



Community Chest, Inc.

Press Release for Immediate Distribution

What: Social Justice Superheroes Unmasked!

When: Friday, September 15, 9:00 AM to 1 pm

Where: Annual Statewide THRIVE Conference, Silver Stage High School, Silver Springs

Contact: Erik Schoen, Community Development Director, 847-9311, x102
erik@communitychestnevada.net

Story:

Two Social Justice Superheroes will be unmasked at the fifth annual statewide Rural and Urban Nevada Social Justice Institute, also known as the THRIVE Conference. For the second time, this event will take place at Silver Stage High School in Silver Springs on Friday, September 27 from 9 AM to 1 pm. The THRIVE Conference is inspired and coordinated by Community Chest – a Nevada nonprofit organization that strives to build healthy communities by providing social services, educational programs, and a resource center to people in Northern Nevada.

“We wanted to come up with a fun and creative way to honor some of the important work being done throughout the state,” said Erik Schoen, Deputy Director at Community Chest, “The honorees will be awarded their very own Social Justice Superhero cape to wear, if they choose, as they continue the work of improving the quality of life for their fellow Nevadans.”

“I think a lot of folks don’t know what the term ‘social justice’ means and are, therefore, frightened by it,” continued Shaun Griffin, executive director of Community Chest, “The short answer is that social justice is concerned with breathing life into the heart of what it means to be a community.”

This year’s winners include Peggy Edwards, a community advocate for tirelessly working to improve the mental health resources available to children, women, and men. As well, May Hylton, an associate professor at UNR, will be honored for creating a program at Hug High School to increase civic engagement so that students are ready to future community leaders. Finally, Lyon County Sheriff Al McNeil will be recognized for guiding the development of a restorative justice approach in Lyon County which emphasizes inmate rehabilitation, treatment, and community healing.

The THRIVE Conference showcases the impressive humanitarian work happening in Nevada. Health and human services providers, teachers, community volunteers, public service employees, and many others come together for this event. The intent is to provide a forum for education and networking while unifying this diverse group under the context of social justice as too many fail to grasp the potentially transformative nature of their work. It has previously been held in Reno, Las Vegas, and Silver Springs.

Admission to attend is free. To register, go to www.communitychestnevada.net. For more information, please contact Erik at (775) 847-9311, x102.