



*The Rotary Club of Cathedral City since 1956*

### **Draft News Release**

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### ***Rotary Club of Cathedral City to honor 2021 Community Heroes October 28 at Heroes Dinner at Desert Princess Country Club***

Cathedral City, Calif., Oct 12, 2021 – *The Rotary Club of Cathedral City* announced that the entire community is invited to take part in honoring local Community Heroes at a dinner on the evening of October 28 beginning at 5pm at the Desert Princess Country Club Restaurant, 28-555 Landau Blvd., Cathedral City. Proceeds from the evening will fund scholarships for Cathedral City High School graduating seniors awarded each spring.

“Fortunately, we live in a community where everyone cares about making it a great place to live. We welcome those who care to participate with us in recognizing and saluting the outstanding 2021 Community Heroes, who have done so much for our students, our neighborhoods, our nonprofits and our nationally recognized education system. Many people are working diligently to make this a successful event and we hope a lot of our community members will join us on October 28,” said Dawn Elliott-Figueroa, president of *The Rotary Club of Cathedral City*.

Heroes Dinner Chair, Laura Ahmed explained, “Rotary has five areas of service: Club, Community, International, Youth and Vocational. Our club selected individual heroes from these five categories to honor at our Community Heroes scholarship fundraising dinner. We welcome their friends and families to join us in the celebrating their accomplishments and helping us provide well-earned scholarships for our local students. Tickets are available today.”

### **Heroes Awards by Category**

#### **Club Service**

Dr. Leonard M. Kalfuss, Rotary Youth Leadership Award (RYLA) scholarship sponsor

#### **Community Service:**

**Robert Allison**, Battalion Chief, retired after 30 years service Cathedral City Fire Department

**Guillermo Chavez**, Principal Cathedral City High School and education champion

**Edwina B. Dirk**, RN, teacher and trainer on behalf of Alzheimers Coachella Valley (ACV)

**Tommy Kocan**, volunteer lead for Boys and Girls Club events and Foodbank distribution

**Bob McKechnie**, as former Executive Director Cathedral City Senior Center

**Erica Stone**, Founding Director of Soldiers Organized Services (SOS) that provides free transportation for active duty military and their families to and from the Twentynine Palms Marine Base and the Palms Springs and Ontario airports

#### **International Service**

**Karin Knutson**, for helping educate thousands of children from Republic of Congo and South Sudan in refugee camps in Uganda

#### **Vocational Service**

**Matthew Howe**, Director of Bands, Cathedral City High School Royal Regiment Marching Band, Concert Band, Symphony Band, Jazz Band, and International Baccalaureate Music Director

## **Youth Service**

**Karen Dimick**, Principal Nellie Coffman Middle School work to support students and families in need

**Ellen Goodman**, Foundation Director, Palm Springs Unified School District

**George Howell**, teacher, ASB advisor, Cathedral City High School

**Terry Nelson**, helping many students through his video production class at the Boys and Girls Club

**Mary Perez**, for her work with families to ensure students have what they need to be successful at school

**Jessica Whiteman**, Director of Elementary Curriculum and Instruction, PSUSD

**Tickets for the Dinner, No Host Bar and Silent Auction event should be purchased by October 16.**

**Some tickets will be available at the door for individuals who have made a reservation with Laura Ahmed.**

Make checks for \$65 per person to ***The Rotary Club of Cathedral City*** and mail to PO Box 654 Cathedral City, CA 92235.

Or email credit card number/security code to: [TeeLaura1@gmail.com](mailto:TeeLaura1@gmail.com) (Charge will show up as ASTS of Palm Springs)

Or call Canyon Food Mart 760-202-8356 to purchase tickets with your credit card.

Questions? Call/text/email: Laura Ahmed 760 413-7812 [TeeLaura1@gmail.com](mailto:TeeLaura1@gmail.com)