



# COUNTY OF YOLO

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## **Yolo County Juvenile Detention Facility Volunteers Appreciated**

**(Woodland, CA)** – On May 16, the Yolo County Probation Department held its 13th Annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner for over 100 community volunteers who bring a variety of programs to youth detained at the Juvenile Detention Facility. What made this year's event extra special was that for the first time, youth were involved in planning the event and ultimately mingled with the volunteers.

This year, the youth were able to express their appreciation for the volunteers in person. In years past, voice recordings and hand written letters from the youth were shared with volunteers as the dinner was held off site. Additionally, this was the first year the bakers were invited into the facility allowing the youth to personally thank them for the weekly homemade treats. The youth nominated and presented the following volunteers with rewards and appreciation gifts:

- Roxanne Calimeris (YEP -Youth Empowerment Program: UC Davis chapter)
- Dick Berry (YIIN-Yolo Interfaith Immigration Networking)
- Rosa Lepe (Holy Rosary Church)
- Ann Ragsdale & Margaret Grissom (volunteers who sketch portraits of minors during their visits)
- Julian Quezada (Main Event Barber)
- Juvenile Detention Facility Bakers

Juvenile Detention Facility volunteers are community members, including UC Davis students, who have embraced the youth in detention, thus contributing to their morale. Youth are mentored by volunteers and receive assistance with school work, coping skills, church services and more, including monetary gifts toward phone calls during the holidays, holiday lunches, pizza Sundays and money for haircuts.

Two of the regular volunteers are Yolo County employees. Julie Dachtler in the Clerk of the Board's office bakes and Ava Woodard in the Clerk-Recorder's office frequently visits with youth.

"We are grateful to all that volunteer to bring some much needed human interaction and personal attention to our youth detained at the Juvenile Detention Facility," said Yolo County Board of Supervisors Chair Jim Provenza. "We are especially proud of all our employees who volunteer their time outside of their day job of serving the residents of Yolo County."

Other special guests during the event included, Superior Court Judge Stephen Basha, former Chief Probation Officer Melton Losoya and members of the Juvenile Justice Commission

For a list of programs and how to become involved as a volunteer, please call the Yolo County Juvenile Detention Facility at (530) 406-5300 for more information.

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