

Silent Heroes took center stage Feb. 13 at a luncheon at the Irving Central Library.



By: [Debbie Fleck](#)

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*DCET/ Believe in Yourself Inc. honored six individuals for their community service and selfless support of Irving with its 2009 Silent Hero Awards. Broadcast journalist **Rebecca Aguilar** hosted the program that included a fashion show by **Silk Threads**, a slide show on each hero, an address by **Irving Fire Chief Mario Molina** and an invocation by **Carole Lawrence**.*



“Behind every successful program, there are always tireless volunteers,” Chief Molina said before introducing DCET leaders and volunteers and special guests, which included council member **Lewis**

Patrick, Police Chief **Larry Boyd**, ICVB director **Maura Gast** and several corporate representatives.

Katherine Chang-Dress, chair of the event, presented crystal plaques and a bamboo plant to the award recipients. The 2009 Silent Heroes are: **Christina Gears**, who founded the Irving International Women’s Consortium and volunteers throughout the community; **Anthony Bond**, co-founder of the Irving Branch of the NAACP and a community activist who works to improve the lives of the “great people in Irving;” **Sharon Barbosa-Crain**, a former Irving council member who volunteers throughout the community and serves on many boards and commissions; **Liz Gallego**, a huge advocate of folklorico who has won several awards, including a Disney Fine Arts Teacher of the Year Award in 2004; **Dr. Sunhee Camille Hong**, a dentist who works to promote public dental education in the Asian community and who founded the Dallas chapter of the Christian Association for Medical Missions; and **Ruby Bhandari**, president of Silk Threads Designer Collection and Silk Threads Lifestyle who supports many Indian women charities and other nonprofits. *To learn more about DCET, an agency founded by **Elvia Wallace-Martinez** to provide programs for minority youth and their families, visit www.dcet.org or call 972-871-8285. The nonprofit is a SER-Jobs for Progress National Inc. affiliate. Visit www.ser-national.org.*

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