

For Immediate Release—

Carol Thomsen, Founder and Executive Director, All Five to be honored as the 2023 Kiwanis Angel Award recipient on November 9, 2023.

The Kiwanis Angel Award, sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Palo Alto, honors an individual who has had a significant, positive impact on children and youth and provides a \$2,500 contribution to the recipient's organization. The award reception will be held on November 9, 5:30–7:30 PM, at the Sheraton Hotel, 625 El Camino Real, Palo Alto.

The 2023 Kiwanis Angel is Carol Thomsen, Founder and Executive Director, All Five:



Carol Thomsen, Founder and Executive Director, All Five

Carol created All Five to challenge the status quo.

The program provides early childhood education (ECE) to children and families of socioeconomically and ethno-rationally diverse backgrounds for 10 hours/day and 235days/year. In response to the community's ECE scarcity, Carol is boldly leading All Five to serve more children, from originally serving 24 children to 60 children today and expanding to 90 over the next two years!

Carol founded All Five, an ECE school, in response to her decades of early childhood teaching in low- and high-income communities. She experienced young children, in their first five years of life, being treated very differently. Children from low-income families were assumed to need to be told how to learn, even though research shows that approach does not work and does not last. Children from high-income families were nurtured using the latest research showing that children are inherently curious, and when given the opportunity to direct their own learning, the learning sticks. Beautiful environments were not considered important for low-income children, yet essential for high income children.

All Five is just eight years old, but already its impact is recognized in the community, state, and beyond. The waiting list of children and families, and desire of teachers and community members to visit the school are examples of All Five's impact locally. More widely, a national journalist featured All Five in a story about the "Extremely Separate and Widely Unequal" landscape of early childhood education programs, accessed here:

<https://laist.com/projects/2019/preschool-segregation/>

Since 2015, All Five's socioeconomically diverse high-quality enrollment means 75% of the families earn at or near the poverty line and either live in the community and/or are experiencing housing insecurity. 25% of the families have sufficient earnings to pay the full cost of their child's tuition and generally live in surrounding, more prosperous neighborhoods.

All Five's model is bringing equity to early childhood education, at the time when our brains grow the most.

Notably, Carol is regularly consulted by education's top researchers, journalists, and policymakers including Stanford's Dr. Deborah Stipek who stated, "We know that children benefit from economic and ethnic diversity in their early childhood programs. With ingenuity and huge effort, All Five is bucking a system of policies that typically force segregation. They serve as a model for the state."

About the Kiwanis Club of Palo Alto:

The Kiwanis Club of Palo Alto is an inclusive, welcoming community service organization. We do not discriminate in our membership, service projects or financial contributions, on any basis other than the desire to serve. We work to eliminate barriers to participation against any group.

100% of the sponsor funds raised for the Angel Award in 2023 will benefit programs, services, and scholarships for children and youth in the greater Palo Alto area through the Kiwanis Club of Palo Alto Charitable Foundation. Information on sponsorship opportunities or to buy event tickets (\$75per person) can be found online at <http://kiwanisangelaward.org>.