

## **RSF honors recipients at annual ceremony**

The Rossmoor Scholarship Foundation (RSF) held its annual Awards Ceremony at the Events Center on May 4. This year RSF awarded \$575,000 (the most it's ever raised annually) in \$4,000 scholarships (up from \$3,500 last year) to 141 students (another record for a single year). The students come from six local high schools located in Contra Costa County's poorest neighborhoods and Diablo Valley and Los Medanos Colleges.

Starting at 11:30, students and their families were greeted just outside the Center's front doors. While family members took their seats inside (they occupied almost every one of the 500 seats), outside students arranged themselves by school and gathered on an outdoor court.

RSF trustees who had chaired interview teams for each of the eight schools then lined them up in alphabetical order and marched them into the Tahoe Room to the sounds of Vivaldi's "Four Seasons." Once seated RSF President Bob Miller greeted everyone, and acknowledged donors of named scholarships and add-on awards who were seated behind him on the stage.

Led by RSF trustee interview team chairs, students were then marched by school across the stage to receive their scholarship certificates. First, students receiving general scholarships filed to a microphone, and as they accepted their certificates, gave their names and identified their majors and the college or university they planned to attend. They were followed by students from the same school who received certificates for named scholarships (which were in most cases given them by the donors themselves), and subsequently students who would receive add-on awards (also in many cases given by donors themselves).

While at the microphone, many students also took advantage of the opportunity to thank their parents and the Foundation for the help they were getting to advance their higher education. The vast majority of scholarship recipients will be attending California campuses.

In addition to choosing local high school and community college scholarship recipients, each year RSF awards two scholarships to qualifying RWC employees or their children, both of whom were recognized on stage. This year also marked RSF's first effort to provide scholarships for technical education students, selected from a pilot program at Los Medanos College.

In his closing remarks President Miller reminded his audience that RSF trustees always cover the costs of running the program (including the expenses associated with the Awards Ceremony), and gave what has become known as the RSF "birdsong" (beautiful to hear, but always consistent) "Every dollar donated goes into a scholarship for local students who are academically gifted by financially hard-pressed."

When the ceremony was over the crowd gravitated into the Donor Room, where students, family members, donors, and RSF trustees mixed for conversation, finger foods, photos, and lots of hugs.

Submitted by: Wayne A. Wiegand, RSF Trustee