AFGHAN REFUGEE HONORED AT “WOMEN TO WATCH” AWARD CEREMONY

Denver League of Women Voters Recognizes Sweeta Afrooz for her Contributions to the Community

Denver, CO – Among the fourteen honorees at Sunday’s Women to Watch, an annual initiative of the League of Women Voters of Denver (LWVD) Education Fund, was Afghan refugee Sweeta Afrooz, a graduate of ECDC African Community Center (ACC)’s We Made This program.

Afrooz, who came to Denver from Afghanistan in 2014, was recognized for her persistence in learning English, completing the We Made This sewing training and job skills program, and obtaining work in the apparel industry at Scout Designs, all while helping her children become educated and contributing to her family. She has since used her skills to support the community by translating for new Afghan arrivals and helping them rebuild their lives in the Denver area. Afrooz was nominated by ACC’s We Made This, which has previously nominated sewing teachers Tin Tin Pyone and Florence Bilombile, both of whom were recognized at Women to Watch in 2015.

“ACC is proud to celebrate Sweeta’s accomplishments in our local community alongside the League of Women Voters Denver,” said Melissa Theesen, ACC Managing Director. “Her hard work, perseverance, and commitment to a bright future for her family sets an example for us all. Sweeta beautifully represents the meaningful contributions refugees bring to our community.”

The March 19, 2017 ceremony and reception marked the 25th anniversary of Women to Watch, the brainchild of Jane Wasson and Mary Ann Fledman-Lang of the LWVD. Nominating organizations, including ACC, Emily Griffith Technical College, Denver Public Schools, and Goodwill Industries of Denver, were invited to submit nominations on behalf of women they felt exemplify “overcoming barriers, becoming empowered, and participating in the community.”

The event, held at Montview Boulevard Presbyterian Church, which hosts the Denver League of Women Voters, also honored refugee women from Burma, Ethiopia’s Oromo region, and Syria for their accomplishments and resilience. Other honorees included Denver transplants and native Coloradans who have overcome tremendous obstacles to become flourishing members of the community.

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ECDC African Community Center (ACC) is a branch office of the Ethiopian Community Development Council that has helped refugees and immigrants build safe, sustainable lives in the Denver area for more than 15 years. Reception and placement activities that ACC conducts are paid for, in part, through financial assistance provided by the Department of State through ACC helps refugees build safe, sustainable lives. ACC is a 501(c)(3) entity. ACC’s We Made This program is paid for, in part, through a Colorado Department of Human Services grant. For more information about ACC, visit www.acc-den.org and follow on Facebook.