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CHEERS!
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VOLUNTEERS

Three Cheers for Volunteers!

2006
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

Jasmine DeAndres

Villa Monte Vista, Poway



Jasmine DeAndres is an exceptional 12 year old and a wonderful volunteer.

She sings and reads poetry for the residents, does room visits for residents who may not be able to attend an activity on a certain day, assists the resident with arts and crafts projects and provides the preparation work prior to an actual activity so everything will go smoothly. She also comes in for special events, such as on Mother's Day to assist with the tea.

Jasmine began volunteering when she was just seven years old. Even at seven, she exhibited an sense of compassion, sincerity and hopefulness that is rare, even in adults.

Her sense of compassion to all people has only grown during the past five years. Jasmine exudes a feeling of peace to all who come in contact with her. She is loved not only by the residents but by families, physicians, and staff alike.

Jasmine has recruited her youth church group to attend and volunteer. The church now provides Christmas presents to all residents at the holiday time.

During the past several years Jasmine has developed health problems of her own, but she remains optimistic about her own condition and encourages the residents to be upbeat and continue to be as active as they can. Throughout it all, Jasmine has maintained her commitment to the residents and has not missed any volunteer time.

*Volunteer
of the Year*

ADULT VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Rodolfo Daquioag, MD

Napa Nursing Center, Napa



Dr. Rodolfo Daquioag has been volunteering at Napa Nursing Center for eight years. Not only is he the attending physician for several residents, but he also attends to the strings of their hearts and their musical ears.

Every second and fourth Wednesday of the month, the residents eagerly gather to be entertained by Dr. Daquioag and his Karaoke machine. Residents, their family members and staff dance and sing along as Dr. Daquioag performs Elvis Presley songs as well as a variety of other music.

He entertains at other area skilled-nursing facilities as well.

He is very generous and kind and the residents line up to be with him, sing with him and smile with him. Dr. Daquioag clearly loves entertaining the residents and says he gets so much more in return. The foot stomping in the facility during his performances is a reflection of this man's compassion and talent.

*Volunteer
of the Year*

GROUP VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR
Orange County Activity Directors Association
Hy-Lond Home, Garden Grove



For 19 years the Orange County Activity Directors Association (OCADA) Senior Games have provided seniors living in skilled nursing facilities in Orange County and their families a fun-filled day of friendly Olympic-style competition at the Costa Mesa Fairgrounds.

Though funding the event is a challenge, OCADA somehow finds a way to hold the games each year through the support of sponsors or by reaching into their own pockets.

The games attract approximately 300 participants each year.

The theme for the 2005 Senior Games was “Hurray for Hollywood.” Decorations included a red carpet, a walk of stars and tables complete with Oscar awards. Participants were treated to a delicious lunch and winners were awarded medals and ribbons.

Games include target shooting with a paint gun, football toss, discus (frisbee) throw, bowling, soccer, and others.

The mayor of Costa Mesa officially opened the games and presented a proclamation.

One of the winners at the 2005 Games was a 102 year-old lady who anticipates attending her fifth Senior Games in 2006!

*Volunteer
of the Year*

VOLUNTEER

Special Recognition

Two additional Volunteer of the Year nominees were singled out by the Board of Directors to receive Special Recognition Awards.

Neda Pegues

Country Villa Health Services, Laguna Hills

Seventy-nine year old Neda Pegues has been volunteering every Friday morning at Country Villa Laguna Hills for over 23 years.

Her gift is beauty and love. She gives the residents a full manicure and special one-to-one TLC.

If you were to put her years of service into numbers, allowing for weeks off due to illness, vacations other obligations, she has probably volunteered for over 2,100 hours and provided over 4,000 manicures and TLC to hundreds of residents!

Justin Siena High School “Just-In Service Day”

London House Care Center, Sonoma

A group of 20 student volunteers from Justin Siena High School come to London House Care Center for one day a year to entertain, serve and connect the elderly residents with the ways of the modern world.

Dr. Patrick Cook coordinates this effort for his students to serve the communities. The residents love having the students spend the day with them. Many in-room visits occur and many group activities are held. The residents are already looking forward to having the students back next year.

Thank you to all our nominees...

