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CONTACT: JENNIFER HAWKINS
UNION CITY FAMILY CENTER
UNION CITY, CA
PHONE: 510-476-277



PRESS RELEASE

The Union City Family Center, a recipient of Special Congressional Recognition, culminates its 10th anniversary year with a presentation at the National Community School and Family Engagement Conference and celebration attended by nearly 100 education, community, and civic leaders.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Union City, CA. The Union City Family Center (UCFC) will present “Together We’re Better: Strategies for Building a Sustaining a Family Center” at the National Community School and Family Engagement Conference in Philadelphia, PA on June 8, based on 10 years of service to over 22,000 people. This event follows the [May 4, 2023 celebration Together We’re Better](#), held at Casa Bella in Sunol, California where State Assemblymember Mia Bonta, 18th District of California, gave the keynote address; and Alameda County Board of Supervisors Elisa Márquez (Region 2), Union City Mayor Carol Dutra-Vernaci, New Haven Unified School District (NHUSD) Superintendent John Thompson and Board President Lance Nishihira spoke to nearly 100 nonprofit, education, and civic leaders, and UCFC received a Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition from the office of Congressman Swalwell.

[UCFC](#) annually links 3000 individuals, primarily NHUSD students and their families to services ranging from early childhood and afterschool programs, to health, hygiene, food, and financial planning. Marcus Lam, Director of Student and Family Services, described UCFC as providing “[one umbrella of support for our students and families](#).” The agency, funded through grants, donations, and district support, leverages partnerships with over 40 organizations.

During her keynote address, Assemblymember Bonta remarked, “It’s an honor to see the fruits of your labor and such a grace to be able to be counted as contributing to a small part of what you have been able to accomplish.” She described the Family Center as part of the inspiration for her January 2022 bill, “It Takes a Village Act,” which implements a place-based approach to support children and families.

Elisa Márquez, District 2, Board of Supervisors of Alameda County, described her enthusiasm for UCFC, “You have our office’s full support to continue to collaborate and build on the success that you’ve had.” Union City Mayor Carol Dutra-Vernaci noted, “The success that we are celebrating was not achieved in a vacuum but through collaboration across many agencies.” Superintendent Thompson mentioned that UCFC has “become a model for other school districts” and Board President Lance Nishihira described the Center as on the “forefront of the community schools movement.”

Jennifer Hawkins, the Union City Family Center Coordinator, summed up the agency’s work and collective impact approach they will share at the June 2023 Conference, “Together, we have been able to impact the lives of more than 22,000 people. Together, We’re Better.”

CONTACT

Jennifer Hawkins
unioncityfamilycenter@nhusd.k12.ca.us
unioncityfamilycenter.org

510-476-2770

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