

The Californian.com

Ag Woman of Year: Karen Tottino Antle

17th annual three-county award goes to full-time volunteer

By **MIKE HORNICK** • mhornick@thecalifornian.com • June 12, 2010

SOLEDAD — "I'm not the big business woman all these other women are," Karen Tottino Antle said. "I just do my volunteer work."

But her work on behalf of many causes loomed large in the eyes of Ag Against Hunger's board of directors and her predecessors Friday. They named her the 17th annual Ag Woman of the Year for Monterey, Santa Cruz and San Benito counties.

"All of you are just my idols," she told Darlene Din and other past recipients of the honor during a luncheon at Paraiso Vineyards in the hills west of Soledad. "We live in a wonderful area, but what makes it special are all of you. Everyone just gives back whenever it is needed. It's never: 'How are we going to do this?' It's: 'We'll do this; we'll get it done.' "

Tottino Antle, 53, is vice president of the Salinas Valley Heritage Foundation. Its mission is to sustain and improve the Salinas Valley Fair in King City. The Salinas resident also served as chairwoman of the Davis House Legacy Committee, raising funds to renovate the headquarters for Monterey County Agricultural Education.

At MCAE, she also served on the teacher workshop committee; worked as a guide for the Careers in Ag program; and volunteered for the Farm Day Experience outreach programs in Monterey, Salinas and King City.

In March, Tottino Antle helped raise more than \$100,000 to cover medical expenses for Gavin Ribaya, an infant stricken with a rare form of kidney cancer.

The Castroville native is a third-generation member of the Tottino family, one of five families that in 1924 launched the California Artichoke & Vegetable Growers Corp. It was later renamed Ocean Mist Farms. She was formerly married to Rick Antle, chief

executive officer of Tanimura & Antle. At the luncheon, she also received commendations from Monterey County Supervisor Simon Salinas and Salinas Mayor Dennis Donohue.

"You are truly a giant among those who give so unselfishly to those in need," Salinas said.

The luncheon has a tradition of catching the honoree by surprise. Judging by Tottino Antle's reaction when her name was announced, the secret was again well-kept.

"I am speechless," she said. "That's rare."

Tottino Antle has also raised funds for King City's Mee Memorial Hospital; volunteered for the Artichoke Festival in Castroville; Monterey County Friends of the Fair; and for booster clubs for Notre Dame, Palma and Salinas high schools, among other organizations.

She succeeds Din as Ag Woman of the Year. More than 200 ag industry representatives attended the luncheon.

Advertisement



Mom Dilemma #36:
Your daughter insists on wearing her princess costume to the grocery store. Allow it or not?

YES, at least she's dressed!

NO, I have some rules!

momslike.me.com
where Local moms meet

Print Powered By  FormatDynamics™

The Californian.com



[Purchase this Photo](#)

Karen Tottino Antle, right, gets a hug from her sister, Michele Tottino Pecci, after Antle was named 2010 Ag Woman of the Year during Friday's Ag Against Hunger luncheon at Paraiso Vineyards in Soledad. (Scott MacDonald)



[Purchase this Photo](#)

Karen Tottino Antle, right, gets a hug from her mother, Dolores Tottino, after being named the 2010 Ag Woman of the Year during Friday's Ag Against Hunger luncheon at Paraiso Vineyards in Soledad. (Scott MacDonald)

Karen @Tottino Antle

- AGE: 53
- OCCUPATION: Vice president, Salinas Valley Heritage Foundation
- AWARD: 17th annual Ag Woman of the Year for Monterey, Santa Cruz and San Benito counties
- EXPERIENCE: Volunteered for a variety of causes, among them the Davis House Legacy Committee and Monterey County Agricultural

- Education, Inc.
- RESIDENCE: Salinas

Advertisement

Mom Dilemma #36:
Your daughter insists on wearing her princess costume to the grocery store. Allow it or not?

YES, at least she's dressed!

NO, I have some rules!

momslike.me.com
where Local moms meet

Print Powered By FormatDynamics™