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Vision in Education honorees

SCVi Charter School fetes Dennis King and Ana Donovan at fundraiser

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Dennis King, a longtime trustee of the William S. Hart High School District board was presented with the Vision in Education Award by SCVi Charter School founders Dawn Evenson and Amber Raskin at the third annual SCVi Vision in Education annual benefit dinner held at the Hyatt Regency Valencia.

"It's a great school," said King. "One of the high points of my time on the Hart Board was working with school's founders and getting the school open. "

King's grandchildren attend the school.

First elected to the Hart School Board in 1985 King served on the board for more than 20 years.

SCVi

SCV International Charter School was founded by Evenson and Raskin in 2008.

It is a K-10 tuition-free public charter school with 700 students. The school will add 11th grade in the next school year and 12th grade the following year.

Evenson and Raskin were interested in a school that would inspire "lifelong learners. "

SCVi is located in Castaic. The school has become so popular that new students are selected by lottery from all the applications received, said Raskin.

"We so grateful for everyone who has come to support us," said Raskin. "We started with 135 students four years ago and now we have 700 students.

Raskin said the option of choice for parents is very important.

"Choice is huge," she said. "I'd like to see more choice that can change the education landscape."

SCVi was the first site-based independent charter school in the SCV, said Raskin. The school receives its funding from the state.

The school started with six teachers and a few office support staff, said Evenson.

Stephanie Edwards

Special guest Stephanie Edwards, co-host for 30 years of the KTLA Rose Parade broadcast, recently visited SCVi and was impressed by what she had seen at the school.

She participated in a video presentation about her visit which showed her interacting with a variety of the school's students.

"I've been very impressed by what I've witnessed at this school, " said Edwards.

Ana Donovan

Also honored at the event was Ana Donovan who received the Founder's Vision Award.

The award is designed to honor an individual who has influenced the growth and development of the educational vision of the school.

Donovan developed the SCVi beginning language and culture program and is the ELL coordinator.

"I knew this was going to be a school that would benefit all kinds of learners," Donovan said. "For the last four years I've been able to grow as a teacher and as a person. I owe this to Dawn and Amber, thank you."

Fundraiser

The event included live and silent auctions as well as a 50-50 raffle drawing.

Each year the school identifies a fundraising focus. This year's focus was technology, said Raskin.

Ed Masterson served as emcee. Event chairwoman was Judy Cox. Marjanne Priest and Barbara Scheidt served as event co-chairwomen.

Among the items available for bid in the live auction were vacations, a Clint Eastwood autographed poster, Chef's Dinner by Executive Chef Rolfe Rothen and a luncheon at the home of Shelley and G. Marshall Hann.

A Maltipoo-Shih Tzu mix puppy was auctioned off for \$500. Winners of the 10-week-old puppy were Kim and Brian Pearlman.

"My kids wanted the puppy," said Kim Pearlman.

Testimonial

Also on the program was a testimonial presentation by Michelle and Loren Witkin who spoke about the impact of SCVi on their son, a seventh-grader at SCVi.

"My son would start crying when we would approach his elementary school because he didn't want to go," Michelle Witkin said. "Things have been different since we came to SCVi. My son can't wait to come to school now."

For more information about SCVi Charter School visit www.scvcharterschool.org or call 661-705-4820.

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<http://archive.signalscv.com/archives/64747/>