Nursery celebrates a year of accomplishments

By Karen Adams
Member, Yolo Crisis Nursery Board of Directors
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Under a rising moon, about 100 people gathered this month at the Yolo Crisis Nursery’s Garden Party to celebrate our remarkable first fiscal year as an independent nonprofit.

In a short program, Board President J.D. Denton thanked the nursery's donors for their support and singled out one couple in attendance.

“Greg and Amy McNece provided a matching gift to launch the Nursery's first Big Day of Giving in May of this year,” Denton said. “Their gift helped to raise, in total, over $30,000 in one day of online giving – an amazing accomplishment for our first BigDOG, as it is called.

“We deeply thank you, Greg and Amy, for your generosity, and proudly offer you the first annual Yolo Crisis Nursery Friends of the Year Award.”

Greg McNece spoke briefly about his volunteer experiences at the facility. “It’s amazing what you all do,” he told the staff and board members. “Amy and I are just huge fans, and we just want to say keep it up and thank you. And God bless you all.”

Denton also briefly described nursery highlights of 2015-16:

- Provided care, early intervention and wrap-around services to more than 300 at-risk children and family members.

- Met the increased demand for childcare slots – up 31 percent over the previous year.
- Established a partnership with the California National Guard to provide childcare for children of newly deployed Guard members.
- Received the annual Tahtimihna or “Star” Award for Excellence in Community Service from the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation Community Fund.
- Finished the year in the black and embarked upon a strategic planning process to address long-term financial health and program growth.

“These are but a few of the wonderful things achieved this year,” Denton said. “But the real stories are those of the children and families we serve seven days a week, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.”

Four such stories are contained in the newly published Yolo Crisis Nursery Impact Report 2015-16. A digital version is available at http://www.yolocrisisnursery.org/impacts/.

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Two groceries – Whole Foods and Nugget Market – recently selected the nursery to participate in their community giving programs.

Through Jan. 16, the nursery is partnering with Whole Foods Davis in its Nickels for Nonprofits program. Shoppers who take reusable bags can donate their 5-cent bag rebates at checkout to the nursery. Look for the donation jars with the nursery name and logo near the cash registers.

“These nickels add up to valuable programmatic dollars, allowing Whole Foods Market and our customers to make a real difference in our community,” according to the company website.

Also, the nursery recently joined the Nugget Market scrip program, which benefits the nonprofit at no cost to shoppers. It works with a plastic scrip card, which shoppers can, register online and present to the cashier each time they check out.

Each quarter, Nugget will make a payment to the nursery based on shoppers’ monthly purchases at any Nugget or Food 4 Less store. The contribution structure is tiered: 1 percent of first $300 spent; 2 percent of $301 to $500; 3 percent of $501 to $600, and 4 percent of $601 and up.

The scrip card itself has no value, so there need be no fear of losing it. To obtain a Nugget scrip card, pick one up at Fleet Feet Davis, 615 Second St., or email kadams@yolocrisisnursery.org.

“We’re grateful to these two stores for stepping up to support us,” Denton said. “The nursery is always looking for new ways to raise funds. We’re happy to encourage the community to shop at these stores and support the nursery at the same time.