

NCL Acalanes Area Chapter reflects on incredible year of rewarding volunteer service



Photo DefStop Photography

Denise and Kiki Rosson received the NCL Mother-Daughter Pair Service Award. Kiki also received the Merci Service Award. Both awards reflect their tremendous volunteer commitment over the past year.

Submitted by Laura Dillard

The Acalanes Area Chapter of the National Charity League held its annual Tea and Recognition Ceremony April 14 at the Saint Mary's College Soda Center. NCL is a mother-daughter organization that focuses on philanthropy, leadership and cultural awareness. Each year this special event allows the organization to recognize and celebrate the volunteer service of its Chapter members. In the past year alone, the NCL Acalanes Area Chapter volunteered over 7,800 hours in the community serving many organizations including the Bay Area Rescue Mission, UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland, Shelter Inc., Lafayette Events and Tri-Valley Animal Rescue. The Senior Service Award was given to Michaila "Shae" Silva as the member of the Class of 2019 with the most cumulative service hours over her six-year NCL experience. The Merci Award was given to Kiki Rosson again this year as the member with the most volunteer service hours in a single year. Kiki served over 300 hours! Kiki and her mother, Denise Rosson, received the Mother Daughter Pair Award, having served over 140

hours in the community together. In addition, the Class of 2023 took the day of the event as an opportunity to collect many essential items for the residents of the Bay Area Rescue Mission.



Photo Juleen Lapporte

Michaila "Shae" Silva received the NCL Senior Service Award which celebrates her dedicated volunteer service over the past six years.

White Pony Express pushes to reach "Three Angel" \$300K Matching Fund Challenge

Submitted by Steve Spritzar

Every day, 364 days a year, White Pony Express trucks deliver 6,000 pounds of surplus food to people who are hungry in local communities. In addition, WPE delivers 10,000 items of new or like-new clothing, toys, games and books each month to families in local neighborhoods. All of this is done free of charge.

Community support helps WPE continue these programs and expand its School Pantry Program, where the nonprofit delivers food to families who often don't have enough to eat. Among other programs, WPE continues to make deliveries of food and clothing to the survivors of the Camp Fire in Butte County – and much more.

WPE recently announced it has received an incredible opportunity. "Three donors, whom we consider to be 'angels,' including Luis Gerardo del Valle Torres, the Heart's Path Foundation, and the Gemmer Foundation have pledged \$300,000 in matching funds for all financial donations, grants and pledges received between April 15 and June 15," said WPE's Steve Spritzar. "This means that WPE can raise \$600,000 in the next two months, taking a huge step toward achieving our annual fundraising goal of \$2 million."

If you are interested in making a contribution to help WPE with this matching opportunity, go to <https://www.whiteponyexpress.org/3-angel-match>. For more information about WPE, visit www.whiteponyexpress.org

Correction

Our last edition of the story "Camino Pablo wins the 28th annual Moraga Rotary Field Day" stated that Olivia Metz won 4 medals and 10 points but she actually garnered 5 medals with a total of 15 points (2 golds, 1 silver and 2 bronze).

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 may be sent to storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com with the subject header In Service to the Community.

Share Your Celebrations and Remembrances

If you would like to share an announcement about a special event or achievement, such as a wedding, engagement, scholarship or graduation of a local resident, or about a special person from Lamorinda who has passed, send a photo along with your text (up to 250 words) to storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com, and include "Celebrations and Remembrances" in the subject line.

Campo senior recognized for Leo Club service and leadership



Eleanor Kim and Dan Hagan

Photo provided

Submitted by Dan Hagan

Eleanor Kim, a senior at Campolindo High School, received a \$1,000 scholarship for her community service and

leadership in the Leo Club at the school. The award was presented to Kim by Dan Hagan, a member of the Moraga Lions Club. Kim will be attending UC Berkeley in the fall.

Gold Award recipients honored

Submitted by Amber Thompson

Orinda-Moraga Girl Scouts honored their Gold Award Recipients at a special awards ceremony on Friday, May 17. The Gold Award is the highest award that a Girl Scout may earn. To get the Gold, a scout must first earn a Silver Award and complete a yearlong Leadership Journey (if she did not earn her Silver Award, she must complete two Leadership Journeys). Then, the scout creates a service project that reaches beyond the Girl Scout organization and provides a lasting benefit to the larger community. This project must be reviewed according to strict guidelines, and scouts submit a final report for approval by the Gold Award Committee at the Girl Scout Council. Congratulations to our three Gold Award winners: Mina Boozarpour, Sabrina Fojut, and Lilli Heutmaker.

Boozarpour's Gold Award project helps the homeless in our communities. She identified lack of education as a root cause of homelessness and poverty, and Boozarpour wanted to do more to help homeless children stay in school and succeed. She accomplished this by creating ready-to-use "Tool Boxes" that could be distributed to tutors working with underserved students, and she supplied them to Community Education Partnerships, a nonprofit organization that tutors homeless communities. Boozarpour's materials support CEP's program goals, and the collaboration will ensure that the grade-level and subject-specific materials in her "Tool Boxes" will continue to reach those in need.

Fojut researched statistics around bicycle-related injuries, and decided to focus her Gold Award project on bike safety. She planned a special "Bike Safety Rodeo" at her local elementary school, and coordinated volunteers to help run the big event. She reached out to the Moraga Police Department and arranged for an officer to explain to students the proper rules of the road. Fojut also reached out to a maintenance expert who could show the children how to care for and repair bicycles. Over 50 students benefited from this service to the community — and will now ride



Photos provided

Gold Award recipient Mina Boozarpour from Girl Scout Troop 31361, pictured with Moraga Mayor Roger Wykle.



Gold Award recipient Sabrina Fojut from Girl Scout Troop 30550, pictured with Mayor Wykle.

safer for it. Heutmaker's Gold Award project was inspired by her love for dramatic performance. She wrote and directed plays in which elementary students could participate for free. During the process, she learned to organize volunteers, secure performance space, manage scheduling, and navigate setbacks. Lilli successfully brought two plays to stage for her students — at no charge — and she started a high-school-level club to continue this good work.