $29,756; Living Coast Discovery Center, $30,409; Preserve Calavera, $13,692; and San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy, $29,997.

Union Bank, a long supporter of the American Heart Association, was named the 2013 Top Heart Walk Fundraising Team in the country, making it the third time Union Bank has earned this distinction. Bank employees, families, and customers collectively raised more than $580,000 during the 2013 Heart Walk campaign.

2-1-1 San Diego was awarded a grant for $100,000 from the S. Mark Taper Foundation to support the organizational Breast Cancer Survivor fund to alleviate barriers for people seeking community, health and disaster services. This generous support helps sustain 2-1-1 services for those in need of information and resources in the region.

Susan G. Komen San Diego awarded grants to local breast health programs at its Annual Grants Award Ceremony held recently at AMN Healthcare. Komen San Diego continues to be the largest funder of breast cancer treatment, services, and survivorship. Lorraine Hutchinson, deputy chief of the San Diego Fire-Rescue Department, was named Komen’s 2014 Honorary General Breast Cancer Survivor. To see the list of grantees, visit komsandiego.org.

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