

Community supporters of Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Redlands-Riverside honored at Be Great Awards program



Tim and Carol Rochford, recipients of the Be Great Mission award from Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Redlands-Riverside, at the club's Be Great Awards event. (Courtesy Photo)

REDLANDS DAILY FACTS

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Tim and Carol Rochford, who own the Burrage Mansion in Redlands, received the Be Great Mission Award at the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Redlands-Riverside's annual Be Great Awards program.

At the event, held May 15 at the Redlands Country Club, the club also honored other community supporters and its Youth of the Year Ambassadors. Lillian Vasquez from KVCR served as master of ceremonies.

The Be Great Mission Award goes to an individual or organization that financially supports the club's mission. Tim and Carol Rochford, who married two years after they graduated from Redlands High School in the 1960s, bought and restored the historic Burrage Mansion in 2007. Under their ownership, the mansion's purpose is to be a "sanctuary dedicated to the well-being and happiness of children in need," according to a press release from the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Redlands-Riverside.

At the Burrage Mansion, the Rochfords host the club's Holiday Extravaganza, Camp Einstein, Ford Junior Youth of the Year dinner, day camp trips and other events. More than 6,000 Boys & Girls Club members attend the Holiday Extravaganza and more than 1,600 kids have summer camp activities at the mansion.

The club's Be Great Future Award went to the Majestic Realty Foundation, which has supported the club's after-school programs since 2003. Majestic was an early champion of construction of the club's Dennis Hansberger Clubhouse in Redlands and has sponsored club events and programs throughout the years, according to the press release.

The Be Great Impact Award went to the Redlands Fire Department, which collects toys each holiday season during its Spark of Love toy drive for children in need. This enables the club to hold its Holiday Extravaganza at which every child receives a toy. Over 11 years, the Redlands Fire Department has collected and delivered more than 14,000 toys. The Fire Department also brings fire engines to the club's Day for Kids event and sponsors and donates to the Chocolate Fantasy fundraiser.

At the event, three high school students were recognized as the club's Youth of the Year Ambassadors – Gabriel Gomez of Citrus Valley High School in Redlands, Jocelyn Perez of Centennial High School in Corona and Genesis Sanchez of John W. North High School in Riverside.

Each spoke about how the club has made an impact on their lives and their vision for the future. Genesis and Gabriel spoke about how the club helped them express themselves and be accepted after being bullied, and Jocelyn spoke about how the club helped her be confident and use her platform to advocate for mental health awareness, according to the press release.

The Youth of the Year Ambassadors were chosen for their character, citizenship, academics and commitment to a healthy lifestyle. Jocelyn was chosen as the Club's Youth of the Year. All the ambassadors receive college scholarships.

Also speaking at the event was Boys & Girls Club alumnus Miguel Fernandez, who was Youth of the Year in 2013 and 2014 and was a state finalist both years.

"It's programs like Youth of the Year that really paved the way to success for me," said Fernandez, according to the press release. Fernandez, 22, graduated from the University of La Verne last year and began working as a public relations coordinator for Esri in February.

For information about Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Redlands-Riverside's Youth of the Year Ambassadors, go to www.BeGreatIE.org.