

United Way of Northern California
3300 Churn Creek Road
Redding, CA 96002
(530) 241-7521
www.norcalunitedway.org



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Media Contacts:
AbbyAnn LoCascio, (630) 841-1104, alocascio@norcalunitedway.org
Larry Olmstead, (530) 604-2885, lolmstead@norcalunitedway.org

Redding Rancheria, Sikh Centre are Among Organizations, Individuals Honored for Equity Work

United Way's "Toast to Equity" Draws More Than 300 Supporting Racial & Social Justice

REDDING, CA (January 27, 2024) – On Friday, January 26th, United Way of Northern California (UWNC) hosted its 2nd annual *A Toast to Equity; Share Love Spark Change* fundraiser and community event at Win-River Resort & Casino. More than 300 guests gathered to celebrate the work of businesses, community groups, nonprofits, and individuals who have advanced the causes of equity and social justice in Northern California.

Redding Rancheria won the top business recognition for its commitment to equity and diversity through its policies, practices, and workplace environment.

The top community group, The **Sikh Centre**, was recognized for its dedication to the community as a hub for outreach, inclusivity, and service.

Rayna Nolta received the top individual award for her work as the President of the Hispanic Resource Council of Northern California and her achievements in organizing the "Dia Del Campesino" in Glenn County.

Oroville Southside Community Improvement Association received the top non-profit award for its service as a "Haven of Hope" for humanity, enhancing communities through its programs and services built around education, employment, and economic development.

The top Public Service award was given to **Eva Jimenez**, a Shasta College administrator and instructor whose innovative programs have helped convicts turn their lives around through education. Jimenez also has promoted collaboration among local law enforcement agencies through her role as Executive Director of SHIELD.

Other finalists included:

Businesses: POPS Performing Arts and Cultural Center and Tri Counties Bank.

Community Groups: The Islamic Center of Redding and The United Methodist Church Anti-Racism Task Force.

Individuals: Carolyn Nava and Jeff Gorder.

Nonprofits: LaunchPad 4 Kids and Roughout Ranch Foundation.

Public Service: Chelsey Chapelle and Tami Ritter.

Proceeds from the fundraiser will support UWNC's operations. The agency runs and supports programming in the areas of social justice, financial stability, health, education, and crisis response. For those unable to attend, donations are still welcome; please visit www.norcalunitedway.org.

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About United Way of Northern California:

United Way of Northern California (UWNC) was established in Redding in 1953 and primarily serves nine counties: Butte, Glenn, Lassen, Modoc, Plumas, Shasta, Siskiyou, Tehama, and Trinity. Its mission is to fight for the education, income, and health of all residents in the community. UWNC is active in disaster relief and recovery, raises funds for nonprofit agencies, and operates human services helplines in Shasta, Siskiyou, and Tehama counties, accessed by dialing 211. For more information about United Way of Northern California, visit www.norcalunitedway.org.