



Lake County Early Childhood Educator of the Year Award Program

Lake County Child Care Planning Council

THE PROGRAM

The Lake County Child Care Planning Council has been in existence since 1997, and has been supporting early childhood educators for over a decade. One of the most significant programs has been the annual Early Childhood Educator of the Year Award Program, through which we recognize individuals and organizations who have made outstanding contributions to the field of Early Childhood Education and to Lake County's children and families through commitment to quality, education and advocacy.

We recognize what statistics have long been informing us, that quality childhood education is the best way to raise high school graduation rates, lower crime, reduce social service expenditures, and ensure safe and productive communities for Lake County's future. The award program provides a forum to recognize excellence and best practices, and inform our communities leaders and citizens that commitment to young children is critical to the stability of our future.

THE NOMINATION PROCESS

The nomination process begins each year in February. Nomination forms are available online, and are distributed widely throughout the county in both English and Spanish. A detailed interview process is undertaken for each nominee, including a licensing screening and reference checks. An interview committee, made up of local experts, reviews each screened nomination anonymously, ensuring that recipients are selected based solely upon their achievements and commitment to excellence. All nominees are notified via special invitation to our annual award dinner. The finalists are announced by a cadre of local dignitaries including law enforcement personnel, Board of Supervisors representatives, Superintendent of Schools, and agency and business leaders.

SUPPORT NEEDED

Although Local Child Care Planning Councils are mandated by legislation, the current budget crisis in California resulted in the elimination of 50 percent of our funding in 2010 and jeopardizes what funding remains. We are looking to our community partners and agencies in order to continue this special program. We understand that in these years of volatility in all types of funding, your resources may be reduced; however, the importance of investing in our children is no less important.

We know that access to high-quality child care matters, especially for low-income children and those living in rural communities. A new study released by the National Institutes of Health tracked children for a full decade after they left child care. They found that teens who had been in high-quality child care settings demonstrated higher cognitive and academic achievement scores and a lower likelihood of acting-out behaviors than teens who did not have this benefit.¹ Children who attend high-quality childhood programs are more likely to graduate from high school and are far less likely to be on welfare, become criminals or teen parents, or experience debilitating health and socioeconomic problems.²

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The Early Childhood Educator of the Year Award Program is an important statement to Lake County providers that we value their work; it is an important statement to our communities' leaders that we are making early childhood education a priority; it is an important statement to our citizens that we care about our children.

Please consider how you or your agency or organization might be able to contribute to this work with a financial contribution in any amount. We also offer the opportunity to sponsor a specific award. Generous publicity opportunities will be provided to all sponsors and contributors. Sponsorship opportunities are as follows:

Family Child Care Provider of the Year Award Sponsorship: \$400
Center-Based Provider of the Year Award Sponsorship: \$400
School-Age Provider of the Year Award Sponsorship: \$400
Special Needs Inclusion Award Sponsorship: \$400
Center of the Year Award Sponsorship: \$200
Child Advocate of the Year Award Sponsorship: \$200
Careers with Children High School Student Award Sponsorship: \$250

Complete Award Sponsorship: \$2250
Dinner Sponsorships: \$30 per person.

For more information, please contact:
The Lake County Child Care Planning Council
Shelly Mascari
smascari@lakecoe.org
707-262-4161



Steve Mahar is overcome with emotion as he is recognized for over 25 years of service to Lake County's school-age children. 2009



Louise Garrison accepts a Lifetime Achievement Award from Supervisor Anthony Farrington. 2010

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1. D.L. Vandell and others, "Do Effects of Early Child Care Extend to Age 15 Years? Results From the NICHD Study of Early Child Care and Youth Development." *Child Development*, vol. 81 (3) (2010): 737-756.
 2. For a review of the literature, see First 5 California Children and Families Commission, "School Readiness (Volume 1): Children's Readiness for School and Schools' Readiness for Children" (2003), available at <http://www/ccfc.ca.gov/pdf/help/3.pdf>.



**Lake County
Early Childhood Educator of the Year
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Sponsorship Form**

Lake County Child Care Planning Council

- Complete Award Sponsorship \$2,250
- Individual Award Sponsorship \$ 400 each x ___ awards = _____
- Dinner Sponsorship \$ 30 each x ___ awards = _____
- Other \$ _____

Payment Options

\$ _____ Enclosed

- Please invoice

Name: _____

Organization: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

City/Zip: _____

We invite you or representatives of your organization to join us at our award dinner on May 4, 2012.

Please indicate the number of anticipated guests attending: _____

Make checks payable to:
Lake County Child Care Planning Council
1152 South Main Street
Lakeport, CA 95453

Thank you for your sponsorship and support!