



Everyday heroes to be honored

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By [Teresa Rose](#), SF Conflict Resolution Examiner

The [Peninsula Conflict Resolution Center](#) (PCRC) and the [North Central San Mateo Alcohol and Other Drug \(AOD\) Abuse Prevention Initiative](#) will host the "Everyday Heroes" reception this Friday. **The reception will honor "Everyday Heroes" from the North Central neighborhood who are a catalyst for improving lives and the community.**

Nominations have been made by community members to recognize the efforts of the tireless unspoken heroes in their neighborhood, who tackle persistent problems, offer guidance and support, and fulfill unmet needs to make San Mateo a better and healthier place to live. **These heroes inspire others with their deeds of service and commitment to creating a more hopeful future.**

Everyday hero Gus Naufahu, has been running the King Center after school tutoring program since 2005. He has worked at [Samaritan House](#) for almost 30 years. He is a bishop at his church. He recalled, **"I grew up in the South Pacific where I would go to school barefooted without breakfast.** In my childhood, education was very, very important. My dad earned \$57 each month. It was hard. **It is a blessing for us to be here where we have the best schools and universities and opportunities to get a good job."**

Mr. Naufahu said, "I'm involved in the community, with the Tongan youth to encourage them to go to school, to do good, to respect the law and their parents. **I am proud of my son, Abraham Naufahu Talakai, who is also receiving this award.** He is involved in the church and the community. He is a very good role model and person. I feel honored and humbled to receive this award."

Nominees will be recognized for their significant and lasting contributions: providing resources, changing dangerous habits, and collaborating for opportunities for their fellow community members. **The reception will feature a dinner and a Photo Voice Presentation by Youth for Change.** [PhotoVoice](#) empowers disadvantaged and marginalized individuals and communities to improve their social and economic situation through photography and digital media by working with participants so that they develop the skills to create images as a tool for change.

The event will take place this Friday, August 13th, at 5:30 p.m. at the Martin Luther King Center, 725 Monte Diablo Avenue in San Mateo.