Cypress High School - Sharon, Michele, Hanna, and Bari
Anaheim Crest Nursing Center, Anaheim

Sharon, Michele, Hanna and Barbi from Cypress High School have given freely of their time and talents in volunteering at Anaheim Crest Nursing Center. They visit with the residents one-on-one, provide refreshments and support services to help residents and staff. They encourage others at school to be volunteers in long-term care because it's fun and exciting to work with the elderly. These wonderful girls are a great example of what selfless really means.

Tyler Haunreiter
Hy-Lond Home, Garden Grove

As part of his Eagle Scout project, seventeen year-old Tyler Haunreiter converted an unused patio at Hy-Lond Home into a beautiful exercise area and wheelchair obstacle course for residents. He design and built a course with wood rails to contain the wheelchairs, a small cement ramp and environmental signs. During the middle of the project, Tyler suffered significant burns in a high school science class accident, but he didn't let it stop him. He recovered quickly and was able to complete a project for the residents that far-exceeded everyone's expectations in its scope and beauty.

Cynthia M. Hervey
English Oaks Nursing & Rehabilitation Center, Modesto

Cynthia Hervey has volunteered at English Oaks for about 7 years. She is compassionate with the educational programs that she delivers. She is always positive and always willing to go the extra mile for anything. She has touched many lives as she continues to strive for perfection in the quality of life for the residents.

Shirley McPherson
El Camino Care Center, Sacramento

Shirley McPherson is an volunteer Ombudsman. Although she is first and foremost a patient advocate, she is open minded and conducts her own investigation. She is firm in making her decisions and at times will make her own recommendations to help resolve issues. She is very resourceful and is able to assist residents in need.

Thank you to all our nominees...

Levi Newcomer

SunBridge Brittany Care Center, Carmichael

Levi Newcomer began volunteering at SunBridge Brittany Care Center when he was 11 years old to make amends for accidentally breaking a remote window at the facility while playing with his BB gun nearby. He readily agreed to work every weekend for twelve weeks at the facility until his debt was paid. Fortunately, Levi so enjoyed working with the residents that he continued to volunteer after his commitment was completed. Levi is 14 now, and he still volunteers every other Saturday for almost five hours a visit. He is an exceptional young man and the residents look forward to his Saturdays with them.

“PAL” Program from Los Alisos Intermediate School under the supervision/instruction of Mr. Roger Mitchell

Country Villa Health Services, Laguna Hills

The PAL, or Peer Assistant program, is a class offered at most Jr. high/intermediate schools in Orange County. For the last 10 plus years, instructor Roger Mitchell has brought his class of 20-35 students to Country Villa Health Services three times a year. One or two students are paired with a resident and the students push the resident in their wheelchair over to the pumpkin patch in October, or to the Laguna Hills Mall in December and at Easter. On every outing, Mr. Mitchell takes a picture of the resident and their student “escort.” Within one week of the outing, he delivers the pictures, mounted onto a handmade construction paper card made by the student, along with a personal note about how much they enjoyed the time they shared together.

Sam Pecsek

English Oaks Nursing & Rehab Ctr, Modesto

Eighteen-year-old Sam Pecsek has been volunteering at English Oaks Nursing and Rehabilitation for a year and a half. He visits the residents one on one and plays his violin every other Friday. When he is not playing his violin, he tends to the facility’s garden area, feeds the birds, assists with arts and crafts and helps out in every way possible. He is very dedicated with his volunteer service and always willing to go the extra mile. Residents welcome him with open arms and are always looking forward for his wonderful violin melodies.

Thank you to all our nominees...

Annie Sorensen

Hy-Lond Health & Rehab Center, Fresno

Annie Sorensen is a humble woman who is faithful, kind, giving, loving, caring, considerate, generous and cheerful. For 30 years Annie has been a volunteer at Hy-Lond Health & Rehab Center. Every Thursday morning she brings a bucket of beautiful blooms such as roses, camellias, and iris to share with the residents. Annie's flowers bring smiles to everyone and she takes time to share an encouraging word or talk about gardening with residents, family members and staff. Volunteers come and go for many different reasons, but Annie has remained faithful to the seniors in her neighborhood at Hy-Lond, giving from her hobby of gardening and from her heart.