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Local Nonprofit Picks Up Pieces after Burglary

By Jennifer Wake

Cynthia Brian, founder of the Moraga nonprofit Be the Star You Are (and Lamorinda Weekly's gardening goddess), found front doors smashed, with wood and sheetrock scattered in the hallway following a Sept. 2 burglary where suspects stole video and production equipment.

"What kind of person burglarizes a charity?" Brian said.

Teen volunteers of the nonprofit that has empowered women, youth, and families through improved literacy and positive message programming for the past 15 years were shocked by the devastation. Drawers had been ransacked, books flung from the shelves, and paper strewn throughout the rooms. With limited financial resources, the nonprofit couldn't afford adequate insurance for business property coverage.

Doug at the Moraga UPS store was outraged about the burglary, and offered to print flyers for the organization's Letters for Literacy programs and upcoming essay contest.

Brian is determined to get things back to normal. She and teen volunteers are still planning to host writing activities at the Be The Star You Are booth Sept. 28 during the Moraga Pear Festival. "I'll be at the booth to meet the public all day," said Youngjoo, a writer for Lamorinda Weekly's Teen Scene and host of the young adult radio show, Express Yourself. "We are going to have fun and move on."

For more information on the Pear Festival booth, visit [http://starstyleradio.com/Events/](http://starstyleradio.com/Events/Entries/2013/9/28_Pear_Festival_2013.html)

[Entries/2013/9/28_Pear_Festival_2013.html](http://starstyleradio.com/Events/Entries/2013/9/28_Pear_Festival_2013.html). For more information about Be the Star You Are, visit www.bethestaryouare.org.

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