

Sellout crowd joins CSA to salute "Hometown Heroes" at 10th breakfast event



Written by Town Crier Staff Report

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Photo Clyde Noel/Special To The Town Crier Keynote speaker Dick Henning, left, and CSA Executive Director Tom Myers, second from right, congratulate "Hometown Heroes" Paul and Liz Nyberg, center, and Los Altos Community Foundation chairman and founder Roy Lave, right.

founded by Roy Lave, another Los Altos resident.

"This large crowd speaks volumes because of those we are honoring today," said Tom Myers, CSA executive director.

Myers commended the Nybergs' community involvement. He included Liz's work tutoring and mentoring students through Partners For New Generations and her volunteer activities with the Los Altos History Museum. He noted Paul's work with the 10-year-old Los Altos Cultural Association, which has contributed \$1 million to projects benefiting Los Altos.

Myers paid tribute to the couple's ardent support of CSA through the Town Crier's Holiday Fund and their participation in the agency's Chefs Who Care monthly fundraisers.

The Nybergs are perhaps best known as publishers of the Los Altos Town Crier, celebrating its 63rd year in business – 17 with the Nybergs at the helm.

"It's lots of fun being part of the team that creates this hometown paper," Paul said. "We appreciate our advertisers and readers who keep reading the Town Crier."

The Nybergs are particularly proud of the newspaper's annual Holiday Fund, which has raised more than \$1.5 million during the past 10 years in support of local non-profit organizations.

Founded in 1991, the Los Altos Community Foundation manages programs, events,

With Google located in Mountain View, multimillion-dollar homes spread throughout Los Altos Hills and an estimated median household income of more than \$140,000 in Los Altos, it's sometimes difficult to imagine area residents in dire straits.

But the numbers tell a different story at the Community Services Agency, a support-services non-profit organization that has seen a 300 percent increase in the number of people it serves in the past year alone.

"Poverty and need exist among us," said CSA Associate Director Maureen Wadiak. "You help us make things happen."

The "you" was the packed audience gathered Sept. 17 at the Crowne Plaza Cabaña in Palo Alto to honor CSA's 2010 "Hometown Heroes" – Los Altos residents Liz and Paul Nyberg and the Los Altos Community Foundation,



sponsorships, charitable funds and programs that strengthen and support community non-profits that serve those in need.

A former city councilman and mayor of Los Altos, Lave has participated in several committees through the years, established the Bank of Los Altos – later absorbed by Heritage Bank – and currently sits on the board of Borel Private Bank & Trust.

Lave said “the Community Foundation tries to pick up the pieces nobody else picks up.”

Dick Henning, who established the Celebrity Forum Speakers Series, served as guest speaker at the morning-breakfast event. Henning initiated his speech with self-deprecating humor – likening a guest speaker to the corpse at a funeral.

“No one expects you to say much, but you can’t hold the event without one,” he said.

Henning urged the audience to be role models for today’s generation, modeling a love of learning, showing kindness and respect, and serving others. And don’t be afraid to take the lead, Henning said.

“The person who only knows ‘how’ is always a follower to those who know ‘why,’ Henning said, quoting Aristotle.

For more information, visit www.csacares.org.

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