

Beacon of Light Awards presented

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The Santa Clara County Office of Human Relations recently **presented** five **Beacon** of **Light Awards** to individuals and groups that have helped immigrant communities and society. Receiving **awards** were the Silicon Valley Community Foundation; Opportunity Fund; Karla Reyes; Familias Unidas Theater; and Phaivanh Khowong. The foundation adopted funding guidelines that include investing in "immigrant integration" strategies. Opportunity Fund created a \$2 million matching fund to help immigrants save money for citizenship application fees. Reyes helped develop an outreach advocacy program at Evergreen Valley College. Familias Unidas Theatre has provided a sanctuary for immigrant women to openly share their personal stories. Khowong, who escaped from Laos in 1975, cofounded the county refugee program.

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