



19th ANNUAL WOMEN'S HALL OF FAME LUNCHEON AND AWARDS CEREMONY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

APRIL 4, 2012

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**WOMEN'S HALL OF FAME HONORS 11 OUTSTANDING LOCAL WOMEN
WHILE SUPPORTING LOCAL CHARITIES AND YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP**

Four East Bay charities received \$2,500 each from proceeds raised by the Alameda County Women's Hall of Fame awards program, which honored 11 local women on Saturday for their outstanding contributions to improve the quality of life in our local communities.

A packed house of nearly 500 people turned out for the event, co-sponsored by the Alameda County Board of Supervisors and the County's Commission on the Status of Women.

Highlights included passionate remarks by Oakland real estate agent Oral Lee Brown, who has helped underwrite the college educations of more than 200 youth from some of Oakland's most under-served neighborhoods on her own and through her foundation.

"I do this because I believe education offers the chance for a young person to live a life rather than just exist," Brown said as she received rousing applause for her work.

Alameda County Administrator Susan S. Muranishi, the event co-chair, brought more cheer to the festivities when she presented a \$2,000 youth scholarship to 17-year-old Arooj Haq, a senior at San Leandro High School. Her eyes rimmed with tears, Arooj said the money would be put to good use as she plans to begin studying toward a nursing degree at UC Santa Barbara in the fall.

Funds raised by the Women's Hall of Fame program paid for the scholarship as well as \$2,500 donations to the East Oakland Youth Development Center, the Davis Street Family Resource Center, Sojourner Truth Housing and the Women's Initiative for Self-Employment. Saturday's luncheon featured a raffle drawing, silent auction and live jazz by a quintet of teen-age musicians who study at the JazzSchool in Berkeley. The talented youths performed several numbers with their director, the acclaimed Oakland saxophonist Kasey Knudsen.

Nine other women were inducted into the Women's Hall of Fame in addition to Brown, who was inducted in the education category; and Arooj, the Youth category inductee. The other women honored on Saturday were: Terry Alderete of Newark, Business and Professions; Barbara Bernstein of Berkeley, Community Service; Mildred Howard of Berkeley, Culture and Art; Connie Galambos Malloy of Oakland, Environment; Pamela Arbuckle Alston, DDS, of Oakland, Health; Jocelyn Larkin of Berkeley, Justice; Nicole Taylor of Oakland, Philanthropy; Dawn Shaughnessy of Livermore, Science; and Debby De Angelis of Hayward, Sports and Athletics.

To learn more about the 2012 inductees to the Alameda County Women's Hall of Fame, go to <http://www.acgov.org/cao/halloffame/>.

The program raises money for local charities providing needed resources for many in the community. Nominations are already being accepted for the 2013 Alameda County Women's Hall of Fame, which will be the event's 20th Annual celebration. Go to <http://www.acgov.org/cao/halloffame/> to nominate someone online or to download a nominations form.