

## STAFF REPORT

**DATE:** February 16, 2016  
**TO:** City Council  
**FROM:** Carrie Dyer, Community Engagement & Cultural Services  
**SUBJECT:** 2016 Golden Heart Awards

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In memory of the death of Andrew Mockus, who was tragically killed by his peers in 1992, the City of Davis Recreation and Park Commission expanded its commitment to the youth of the Davis community. Public forums were held to discuss various issues and to brainstorm on how the community could do more to meet the needs of the teens in Davis. One of the outcomes of the forums was to create an annual award recognizing outstanding youth in the community.

Nominations for the award were accepted October 29, 2015 through January 19, 2016. The selection committee spent considerable time reviewing the nominations and were amazed by the great work of all of the nominees. The committee consisted of:

- Will Arnold, Recreation and Park Commissioner
- Cecilia Escamilla-Greenwald, Recreation and Park Commissioner
- Joan Sallee, former Recreation and Park Commissioner & former School Board Member
- Kate Snow, Davis Joint Unified School District Climate Coordinator
- Robert Larson, City of Davis, Community Services Coordinator

After lengthy consideration, it is recommended that the following recipients be awarded the Golden Heart Award for 2016.

***Community Service: Genevieve “Vivi” Rose Kirsch***

Genevieve’s nominator states “For eight of her seventeen years, Vivi has been engaged with and serving the homeless population of Davis. She knows them and greets them throughout her regular activities in town, and she has never stopped considering how to advocate for their needs. In addition to that service, Vivi has volunteered with the special needs swimmers at Summer Darts; she has been a youth group leader at University Covenant Church, as student ambassador for DaVinci recruitment and is currently a Friendship day Leader, organizing and participating in monthly community building activity days. Inclusive community building is part of her character.”

***Personal Challenge: Ethan Patterson***

Ethan’s nominator states “In 6<sup>th</sup> grade, Ethan had severe physical challenges that caused him to miss a significant amount of school over time. His illness made it a challenge to keep up with his studies and I admire the fact that he had to work extra hard to maintain his coursework throughout his recovery over the next several years. His perseverance and resilience is admirable. He takes responsibility for completing tasks...and focuses on getting the job done. He also demonstrates exceptional kindness to other students. His empathy is obvious in his willingness to help others.”