

Spotlight: Men of Merit

For the past four years, The DELTA Project has presented the “Men of Merit Awards”. Recognition is given to outstanding men of character and compassion who show a strong commitment to being a positive influence in the lives of boys and young men in Contra Costa County. Men of Merit are from a variety of backgrounds and professions who have one thing in common: a commitment to their community and mentoring young boys to become compassionate men.

The Men of Merit were recognized at a celebration on October 22nd. This celebration was a time for the community to show its appreciation to the dedicated men who choose to be a positive role model to boys and young men, who demonstrate that violence does not equal strength, and who work to mentor boys into the next generation of compassionate men.



This year 14 men were recognized as “Men of Merit”. We want to thank them for their hard work and for being exemplary role models for the next generations.

Wil Broom has been a probation officer for the last 17 years and has a profound commitment to help the men he works with to live violence-free lives.

Eric Burns has worked hard to overcome his childhood domestic violence issues and is now an advocate against any type of violence in the household or anywhere else.

Tim Hamp is an excellent role model, selfless and committed to ensuring that foster youth have a chance to reach their full potential.

Eddie Hart, Jr. has worked with hundreds of young men and boys serving as a model against domestic violence and advocate for respecting women and girls.

Chief Jim Hyde is the police chief for Antioch Police Department and a co-founder and past president of the West Coast Post-trauma Retreat, which is a treatment program for emergency service professionals from Guam to London.

Thomas Jewell models for 28 young men, and staff on a daily basis, how to be strong yet humble, work through present problems and moral decisions, and squarely confront past mistakes to heal old wounds.

Jay Lightner is a foster/adoptive father who has founded several group homes to give troubled youth a strong structure and positive settings to recognize appropriate non-violent behavior, good grades, and healthy lifestyles.

David Mason has turned his own struggles with drugs and experiences with Child Welfare into a living testimony that has become a valuable resource for clients still struggling with Child Welfare.

Kim Nguyen knows it can be risky to stand up to violence that is occurring on an individual level or a societal level. But he has committed his life to taking action.

Patrick Okoh has worked with pregnant and parenting teenage foster children. He has acted as a positive role model to them and their young children. He is a wonderful example of someone that is committed to making sure that youth from all backgrounds become all that they can be.

Comilas Robertson founded the Police Activities League in the City of Richmond, who serve as positive role models and provide educational, recreational, and athletic opportunities to at-risk youth.

Ruben Rosalez seeks out ways for youth to improve their environment, volunteer for community projects, work to improve the human condition, and develop healthy positive attitudes toward themselves.

Skip Weinstock has worked with deeply wounded and severely traumatized teenage foster children to ensure that they have all the educational opportunities needed to thrive.

Solomon Windham models leadership, caring about oneself and others, and team development while inspiring incarcerated youth to dig deep within themselves, no matter what their life’s circumstances have been.

