HONORING UNSUNG HEROES IN THE FIGHT AGAINST DEMENTIA

The Masonic Homes’ Luminary Caregiver Awards recognize often overlooked caregivers providing crucial support in memory care.

Every year, the Masonic Home at Union City honors the men and women who commit their lives to helping people with dementia, a disease that impacts 50 million people worldwide. In the United States alone, some 16 million people struggle with the disease—work that’s often unappreciated and often goes unrecognized. The Luminary Caregivers Award Gala aims to shed a light on these unsung caregivers and honor the compassion and fighting spirit of 106 City residents living with this disease.

Joseph Pritchard, health services administrator at the Masonic Home at Union City, helped create the awards to raise awareness of Alzheimer’s and dementia care. “I believe that the Luminary Caregiver Awards has provided much needed recognition and support for caregivers helping loved ones battle dementia,” Pritchard says. The gala ceremony includes four awards recognizing the courage, value, and approaches to memory care. Pritchard says dementia and Alzheimer’s impact the lives of entire families and communities—just as those suffering from the disease. Providing support for caregivers, he says, represents an important and overlooked part of a holistic approach to memory care. “We have not found the cure for Alzheimer’s Disease and dementia,” he says, “but we have found a way to provide companionship in a dark time.”

On July 27, with well over 100 community members, care providers, and health care leaders in attendance, the Masonic Homes of California proudly presented the 2019 Luminary Caregiver Awards to the following recipients:

LIYNGuyen
Former L. Haylin Millenium Luminary Caregiver Award
Nguyen, the director of the Performing Arts Institute and Senior Reaching Out at the nonprofit theater company Stagebush, was recognized with the Millenium Luminary Caregiver Award, given to a young caregiver who has sacrificed school, work, and other obligations to help care for a loved one coping with dementia. Nguyen, who has a bachelor’s degree in Drama, Art from UC Davis, works with several Bay Area theater companies as an arts administrator, theater technician, and stage manager. A Union City native, Nguyen is passionate about making the performing arts accessible to people of all ages, abilities, cultures, and communities.

STAGEBRIDGE
John A. Chaliford Jr. Innovation Luminary Caregiver Award
Stagebush, the nation’s oldest and most renowned theater company for older adults, was given the Innovation Award, recognizing caregivers who use technology in an innovative way to help ensure safety and improve quality of life for a loved one coping with dementia. Founded in 1978 by Dr. Stuart Kandel, Stagebush provides award-winning Cognitive Aging programs, expanding opportunities for seniors to participate in the performing arts and enjoy engaging in lifelong learning through performance, helping maintain cognitive wellness.

A chance company comprised of older adults, Stagebush provides the creative, social, and emotional engagement that is key to the prevention of dementia.

LIFE ELDERCARE
Inspirational Luminary Award
The inspirational award is given annually to a caregiver who continually provides outstanding service to residents of their care home. This year’s awardee, LIFE ElderCare’s mission is to empower older adults to live with dignity, independence, and interdependence through integrative wellness, focusing on mind, body, spirit, and community. Providing services like fall prevention assistance, Meals on Wheels, transportation, and companionship, this local organization ensures that seniors and their caregivers in Alameda County have essential resources and support. With this well-rounded array of services and a commitment to empowerment, LIFE ElderCare inspires adults to build connections in their communities so that caregivers and their loved ones can thrive in the face of challenges that can accompany aging.

WALK TO END ALZHEIMER’S
Saturday, October 26, 2019
9:30 AM
2600 Camino Ramon San Ramon, 94583
Masonic Homes of California

The Masonic Homes of California is proud to be a sponsor of this important event. Walk with us to raise awareness and funds for Alzheimer’s care, support, and research. Join our team or donate at masonichome.org

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