

Lake Avenue Community Foundation Scholarships



Lake Avenue Community Foundation (LACF) Associate Director Mayra C. Macedo-Nolan, STARS founder Jill Shook, board Chair Bruce Stone, Lake Avenue Church Senior Pastor Greg Waybright and LACF Executive Director John Wilson pose with 2008 award recipients Laura Pinedo, Silvia Pimentel and Johanna Carmona.

Pasadena Unified School District students, their families, tutors, mentors and other community members recently gathered for the STARS year-end celebration. STARS, a program of Lake Avenue Community Foundation (LACF), has worked with families in northwest Pasadena for more than a dozen years.

"As a faith-based, non-profit organization, Lake Avenue Community Foundation is unleashing the God-given potential of at-risk youth and is providing the tools necessary for them to thrive academically, emotionally, economically and spiritually," said Mayra Nolan, LACF's associate director.

The year-end celebration was especially significant because it marked the first year the organization presented monetary college scholarships to two graduating PUSD seniors.

Johanna Carmona, a Marshall Fundamental High School graduate who will be attending Sonoma State University, received a \$1,000 Founder's Award. "Without the help of STARS, I would have never tried my hardest in school," Carmona wrote in an essay, in which she attributed her success to the support and encouragement of her tutors and mentor.

Laura Pinedo, a John Muir High School graduate who will be attending Pasadena City College, received a \$500 Founder's Award. "I am a step closer to reaching my dreams," said Pinedo, "and I am proud to say I know I will reach them." Pinedo overcame many challenges as a teen mother, attending high school, adult school and working part-time.

Silvia Pimentel, who graduated from Blair High School, also received a scholarship from The Ascending Lights Leadership Network, one of Lake Avenue Community Foundation partners. Pimentel received a full scholarship for tuition and books, with additional funding for transportation and food. In addition, Ascending Lights will provide mentoring and leadership training while Pimentel studies at Pasadena City College.

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Glendale Adventist recently presented Bernard with community volunteer work with program.

Walker and Bern Day One Pasadena trained with a group participated in a Youth Hollywood. The Youth effort to decrease youth, ages 15 to 17, retail locations and a

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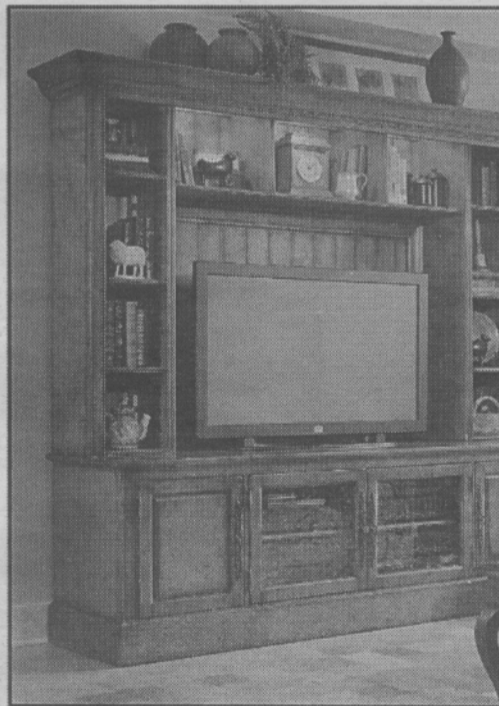
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