

Rossmoor Clubs Help Scholarship Foundation Thrive

On July 20 at RAD Rocks, the annual party held by the Rossmoor Advocates for Diversity (RAD), the 280 folks on the floor were not just doing dances such as Boots on the Ground and Tanko Bushi (the Japanese Coal Miners' Dance). They were also enabling a \$1,445 donation to the Rossmoor Scholarship Foundation (RSF).

RSF offers educational opportunities to deserving students from diverse backgrounds in Contra Costa County. Over the years RSF has awarded more than \$4.8 million to over 2,000 students. Last year 127 students received awards of \$3,500 to \$11,000 totaling more than \$474,500. Awards are based on both academic achievement and financial need. Nearly all scholarship recipients are first-generation college students.

Vital to this effort are many clubs in Rossmoor that raise funds, either via donations or events. Besides RAD, other clubs that donate include: Rossmoor Mystery Book Club, Rossmoor Partnership Bridge, Rossmoor Wine & Food Society, The Italian American Club of Rossmoor, Democrats of Rossmoor, Rossmoor Knitters and Crocheters (part of the Sewing Club of Rossmoor), Rossmoor Men's Golf Club, History & Culture Club of Rossmoor, Rossmoor Ceramic Arts Club, Computer Club of Rossmoor, and the Rossmoor Rotary Foundation.

As Rossmoor Advocates for Diversity was planning for its second RAD Rocks, a member of RAD who was on the RSF board suggested a collaborative effort: "Maybe RAD could donate a portion of the price of each ticket sold to our dance event to RSF," says RAD co-president Joe Easley. "The RAD Board loved the idea, since it helped another wonderful Rossmoor effort and, knowing this, might make more people want to buy tickets to RAD Rocks." RAD then decided to raise the cost of tickets that year by five dollars and advertise that five dollars of each ticket sold would go to RSF. "The plan worked. More RAD Rocks tickets were sold, and everyone loved the idea of five dollars of this cost going to RSF. The practice has continued. In its third year, over \$1,400 from this July's dance ticket sales was donated to the scholarship fund."

Some clubs provide "add-ons," which add \$2,500 to the base \$3,500 scholarship to make a \$6,000 stipend. For example, the Computer Club funds two add-on awards to community college students who will be studying for careers in a STEM field when they transfer to a four-year institution.

Other clubs fully fund named \$3,500 scholarships. The Chinese American Association of Rossmoor (CAAR) donates two named scholarships in memory of Frank Wang, a revered but now deceased leader. Says CAAR Scholarship Coordinator Sharon Fong, "The Frank Wang CAAR Add-On Scholarship was proposed by past CAAR President—and past RSF trustee—Frank Wang to 'benefit students with great potential but with limited financial support.' There have been eight recipients since its inception in 2016."

The Rossmoor Rotary Foundation funds four named scholarships to students showing interest and experience in public service. Says chairperson Eddie Fisher, "Our foundation is very proud of the money we give because we know what it means to the students who get it."

RSF thanks all these clubs, and encourages other Rossmoor clubs and organizations to follow the example of these fine organizations by contributing to RSF this year. As Rossmoor News readers well know by now, every dollar donated goes into a scholarship, and like all those mentioned above, they will be helping to transform young lives by investing in their future.

Submitted by: Dick Friedman, RSF Trustee