



Local business man honored as a Silent Hero

By Jess Paniszczyn

DCET or "Believe in Yourself" presented Dirk Stricklin its first "Silent Hero" award during a luncheon event in the Central Library



A silent hero in the Irving community, Dirk Stricklin accepts an award from DCET.

Papas, Platanos, Tamales, Enchiladas, Tacos de Res y Pollo, Pescado Frito, Bistec, Camarones a la plancha, Pechuga a la parilla, Yuca con Chicharron, Tamales de Elotes, Platanos Fritos, Papusas y mucho mas para tu 255 E Graunwyler # 136, Irving, 972-438-2130

auditorium on Aug. 18. Mr. Stricklin, a long-time supporter of DCET, has donated space to the community-based center through his supermarket Savers Cost Plus and Danals.

"I am honored to be considered for this award," Mr. Stricklin said. "Serving the Irving community as we do does not require this type of recognition. Being recognized is not important to me; I enjoy seeing the success stories. Working with Ms. Martinez is a joy as well. That lady has a heart for the community, she has taken her gifts and talents and given them to the community. I agree with her, hopefully this will be a catalyst for other businesses and individuals to get more involved with this wonderful community of Irving."

Elvia Wallace-Martinez, who currently serves as the center's Executive Director, founded DCET in 1998.

"Were it not for the donation of space that Dirk Stricklin has so generously provided to our school, we would not be where we are today. DCET is a thriving organization that is soon to become a catalyst in Irving for providing culturally competent social services to the Hispanic community," Ms. Wallace-Martinez said.

During the ceremony, DCET Board President, Dawn Sanchez, presented Mr. Stricklin with the award.

"We are looking forward to working more in the community providing services such as English as a Second Language classes, workforce development and the information and referral. We are a unique agency in that we provide services that no one else provides in Irving," Ms. Sanchez said.