PRESS RELEASE

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4Cs Sonoma County Raises $85,000 at 14th Annual Champions for Children Recognition & Benefit Luncheon

Event Honors Seven Community Leaders
Supporting Sonoma County Children and Families

Sonoma County, CA, November 2025— 4Cs of Sonoma County (Community Child Care Council) is proud to announce the success of its **14th annual Champions for Children Recognition & Benefit Luncheon**, held November 7th 2025, in Santa Rosa at Iron & Vine, Bennett Valley Golf Course. The event was attended by 225 4Cs supporters and advocates for early learning, and raised $85,000 through sponsorships and fund-a-need contributions, providing critical support for thousands of low-income families seeking access to affordable, high-quality child care and preschool programs.

4Cs Sonoma County honored six Champions for Children whose extraordinary community commitment and work strengthens the lives of children and families across Sonoma County.

The 2025 Champions for Children honorees include:

- **Lupita Dominguez, River to Coast Children's Center**
  Inspired Start: 0–5 Early Care & Education — Celebrated for 15 years of compassionate leadership supporting early childhood education and strengthening partnerships with parents and providers.
- **Kathleen Matthews, TLC Child & Family Services**
  Inspiring Education: K–12 Education — Honored for her dedication to developing educated, resilient youth from kindergarten through high school.
- **Amber Heidtke, The Zones**
  Strong Families: Public Service / Agency / Individuals — Recognized for her work engaging the whole family to create stable, supportive environments for children.
- **Martha Cueto-Salas, MD, FAAP, MPH, Petaluma Health Center**
  Healthy Communities: Health, Medical & Wellness — Celebrated for advancing health, nutrition, and wellness for children and their families.

- **Rosendo Sanchez, Sanchez Boxing MMA**
  Safe Surroundings: Business / Foundation — Honored for investing in youth and creating safe, enriching spaces where young people can thrive.
- **Andres Correa, On the Margins**
  Positive Social Connections: Peer Leadership & Innovative Community Programs — Recognized for uplifting peers through positive leadership and innovative programming.

The program also featured a special **Innovation and Action Award** presented to **Ananda Sweet, CEO of Santa Rosa Metro Chamber** whose leadership and advocacy continue to strengthen opportunities for children and families throughout Sonoma County.

This year's event was made possible thanks to the generous support of community partners, including Champion Sponsor Summit State Bank. Their contribution allowed 4Cs to award each Champion a **$1,000 grant** to further their vital work in the community.

"Champions for Children celebrates the people who make Sonoma County a better, stronger place for kids," said Melanie Dodson, CEO of 4Cs Sonoma County. "Their stories inspire all of us to take action so families can thrive."

Attendees heard each Champion's story through video presentations and left inspired to carry forward 4Cs' mission: providing access to quality child care and early education in Sonoma County through advocacy, direct service, and empowerment.

In addition to celebrating this year's honorees, 4Cs also shared a broader look at the state of child care in Sonoma County—using data and personal stories to highlight the services provided, the gains made throughout the year, and the significant challenges that persist across the early learning sector. This context underscored why the work of each Champion is so vital to child and family well-being.

Donations to further support 4Cs mission can be made at Sonoma4Cs.org/ejoinme.org/Donate

For more information about 4Cs or the Champions for Children event, visit
Sonoma4Cs.org/Support-Us/Champions/
Nominations for next year will open in May of 2026.

ABOUT 4Cs SONOMA COUNTY

4Cs Sonoma County provides access to quality child care and early education through advocacy, direct service and empowerment. Founded in 1972 by a group of child care advocates, 4Cs serves thousands of Sonoma County children annually through preschool programs and child care subsidies, supports hundreds of local child care providers, and employs more than 235 Sonoma County residents. The organization delivers essential services to community members, supporting

working parents via multiple programs, and envisions a thriving community where every child, family and employer has access to quality child care and early education. Learn more at Sonoma4Cs.org.

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