**Sourcewise awards local residents and organizations for outstanding achievements**

**San Jose, October 1, 2018**:  Sourcewise presented five awards during its annual National Employ Older Workers Week luncheon, held to recognize the value of Santa Clara County’s mature workforce. The National Employ Older Worker’s Week, is observed the last week of September, and is a nationwide effort to highlight the contributions made by the 55 and older workforce — projected to make up 25% of the civilian labor force in the next three years; increasing to 35% by 2022.

“Sourcewise celebrates the generational diversity, experience, and skill seniors possess. As older workers are opting to stay active or re-enter the workforce, Santa Clara County employers have the opportunity to rely on older workers to fill talent gaps, explains Henri Villalovoz, Director of Senior Employment Services and Meals on Wheels programs of Sourcewise.”

To expand economic opportunities for older workers in Santa Clara County, Sourcewise provides Senior Employment Services; one of the nation’s first programs to help low-income, unemployed individuals aged 55+ to find employment through personalized career counseling, on-the-job training, and transition to unsubsidized employment. For the past 19 years, Henri Villalovoz, Director of the Senior Employment Services and Meals on Wheels has developed one of the most successful programs in California, which he attributes to the strong, mutual beneficial collaborations with community based organizations and local employers.

“The partnership [with Sourcewise] is a win/win for all. The program provides the opportunity to assist participants with upgrading their current skills as they all bring their own skills and experiences to the program,” said Maria Lucero, Employment Program Manager for the Workforce Services Job Center of the Employment Development Department in San Jose.

The following individuals exemplify dedication, commitment, and excellence to the elder workforce in Santa Clara County. This year’s honorees include:

**Employee Of The Year**

Samar Quasto, Administrative Operations for Catholic Charities and now working full-time as an Administrative Assistant for Catholic Charities

**Supervisor Award**

Pai Venegas, Director of Programs of Silicon Valley Independent Living Center

Nelson Leonor, Employment Program Manager for EDD Workforce—America’s Job Center

**Host Training Agency of the Year Award**

Work2future Foundation, accepted by Casandra Nash, Facility Manager

**Employer of the Year Award**

Eila Phailibus Latif, Deputy Director Economic Development Services, Catholic Charities

To learn more about the Sourcewise Senior Employment Services Program please call (408) 350-3200, option 5.

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