



OVERCOMING OBSTACLES AWARD

ROTARY CLUB OF SEBASTOPOL, DISTRICT 5130

Presentation at 4WayFest, District Conference, Reno

May 18, 2019 Districts 5130, 5150, 5160, 5190

OOA 2019, Co-Chairs: Tom Boag, David Schreibman,
Hal Kwalwasser & A Committee of 19



What members say...

“This event makes me proud to be a Rotarian.”

“I’ve been in this club 25 years, and this was the most amazing meeting I’ve ever seen, and we have had a BUNCH.”



The Inspiration... Reno South (from 1996):
Most Improved Student -> Achievement Beyond Obstacles

“Finder Frank” saw in Reno, 2010, brought idea back to
“Director David”, “Keller The Supe.”, others.

Rotary Opportunity Time: New Co-Chair (!)

Founding Committee Formed,
Reno South Rotary provided info, photos.
Program adapted to our club.
Meetings w. Counselors, Teachers at 3 High Schools

First event (March 2011) ~~“Rising Above Award”~~

OVERCOMING OBSTACLES AWARD 2011

... And since... Very popular program



OOA A Little Different from ABO

- Single Club Effort
 - 3 West County High Schools
- One Annual Event Day @ Regular Meeting
 - Six Students Chosen from ~20
- Committee Chooses Students
- All Participants Volunteers
 - (Committee & Community Leaders)
- All Students Are Winners
- Extra Benefits, Lessons

Start Small, Grow Budget

- Our program started at ~ \$2,000 total.
- Grew over nine years to ~ \$9,000 / year
- Scholarships: 2000, 1000, 1000, 1000, 1000, 1000
- Spontaneous Generous Contributions (This year X2)

“Why is this a contest now?”

Let’s make everyone a winner.

....Stunned silence....

Hands shot up in the air, funds for all to receive a \$1,000 scholarship were raised in two minutes.”



Event Day:

Morning – “Leadership Conference”

(Students Rate – The most important part.)

Three talks by selected community leaders
Adults overcame obstacles, did well.

“No adult has ever shared their teenage obstacles with me or told me how they overcame them. I thought it was just me.”

Small session: Share experiences...

“What happens in ~~Vegas~~ Reno, stays in ~~Vegas~~ Reno.”



APRIL – EVENT DAY:

Noon Session – Students Tell Their Stories

Students have Sponsors & their two guests

Students short 5-minute speech – 1:1 coaching
Takeaway = They did it!

Students our guests. Emcee won't let them fail. All are winners.

Counselors, Staff, Principals, Student guests

A little competition – extra \$1,000
(NOT a speech contest..)

“The students are an inspiration and model for every one of us.”

- How to get Started...
 - Cultivate relationship with school(s) administration – Trust, Respect, Legal Oversight.
 - Get to know the Counseling Department
 - Appreciate what they do... all the time!
 - Frequent coordination with counselors – We run the program but they oversee.

“IT’S ALL FOR THE KIDS!”

How we can help you get started...

- Examples of Materials, School presentations, publicity, committee role definitions, communications with students in sharable form.
- Invite a few of you to join our meetings.
- Meet with you to offer help.
 - Tom Boag, TRBoag@aol.com
 - David Schreibman, DavidS@qbm.com