

Business Connection



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Catalyst • Convener • Champion

November 2022

Good people doing great things in Pleasanton

The Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce recognized deserving individuals, groups and businesses who have demonstrated excellence and leadership in business, volunteer activities and achievement at Pleasanton's annual Community Service Awards, which have been celebrated since 1963.

The chamber also recognized the downtown transportation corridor with the Distinguished City Initiative award, for the City's efforts with the expansion and improvement of the City's downtown parking and the beautifully updated Civic Park, providing a new space in our downtown for our community's use. This award, presented by the chamber's Community Foundation, recognizes an outstanding City of Pleasanton project or program that enhances the quality of life in our community.



The event, sponsored by Summit Financial Group and Amos Productions, was a community celebration to honor good people doing great things in Pleasanton in the open-air vista veranda overlooking the Pleasanton skyline at Callippe Preserve Golf Course on October 24, 2022.



Award recipients from left to right: Marsha McInnis, Alan Hu Foundation; Valerie Arkin, City of Pleasanton; Ken Mano, Kim Damiani, Summit Financial Group and Pleasanton Chamber board chair; Nina Pomeroy, Nina Pomeroy Photography; Will Schlicher, Schlicher Orthodontics; Xiaofang Chen, Alan Hu Foundation; Showkot Hassan, OMRON; and Mark Rahman, Alan Hu Foundation.

Pleasanton's Community Service Awards for 2022

ALAN HU FOUNDATION Excellence in Service

Its founders, Xiaofang Chen and Chih-Ching Hu channeled their grief over the loss of their 15-year-old son to suicide in 2018 to create the Alan Hu Foundation. Alan, a student at Amador Valley High School, lost his battle with mental illness. To honor Alan's wish that no one else should suffer from mental illness, the mission of the Alan Hu Foundation is to promote mental health, raise awareness, and remove stigma surrounding psychiatric disorders, and support fundamental research for cures. The Foundation provides education and support to those struggling with mental illness and their families, through a lecture series as well as scholarships for students who will prepare for mental health fields in college.

NINA POMEROY PHOTOGRAPHY Business Philanthropy

Since she began her business more than 20 years ago, Nina has frequently donated

her time to local charities and raised money for non-profits, including Shepherd's Gate and Goodness Village. The residents of Shepherd's Gate have had custom family portraits to cherish for a lifetime and in one fall weekend, Nina donated all family session fees to Goodness Village for a fundraiser. Nina also volunteers as part of the Portraits for Patriots program, a national organization that allows photographers to work with veterans and provide professional headshots for transitioning members of the military.

KEN MANO Distinguished Individual Service

Ken Mano has lived in Pleasanton since 1971, and he's truly been involved with countless community organizations. Ken and his wife Carolyn were both involved with the Amador Boosters and Special Olympics. Ken also led community service efforts for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He is currently serving as a missionary, visiting nonprofits in the bay area to provide humanitarian grants.

The Community of Character, Boy Scouts of America, Pleasanton Unified School District, American Red Cross Make a Difference Day for Pleasanton, and Senior Support of the Tri-Valley are just some of the organizations he has volunteered with over the years.

OMRON ROBOTICS AND SAFETY TECHNOLOGIES Excellence in Business

OMRON's mission is to improve lives and contribute to a better society. Established in 1933 and headquartered in Kyoto, Japan, OMRON has more than 29,000 group employees and net sales totaling more than 750 billion. Hacienda is home to OMRON's Pleasanton office, which boasts a unique workforce, featuring more than 250 team members from over 25 nations, 95% of these employees are University graduates with either master's degrees, PhDs or postdocs. Academic collaborations with colleges and high schools have provided scholarships and support for innovation projects. At Foothill

High School, OMRON has sponsored and supported their Robotics Club, creating a talent pipeline for intern and career placement right here in town.

SCHLICHER ORTHODONTICS Excellence in Business

Serving Pleasanton and the entire Tri-Valley with state-of-the-art orthodontic care, Dr. Will Schlicher truly appreciates the opportunity to help children, teens and adults love their smiles. Schlicher Orthodontics prides itself on integrity, ethics, and putting their patient's best interest above all else.

Form patient rewards programs to celebration goodie bags upon getting braces off to regularly supporting Pleasanton schools and the PPIE Fun Run to breast cancer awareness participation every October, seasonal patient photo contests, holiday celebrations, toy drives and collecting donations for those in need, it's easy to see the positive impact Schlicher Orthodontics has on the Pleasanton community.