

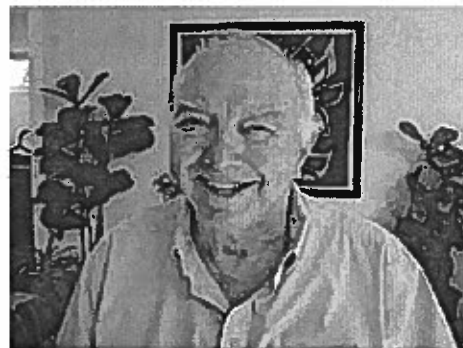
Newport resident, 83, to be awarded by human relations council

Joe Rosener, 83, is being awarded for nonprofit work that benefits at-risk children and their families.

By DAVID COWAN
STAFF WRITER

At-risk children in Orange County have found a champion in an 83-year-old Newport Beach resident. Joe Rosener is being awarded Thursday for his work with Community and School Collaboration, a group which helps at-risk children and their families through education and family support.

Rosener will receive the Community Leaders Award, which is being given by the Orange County Human Relations Commission at a gala in Anaheim.



Joe Rosener
City:Newport Beach
Age:83
Job:Retired from several CEO positions in Orange County and chairman emeritus of Community and School Collaboration
Family:Married 56 years, three grown children
Information on Community and School Collaboration:949-258-4389 or www.c-sc.org

Q: What nonprofit work do you do?

A:I founded a nonprofit organization called Community and School Collaboration to help the at-risk children in Orange County.

It turned out the people who needed the most help were their parents – first, understanding how they could help their children; second, understanding the adults' role in the school; and thirdly, to expand the parents' contacts in the community so they don't feel as isolated as they do.

Q: For what body of work were you nominated for this award?

A: The body of work is the founding and running of Community and School Collaboration over eight and a half years. I was nominated by the executive director of the organization. That's how I found myself being selected as one of the 12 awardees.

Q: How does it feel to be awarded?

A:Certainly doing the work and seeing the positive results and the tremendous, more than 2,000 families that we've been able to help over the years is in itself very rewarding.

But it's also nice to be recognized and the human relations council's recognition is also something to be appreciated.

Q: What are your plans in the near future for the program?

A:I am continuing on the board of directors and am very delighted to have the operational responsibilities handled by Martin Hubbard, who took over as chairman of the board. His plans to expand the organization to Irvine and Santa Ana will be very satisfying.

Q: How can people help the Community and School Collaboration?

A:The best way for them to donate either time or money is to contact the organization directly.

We have part-time employees that run the sessions with the parents. A typical session runs for about two hours in the late afternoon.

There are teams of collaborators, one to run the team, one who has a background in mental health, and someone who may have a knowledge of gangs or substance abuse, and along with them, we have volunteers.

A key part of the program is that the whole family must attend. The parents can talk about problems they're having with their children. This is an eight-week program that we do about three times a year.