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March 14, 2023

Board of Supervisors
County of Ventura
800 S. Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

SUBJECT: Resolution to proclaim March 2023 as National Nutrition Month and recognize the Partnership for a Healthy Ventura County's Health Champion Award recipients.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Ventura County Board of Supervisors resolve to proclaim March as National Nutrition Month and recognize the Partnership for a Healthy Ventura County's 2023 Health Champion Award recipients for the work they do to promote and support the health and well-being of Ventura County residents.

FISCAL IMPACTS/MANDATES: None.

DISCUSSION:

The Partnership for a Healthy Ventura County (Partnership), a collaborative led by Ventura County Public Health in partnership with various community organizations, has for nearly 20 years elevated the vision to lead the way for Ventura County to become the healthiest county in the nation, endeavoring to create and support health-promoting environments and policies that facilitate and increase access to healthy foods and opportunities for physical activity across all communities in Ventura County.

In celebration of National Nutrition Month, the Partnership commends the 2023 Health Champion Award recipients for their work and contribution toward creating a healthier Ventura County. The recipients were selected by members of the Partnership for their exemplary work in a specific area of focus represented by the "Healthy Communities" committee.

The 2023 Health Champion Award recipients are:

Ms. Elvira Zavala, Community Liaison, Oxnard Police Department – Selected for her service and dedication to the Oxnard community, through her work as both a Community Liaison with the Oxnard Police Department and as a community volunteer, where she has served individual residents and families alike for over 25 years, empowering them with critical resources to improve and enhance their quality of life. It is especially important to acknowledge and highlight her work

supporting farmworkers and their families, which continued throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Ms. Zavala is recognized for her work of excellence in fostering support for community walking clubs in the Rose Park, Colonia, and Southwinds neighborhoods; promoting safe outdoor physical activity; collaborating with other programs and organizations in bringing services to underserved areas throughout Oxnard such as with outreach and support to large-scale community events; connecting residents to neighborhood food distributions and other critical food resources; increasing exposure to healthy locally grown produce for children, families, and residents through community garden promotion and support; and mobilizing and empowering community members to advocate for healthy changes in their neighborhood such as with soft walking paths at parks and establishment of community gardens.

Food Share – For their steadfast commitment to serving Ventura County residents by making nutritious foods more accessible which are essential in maintaining and enhancing a person's quality of life. It is important to acknowledge the outreach efforts Food Share has embarked upon in increasing its services over the last couple of years, in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. They have been selected for their work of excellence in the following areas: serving over 200,000 Ventura County residents last year reaching more than double pre-pandemic levels; expanding outreach efforts by collaborating with an array of new and existing community partners; increasing specialized programming to vulnerable populations such as Free Farmers Markets, Senior Box Program, Kids Farmers Market, and tailored food bags for the unhoused members of our community; and partnering with over 160 food pantry partners to ensure everyone in the community has access to healthy nutritious food.

We honor the 2023 Health Champions for their exemplary service in supporting individuals, families, and communities in improving their health and overall quality of life.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Vianey Lopez", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Vianey Lopez
Supervisor, Fifth District