



MEDIA RELEASE



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Savannah Pride's founder Mayor Chagai has been honoured with a prestigious Harmony Medal at the NSW Premier's 2020 Multicultural Community Medals announced in Sydney last night.

Mayor was recognised for his inspiration and commitment to fostering community harmony through Savannah Pride's youth basketball and welfare programs in his adopted Western Sydney region.

Mayor said he felt humbled by the award and acknowledged the tireless work of the Savannah Pride's co-founders as being pivotal to the organisation's success.

"Ever since childhood, when I left my family in South Sudan and travelled to the refugee camps in Ethiopia, Kenya and finally to Australia on a refugee journey, I have been depending on other people's love and generosity, and I owed such compassion to the world," Mayor said.

"So, the acknowledgement by Multicultural NSW, the NSW Premier and Minister to select me as the winner of the Community Medal 2020 was amazing. It means a lot to me and more to Savannah Pride's youth, parents, volunteers and also my community. I'm devoted to live my life with a focus to give back to the community what has been given to me."

Despite operating with little formal funding over the years, Savannah Pride's programs have continued to expand in partnership with PCYC NSW over the years, thanks largely to the tireless efforts of its founders who regularly worked 80 hours a week.

Savannah Pride Chair and former Blacktown Police Commander, Mark Wright, congratulated Mayor saying we are all very proud and blessed to have him leading the Savannah Pride program.

"This award acknowledges the commitment Savannah Pride's founder for over a decade," he said.

"Under Mayor's leadership, Savannah Pride's basketball program has not only kept potentially troubled youth off the street, it's created superstars and given kids critical academic support and life skills mentorship.

"Mayor continues to mentor many disadvantaged youth over multiple communities, which contributes to the continued social cohesion of these communities,

"The success of Savannah Pride's programs is there for everyone to see with Savannah alumni regularly gaining US college basketball scholarships," Mr Wright said.

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