

One woman's vision creates a village to tackle teen issues

By Elena Arney
East Palo Alto Today

While Palo Alto may be nationally known as home to many Silicon Valley executives, it is also home to a thriving culture of philanthropy. Many individuals in the area are members of not only one, but, several committees devoted to improving the lives of those in need.

Dr. June Klein, VP for Business Affairs and CFO at Palo Alto University, is one of those people, and is committed to finding a way for private, public and academic organizations to find ways to collaborate and maximize resources.

"I have countless friends that are on various boards, all with the common goal of giving back to our community," said Klein. "Yet with all of this good work, there is duplicity among organizations, and as a result, resources are not being leveraged efficiently.

I wanted to find a way to cross pollinate among all of these stakeholders, so holes could be filled where there are gaps, providing greater re-



Dr. June Klein

sources to those in need." And with that, the Palo Alto University "Town and Gown" events were born.

In the spring, Dr. Klein hosted PAU's inaugural Town and Gown, the first in a series of events designed to bring community leaders together with academics to find areas of collaboration and brainstorm ways to best contribute to our local community. Recently, Dr. Klein organized the second event, where YMCA Project Cornerstone's Execu-

tive Director Anne Ehresman led a discussion on what makes children thrive and PAU professor Jorge Wong, PhD, a director at Asian Americans for Community Involvement (AACI), addressed the issue of inequities based on race. PAU professor Robert Russell PhD, walked the group through the alarming stats on bullying, revealing one in five or six children or adolescents are bullied.

"There are so many pressures facing teens today, from cyber-bullying to sexual and ethnic diversity to the 'need to succeed' phenomenon and more," continued Klein. "Films like The Race to Nowhere are bringing to light the challenges teens face in today's achievement driven culture, and we need more resources like this for parents and children."

At the event, which was hosted at the Stanford Faculty Club, PAU academics, non-profit representatives, and elected officials brainstormed areas for collaboration between university, government and NGOs that would improve services to children and families.

Several advocated for providing free screenings for depression and anxiety for children and adolescents through PAU's Kurt and Barbara Gronowski Clinic while others recommended collaboration between the University with more local agencies like HEARD and the YMCA to help teenagers with mental health issues and improve resiliency for teenagers who are at risk.

"Dr. Klein's strong belief that the youth of our country are our future led to the meeting's focus" said Allen Calvin, PhD, President of PAU. "I was touched and impressed by the enthusiasm of the participants and the myriad of potential positive actions generated by their candid discussion.

The event was widely attended by several local elected officials, including Santa Clara County Supervi-

sor of District 5, Liz Kniss, Santa Clara Board of Education Board Member for Area 1 Grace Mah, Palo Alto City Council member Gail Price and Palo Alto Unified School District Board members Barb Mitchell, Dana Tom and Camille Townsend. Former Palo Alto City Council member and board member for AACI Vic Ojakian was also in attendance.

Dr. Klein plans to formulate action plans for the ideas generated from this second Town and Gown event, and will host additional gatherings that will tackle other issues facing the community in 2012.

For more information on future events or how to get involved, visit <http://paloalto.org> or write Dr. Klein at jklein@paloalto.org.

Working with an idea

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the population growth and needs of our community.

Yes, we certainly do have a lot of good work ahead for us to do! We hope that you will be able to continue being right there with us all the way. As

soon as we can, we will get back to you to tell you about the launching of a membership drive for people, associations, businesses, & organizations to join our Friends group on an annual

fee basis. We thank you, again, for helping us to make history and being there for us. You are appreciated! Work with what you have!

Looking back



Photo by Henrietta J. Burroughs

This photo, which was taken in October 2011, shows Chief Ron Davis, former Mayor Carlos Romero, Kamal Fallaha, the manager of the city's Engineering Division and Brent Butler, the manager of the city's Planning Department at a community forum to discuss the two fatal accidents in the city which happened the previous September.


weeks, the East Palo Alto Police Department announced in mid-July that it was unveiling a Summer Violence-Reduction Plan, which would analyze violent "hotspots" and would provide increased enforcement efforts in designated areas and target those involved in violence. you can read about the plan, the triple shootings and the meeting at http://www.epa-today.org/news/2011/july_2011/dealing_with_crime_surge_1412.html.

The August 8 town hall meeting, which was called to give city officials feedback regarding the surge of violence that hit the city, gave officials more than they had expected, with some attendees calling what was being done "a sham." Read about the meeting at http://www.epatoday.org/spring_s

ummer_2011/spring_summer_2011.html

On September 13, many concerned city residents and their supporters packed the East Palo Alto City Hall to protest the pending sale by Wells Fargo of 1,700 of the city's rental units to one company, Equity Residential.

Hundreds of people filled the pews of the St. Francis of Assisi Church in East Palo Alto on Monday, October 5, to say farewell to 6-year-old Sioreli Torres Zamora. Sioreli was struck by a car and killed on Wednesday, September 28, as she attempted to cross Bay Road at the intersection of Gloria Way, while walking to school. Residents also mourned the death of motorcyclist - Danny Lee Dixon who was killed in an accident on the same day.



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