



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REPORT

AGENDA DATE: May 23, 2012

TO: Parks and Recreation Commission

FROM: Recreation Division, Parks and Recreation Department

SUBJECT: Recognition of Kathy VandenBerghe for support of the Healthy Options for Teens Culinary Arts Program

RECOMMENDATION: That the Commission recognize Kathy VandenBerghe for her annual support for the Healthy Options for Teens Culinary Arts Program.

DISCUSSION:

Three years ago, the Westside Community Center through the Neighborhood and Outreach Services began a Culinary Arts program for upper division high school students. It was a program that would reach and interest students from both regular and alternative high schools. Soon it became clear that such a program was also needed at the Franklin Neighborhood Center to serve that part of our community, but additional funding would be needed. Staff approached Kathy VandenBerghe to work on a fundraiser to secure funds for the program. Kathy, being a mother of 4, knew how important this program would be for teens.

After several brain storming sessions, it was clear that the fundraiser would take a while to plan and might not produce the amount needed to fund the program. Kathy thought this delay was not acceptable and personally funded the Franklin site beginning in 2010, for two years. This site now serves more participants than attend the Westside Center. Together the two sites have served between 40 and 50 participants each year.

The Parks and Recreation Department would like to recognize the contribution that Kathy VandenBerghe provided to expand the program to additional students. Her generosity to the youth is greatly appreciated. The teens may never know who this generous person is, but because of her, she has made a significant difference in the lives of many teens that will carry the skills they have learned for their entire life.

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APPROVED BY: Nancy L. Rapp, Parks and Recreation Director