

## Community Service

We are pleased to make space available whenever possible for some of Lamorinda's dedicated community service organizations to submit news and information about their activities. Submissions can be sent to [storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com) with the subject header In Service to the Community.

### Kiwanis Crab Feed a Huge Success

Submitted by Steve Woehleke



More than 300 crab-lovers gather at the recent Kiwanis Crab Feed.

Photo provided

Moraga Valley Kiwanis Club held its 14th Annual Charity Fundraiser Crab Feed Feb. 1 at the Saint Mary's Soda Center, with over 300 attending the sellout event, which featured lots of fabulous crab, social hour, dancing, and silent auction. Attendees included District 2 Supervisor Candace Andersen, Moraga mayor Ken Chew and Moraga council members Mike Metcalf and Dave Trotter. One hundred percent of the event proceeds will be contributed to local

charities that focus on children and youth, including the three Lamorinda education foundations, the Food Bank and the Monument Crisis Center. A good time was had by all, thanks to organizations and individuals who contributed time and materials, including over 30 members of local Kiwanis Key Clubs (high school clubs that focus on service work) who served the meals. For information about Moraga Valley Kiwanis, visit [moragavalleykiwanis.org](http://moragavalleykiwanis.org).

### Built to Read - Silver Award Recognized

Submitted by Trina Audley



From left, front row: Jen Donat (leader) Brianna Donat, Jaime Brown, and Trina Audley (leader); middle row: Eva Poulson, Hannah Kramer, Rebecca Lamotte, Callista Asuncion, and Margot Audley; back row: Julia Stedman, Dante Bamont, Alex Matson, Cara Wolfe, and Claire Terentieff. Photo provided

Lafayette Girl Scout Troop 30863 celebrated the completion of their Silver Award service project at the end of 2013. The girls were recognized for their "Built to Read" project which included a year of individual and committee group effort to raise funds and collect and sort books. The troop then spent five weekend building sessions to construct two free-standing book shelves for donation.

Through Shelter, Inc. and the Mt. Diablo school district, the troop identified a single mother recently placed in new housing as well as an elementary school in need of the books and shelves. Each received delivery of the books and shelves in the fall.

"She can be our library now," commented a neighbor of the residential recipient who looked on as the troop delivered the painted free-standing book shelf and three large boxes of books. At the elementary school, a second grade teacher waited joyfully as the books were carted in by the troop. "Many families do not have books at home for outside reading. Now the kids

can just pick one to take home," she said.

"Helping build the shelves and donate books really made me feel like we were making a difference," commented Julia Stedman, a troop member and freshman at Acalanes High School. "I love to read - reading is a privilege that all children should have."

The Silver Award project also marked the culmination of 10 years of learning and growth together for troop 30863. The majority of girls have been with the troop since it started. Additional members and their parents, who joined over the years, enriched the troop. Sharing careers, helping with camping and cookie sales and providing committee leadership and guidance, the parents played an active role. "Our time together as a troop will never be forgotten - it was a big part of my daughter's childhood," commented one 10-year parent after the ceremony.

Many troop members plan to continue their service as Juliette Girl Scouts, working to obtain their gold award within two years.

### Blankets of the Heart

Submitted by Becky Maher



Rheem Elementary School first grade teacher Jennifer Strohmeier and her class display blankets given to the Bay Area Crisis Nursery. Photo provided

Jennifer Strohmeier's first grade class at Donald Rheem Elementary School learned about giving of oneself to others on Valentine's Day. The children hand tied three twin-sized blankets which were then donated to the Bay Area Crisis Nursery.

### JM Students Learn About Giving and a Random Act of Kindness

Submitted by Heidi Hoehn-Felt



From left, back row: Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School students Kellen Kvech, Elizabeth Oxendine, Rico Zuniga, Bradley Thompson, Mark Lindblad of Boy Scout Troop 234, JM school counselor Heidi Felt and Kevin Hughes, director of gift planning at Children's Hospital Oakland. Front row: Gilma Rivera, CHO Foundation receptionist, and JM student Olivia Rogers. Photo provided

In recognition of national Random Act of Kindness week Feb. 10-16, the Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School leadership class led by Tricia Reyes along with advisory teachers Kim Lockett and Mary Ann Shimer created a project JM students will never forget. After about a month of collecting new toys, signing get well cards, and wrapping gift bags, over 300 bags and toys were delivered Feb. 13 to Children's Hospital Oakland - just in time for Valentine's Day. Scoutmaster Wendell Baker's Moraga School District Boy Scout troops as well as 27 leadership students compiled

the gift bags with heart ribbon and attached a get well card signed by a JM student to each one. "Timing was perfect," said Heidi Hoehn-Felt. "They had just run out of Valentine goodies at CHO." CHO Foundation receptionist Gilma Rivera said these gifts bring "joy and comfort to these ill children and help them cope (with their illness or pending surgery) and also helps their parents who are often a wreck emotionally but can't show it to their kids." She added, "When our kids are coping better, we cope better as parents."

### Assistance League of Diablo Valley Offers Scholarships for Fall, 2014

Submitted by Betty Miller



Scholarships Chairman Jodi Riley (back row, far right) congratulates 2013 Scholarship recipients. Photo provided

Assistance League of Diablo Valley scholarships provide financial aid to qualifying high school students, community college students, as well as foster youth in the Contra Costa community who are planning to enter a community college, a four year university, or a vocational school in the fall of 2014. Applicants must demonstrate the need for financial aid and a desire to further their education, maintain a specified grade point average, participate in campus life, be hands-on involved in community service, and provide a timeline for academic and career goals. The deadlines that follow are firm; no exceptions. Community College Scholarships for students completing their final

term at Contra Costa College, Diablo Valley College, or Los Medanos College and transferring to a four-year college or university: application deadline, Feb. 28. High School Scholarships for seniors graduating from any high school in Contra Costa County and entering a two-year or four-year college, deadline March 14. Foster Youth Scholarships for current or former dependents of the court in the foster care program of Contra Costa County eligible to attend a two-year college, four-year college, or accredited vocational school, deadline March 21. For more information and application forms, please visit [diablovalley.assistanceleague.org](http://diablovalley.assistanceleague.org).