

---

3

CHEERS!  
CHEERS!  
CHEERS!

4

*VOLUNTEERS*

---

Three Cheers for Volunteers!

---

**2010**  
**VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR**  
**AWARDS**

Presented by  
California Association of Health Facilities

*In an era when time passes so rapidly, we often lose sight of the unseen individual who quietly makes this country the envy of the globe. These individuals are the volunteers of America, and their dedication to those around them should not go unheralded.*

## **YOUTH VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR**

**Alexis Montelongo**

*Golden Living Center Fresno*

Length of service at nomination facility: 2 years

Frequency of service: 20 hours per week

Alexis is not your typical 14-year-old. Despite her own busy schedule, which includes competitive swimming, she finds time to do way more than anyone would expect from a volunteer, let alone a youth volunteer. Alexis is somehow able to move seamlessly from one volunteer task to the next with talented and intuitive understanding of residents' needs.

And she seems to do it all —assisting recreation staff in group programs, serving continental breakfast, cleaning equipment, re-organizing activity carts, making room visits to residents who prefer in-room activities and offering one-on-one assistance to lower functioning residents who require extra love and attention. Her work always exceeds expectations, and she is a great example to other volunteers and staff members. And she manages to do it all with enthusiasm and grace.

*Volunteer  
of the Year*

## **ADULT VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR**

**Donald Blevins**

*Golden Living Chateau, Stockton*



Length of service at nomination facility: 2 years

Frequency of service: 32 hours per week

You can't get much more down to earth than gardening. After coming to Golden LivingCenter-Chateau as a paid handyman, keeping resident areas clean and performing basic maintenance services, Donald Blevins undertook his wonderful gardening project, encouraging residents to work the soil, enjoy the outdoors and grow their own vegetables. It is programs like Donald's that make the culture-change movement a reality.

His expert knowledge in topiary and his ability to attract the residents make him indispensable as a volunteer. Donald helps keep residents at their highest appropriate level of activity, and that is the heart of long-term care. Residents seek him out — they even know when he is gone for a while and comment on qualities that are missing when he is not there. That ability to reach out and connect is a key part of maintaining full potential for residents.

*Volunteer  
of the Year*

**YOUTH GROUP VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR**  
**El Toro High School ASB Class, Lake Forest**  
*Lake Forest Nursing Center, Lake Forest*

Length of service at nomination facility: 8 years

Frequency of service: Once per year

When these students come to Lake Forest every year, you know it's prom time. Before the prom, they help style hair and makeup for the residents, and the evening starts off with a fashion show. During the prom, the students socialize with the residents and families, brightening everyone's day.

Not only does it all bring back fond memories for the residents, the interaction is genuine, and the energy is contagious. The residents talk about the prom for weeks afterward.

For the young volunteers the prom is rewarding because they hear first-hand from residents and families how this event touches many lives. Even though new students come and go every year, the prom stays on their event calendar because of the recognition they receive.

*Volunteer  
of the Year*

## **GROUP VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR**

### **Beagle Tech Mobile Computer Service**

**Anne Phoenix and Vietta Helme**

*Lincoln Glen Nursing, San Jose*



Length of service at nomination facility: 2 years

Frequency of service: 8 hours per month

Anne and Vietta bring the outside world to the residents of Lincoln Glen by way of the Internet, and in the process they are helping to make Lincoln Glen the kind of facility they themselves would hope to live in some day.

Originally hired by the facility to install a computer network, Anne and Vi stayed on as volunteers, beginning a computer club and showing residents how to use computers by projecting the screen on the wall for easy viewing. Residents who need one-on-one attention get that too.

It's a program that reinforces Lincoln Glen's daily goal of implementing culture change. Thanks to Anne and Vi, participating residents are able to maintain correspondence with friends and family – including younger family members.

And because they are working professionals with full-time jobs, Anne and Vi spread the word among their colleagues about nursing facilities and the work they do.

*Volunteer  
of the Year*

## Thank you to all our nominees...

### **David Ballo**

*Walnut Whitney Care Center, Carmichael*

David is the leader and organizer of the non-denominational church group that has been coming to Walnut Whitney for the past 30 years. David provides his time to talk to the residents and listen as well. He provides music (singing and instrumental) and stories for their enjoyment.

### **Pat Blaa**

*Bel Tooren Villa Convalescent Center, Bellflower*

Assists with activities (games, trivia), soup time, and clean-up. A great motivator. She also works with developmentally disabled adults in the Easter Seals program and brings her group to interact with the residents and assist with the games.

### **Jean Bowens**

*Linwood Gardens Care Center, Visalia*

Jean is associated with the Assembly of God Church and provides Bible study and church services for our residents. She also goes from room to room and talks with those residents who are unable to leave their rooms. She has been volunteering for 14 years.

### **Ann Hanlon**

*Life Care Center Vista, Vista*

Ann is a member of the Eucharistic Ministry team at St. Frances Catholic Church in Vista. She has dutifully visited residents every Tuesday morning, providing communion to the Catholic residents, as well as prayer groups for those who wish to attend.

### **Liam Hart**

*Water's Edge Nursing Home, Alameda*

Liam provides mental stimulation to the residents through the music he plays. He also visits one-on-one with residents and shares stories of his world travels.

### **Dave and Barbara Nelson**

*Meadow View Manor, Grass Valley*

Dave and Barbara are part of a band that came to perform at Meadow View. They now volunteer as part of a monthly church service and perform as a guitar/double vocal duet. They have been performing music for the residents for 19 years.

### **Erica Noonan**

*Walnut Whitney Care Center, Carmichael*

Erica helps out in the activities department where she assists residents fill out their Bingo boards and also sometimes brings in her own board games as well.

## Thank you to all our nominees...

### **Marsha Ostrum**

*Meadow View Manor, Grass Valley*

Marsha provides spiritual visits about three times each month along with the hymnals and sing-a-longs each month as well. In addition to this spirituality, Marsha is always on call for memorial services or to play the piano for special holidays and occasions. Besides this devotion, Marsha is known to accompany the residents to the annual county fair.

### **Dr. James Reid**

*Imperial Convalescent, La Mirada*

James is a Doctor of Theology who provides group bible study, history lessons and discussion, one-on-one ministry and he assists with group activities. He also initiated a program to orient new volunteers to the facility.

### **John Szenyes**

*Braswell's Community Convalescent Center, Yucaipa*

John visits the facility every Wednesday with a bag of snacks for the residents and staff. He visits with the residents and provides spiritual support. He always checks with the charge nurse to be aware of any dietary changes before giving snacks to residents. He also brings in his family and friends to visit with residents and entertain them.

### **Richard Wharton**

*Roseville Care Center, Roseville*

For the past 20 years, Richard volunteered with Roseville Care Center, assisting in the activities department and participating in room-to-room resident visits. He helps to provide socialization, friendship and spiritual growth for the residents.