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## NEWS RELEASE

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### City Recognizes Community Volunteers

Individuals and groups who have made outstanding contributions to the city of Cupertino will be honored Wednesday, May 18, with awards. This year, seven individuals and four groups, listed below, will receive CREST – Cupertino Recognizes Extra Steps Taken – awards.

The awards ceremony, which will include a video presentation by the city's Media Department, will be held in the Cupertino Community Hall, May 18, at 7 p.m. The ceremony is free and open to the public.

**Catherine Wong and Alice Jarrett**, registered nurses who volunteer at the Cupertino Senior Center, help to ensure that center members get regular blood pressure checks. Catherine and Alice each conduct blood pressure check clinics at the center two to three times a month.

A Kaiser advise nurse, Catherine helped the center to establish a health lecture program with the Kaiser Health Education Department. Catherine received her nursing training in Hong Kong and in the U.S., and has been working for Kaiser for the past 15 years.

A retired nurse, Alice received her nursing degree from University of California, San Francisco. She served in the Army during World War II and was stationed in England.

**Alan and Marge Taniguchi** have been dedicated volunteers for the Cupertino-Toyokawa Sister City Committee since their daughter was a student delegate to Toyokawa seven years ago. Marge has served as the co-chairperson of the Cherry Blossom Festival, taking responsibility for all cultural and entertainment activities. In addition, she is the treasurer of the Sister City committee and has co-chaired the student exchange program. Alan has served as the committee's graphic artist, contributing many hours of graphic design work, including designing Cherry Blossom Festival signs.

As the 2004 chairperson of the Cupertino Chamber of Commerce's Asian American Business Council, **Gilbert Wong** was instrumental in elevating the stature of the chamber. Gilbert led three major events – Lunar New Year Luncheon, Moon Festival Luncheon and Diwali Festival of Lights celebration. Gilbert's efforts helped the chamber to increase its number of Asian-owned businesses to 30 percent. Gilbert currently is the chairperson of the Cupertino Planning Commission.

Upon her retirement from Bank of America in 2004, **Frances Seward** approached Cupertino Community Services (CCS) to volunteer her services as a financial counselor to the clients of CCS, where she created the Money Management and Counseling Program. Frances individually advises clients on budgeting, credit issues, and banking needs. This service is provided at no charge to CCS clients, many of whom face financial crisis. Frances also is Ambassador of the Year for the 2005 Cupertino Chamber of Commerce Star Award.

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Under **Diane Benedetti's** leadership as executive producer, Cupertino Senior TV Productions has won 14 awards. This includes a first-place WAVE award for the "55 Alive Update" program. Diane has been an effective advocate with the City of Cupertino in keeping "The Better Part" with public access, and she facilitated the transfer from De Anza College to KMVT in Mountain View.

The Cupertino Library could not operate without the continuing work that **Cupertino Library Volunteers** perform individually and collectively. This has never been more true than in the wake of state reductions in municipal funding. Approximately 40 Adult Community Volunteers help to pre-sort returned library materials. Currently 25 Teen Volunteers help with many library tasks, including assisting in the Children's Room. And, last year with the opening of the new library building in the civic center complex, volunteers from throughout the community were invaluable in helping to move the library's collection.

The **Friends of the Cupertino Library** has been there to help for more than 40 years. Members of the group conduct on-going used book sales in the library and book sale events in the Cupertino Community Hall. In 2004, the group gave \$55,000 toward furnishing the Story Room in the new library building. Funds raised also have purchased a self-checkout machine, other equipment and furniture. In addition, the group finances the Children's Summer Reading Club and the Best Seller Collection.

During the past two years, the **Cupertino Library Foundation** raised the funds necessary to furnish and equip the new library building. The foundation's Library Campaign Committee sought donations from individuals and groups ranging from \$5 to \$200,000, and has held many fundraising events. The foundation has proven to be an invaluable force in the community for the maintenance and improvement of our community's busiest public building and service.

Five Cupertino volunteers are appointed by the City Council to serve on the **Library Commission**. The commission has worked hand in hand with the community organizations that support the library to meet the needs of our residents. The commission was instrumental as part of a city steering committee in planning and designing the new state-of-the-art 54,000-square-foot library that opened last year.

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