

All Stars Awards To Phat Friends

By Cheryl Sutton, May 16, 2007

On May 9, the Bay Area All Stars Talent Show Network held its third annual Phat Friends Off The Hizzle! Awards Dinner at Scott's Seafood Restaurant in Jack London Square.

Five unsung heroines and heroes of Bay Area youth were honored at the fundraising event presented by the Bay Area Center for Independent Culture (BACIC).

The Phat Friends Award is the Bay Area's only award given by youth to adults who they feel deserve special recognition for supporting young people.

Over the past few months, young people throughout the Bay Area nominated adults to receive this special award. The five awardees were selected by the All Stars Youth Selection Committee and consisted of educators, activists, and entrepreneurs.

One awardee also uses his recording/musical talents to make background music for All Stars performers.

The All Stars youth hosts were there to welcome and usher in the friends, donors, and supporters gathered to honor the awardees and their passionate commitment to youth. It was a night that sparkled with shining examples of young people whose lives have been turned around by adult mentorship.

Special performances from All Star alumni included a dance group, "East County Kids N Motion" and the rapper group, "Voices of Reason" who wrote a Phat Friends rap in tribute to the honorees.

The audience was riveted by the testimonials, performances and youthful energy that had them

tapping their feet while sitting on the edge of their chairs.

Awardee Eve Cowen struck a chord among attendees with her poignant call to action: "A lot of people are waiting for Gandhi, King or Mother Theresa – but they are not here any more. It is up to us. It is up to you."

This evening reflected the results of powerful partnerships formed by youth and mentors.

For information about future All Stars events, volunteer opportunities or to make a donation, contact Caroline Donnola at 415-986-2565 or visit the website at www.bacic.org.



Back row, (l-to-r): Eddy Lopez, Jr., Manager, Phat Friends Youth Selection Committee; Eulanna Allen, Co-Chair, Youth Selection Committee; Willie Kelly, DJ and Honoree; Tony Bush, Jr., Bay Area All Stars MC and Co-Chair, Youth Selection Committee; Darrick Smith, Director, TryUMF and Honoree. Front row Dr. Jeanette Brunson, early childhood educator and Honoree; Malique Cooper, Youth Selection Committee; Megan Ball, teacher, Hayward High School and Honoree; Eve Cowen, Executive Director, Future Leaders Institute and Honoree; Nicole Tobor, Youth Selection Committee; Joyce Dattner, President, BACIC; Dr. Elouise Joseph, Director of Youth Programs, Bay Area All Stars. *Photo by Margot Duane/www.planetmargot.com.*

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