

## Lafayette Juniors raise \$60,000 for local nonprofit charities

Submitted by Rachelle Lara



Pictured from left, Cathy Kauder, Mindy Harmeyer, Erica Mason, Deanne Pearn (Contra Costa Interfaith Housing), Tina Frechman, Rachel Blatt, and Jeannine Palmer. Photo provided

The Lafayette Juniors raised \$60,000 in the last 12 months for local nonprofit organizations. On June 1, the Lafayette Juniors awarded the funds to Contra Costa Interfaith Housing, Alternative Family Services, The Taylor Family Foundation, and Trinity Center in a special ceremony at the Lafayette Community Center.

Lafayette Juniors has a history of organizing fundraising events like the Rummage Sale in the fall and the Kitchen Tour in the spring to raise money for selected beneficiaries. This year the Juniors chose Contra Costa Interfaith Housing – an agency that has been providing permanent, affordable housing and support services to homeless and at-risk families and individuals since 1991 – as their major beneficiary. The Juniors donated \$30,000 to support the work of CCIH, inspired by their vision that every family in our

community deserves secure housing and the dignity of self-sufficiency.

Lafayette Juniors also donated \$15,000 to Alternative Family Services, and \$7,500 each to The Taylor Family Foundation and Trinity Center.

Lafayette Juniors is looking forward to continuing this tradition of giving and is accepting applications from now until July 31, 2017 from all nonprofits in Contra Costa and neighboring counties in the San Francisco Bay Area who serve women, families, and seniors and others requiring assistance. The Juniors will select four organizations from the applicant pool to become their 2017–2018 beneficiaries. Fundraising for these groups will begin this fall. To obtain an application or learn more about the Lafayette Juniors, visit [www.lafayettejuniors.org](http://www.lafayettejuniors.org).

## Moraga Troop 212 celebrates 10 new Eagle Scouts

Submitted by Siv Ricketts



Photo provided

Moraga Boy Scout Troop 212 presented its 54th Eagle Court of Honor on Sunday, April 30 at Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church to recognize the achievements of 10 new Eagle Scouts: Spencer Drennan, Evan Gabrielson, Paul Gannett, Calvin Gee, Chris Gonser, Brian Gross, Eddie Gross, Chad Sonnenschein, Daniel Warner and Chris Wright.

Each young man participated in an average of 50 camping trips, including wilderness camp, 50-mile Sierra treks and high adventure experiences such as fishing in Alaska, kayaking in Oregon and pack-rafting in Montana.

For their Eagle projects, on average involving about 100 hours of planning, leadership and work, this group of Eagles focused largely on schools and improving educational experiences for students locally and around the world.

Drennan and Brian Gross built and in-

stalled garden boxes at Merriewood Children's Center and Los Perales Elementary School. Warner refurbished Richmond High School's band room while Wright installed a permanent basketball hoop at Campolindo High School. Gabrielson built furniture for Harbor House in Oakland and Gannett rebuilt a storage shed for MVPC Nurtury Preschool.

Gee and Sonnenschein both collected backpacks and school supplies, one for Amor Ministries in Mexico and the other for Kids Alive International in the Dominican Republic. Gonser refurbished donated laptops for Kids Alive International in Peru.

Eddie Gross made over 100 survival strap bracelets for overseas US troops.

Troop 212, under the leadership of Scoutmaster John 'Otter' Drennan, is chartered by Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church. Since 1963, Troop 212 has awarded 415 Eagle Scouts with Scouting's highest honor.

## Troop 30638 earns Silver Awards

Submitted by Yuka Akera



[Editor's Note: In the June 28 issue of the Lamorinda Weekly, the wrong photo ran with this story. Here are the Silver Award winners.]

Some members of Campolindo ninth-grade Troop 30638 earned their Silver Award for their project, "Polystyrene Ban in Moraga School District." Emily M., Ava S., Aislinn W., and Alexandra Y. focused on the community issue of polystyrene (Styrofoam) use within the school district. Styrofoam is a carcinogen and can cause painful side effects due to chemical that leech into food and drink.

MSD buys lunches from various vendors, many of which are served in Styrofoam. The three elementary schools plus one middle school combine for 2,000 students. Over the course of a single year, literally tons of Styrofoam is used within the district. The negative impacts were presented to the school board, which was well received and the girls were asked to write out an official resolution. The ban was presented to the school board, which voted unanimously to adopt the resolution to

ban Styrofoam. A month later, the board implemented the ban. The girls saw how board meetings were run, and policies made, as well as learned that people are willing to help make the world a better place to live in.

Other members of Campolindo ninth-grade Troop 30638 earned their Silver Award for their project, "Multimedia Presentations for the Elderly." Lily Mae C. and Christine Z. created a multimedia presentation to show to their local retirement home. As the seniors do not travel outside often, they can become disconnected with the world. The presentations kept them up to date with present day news and tried to teach them new things. Meetings were initiated for discussions during the presentations by asking questions. One difficulty encountered was keeping the seniors engaged, as they often fell asleep. Showing pictures and videos they enjoyed seemed to help keep their attention.

## Girl Scouts earn Bronze Award

Submitted by Yuka Akera



The Bronze award winners of Troop 0712.

Orinda Intermediate School sixth-grade Troop 32909 earned their Bronze Award for their project, "Camp Supplies for Kids in Need."

Rina F., Gianna G., Shelby M., Beatriz S., Amanda T., Ava U., Syndey W., Elise C., Amelia C., Julia B., Yasmin H., Alana R., Kaitlyn R., and Abby R. chose to help their community by holding a donation drive to support Shelter Inc., which focuses on stopping the cycle of homelessness and helping

provide everyday essentials to people in need. They hosted a "Pajama Party" for the other troops at Wagner Ranch asking the attendees to bring a donation item that might be used for an outing such as sunscreen, beach towels, flip-flops, and goggles. The girls planned and organized the activities for the party, then ran stations, served food, and led the younger girls in games and songs. The party was fun for everyone, and the troop collected over 85 items.

## Rotary helps fund buses and other aid for Indian orphanage

Submitted by Frank Darling

Recently, Rotary Club of Orinda, with the help of other local Rotary clubs, presented \$40,000 of the \$50,000 that was raised to for the Little Flock Orphanage in southern India.

Rotary set out in 2011 to raise \$25,000 for a bus for the orphanage in Southern India but raised \$50,000. Rotary Club of Orinda led the project and the clubs of Lamorinda (Lafayette, Sunrise, Rossmoor, Moraga) contributed money, as did the Interact Clubs of Northern California. (Interact are high school Rotary clubs.)

Rotary purchased the first bus in 2013 by matching \$10,000 with Little Flock, and is buying another bus in 2017.

The remaining funds match Little Flock funds for their medical and dental clinic as well as their school that serves the orphans and the village around them.

To find out more about Little Flock visit [www.littleflockhomes.org](http://www.littleflockhomes.org). It's located near a small village about 90 minutes

from Chennai (formerly Madras). The orphanage was founded to handle orphans and castaways. It also serves the village with a population of about 1,000 with medical, dental and educational programs.



Nurse and Orinda resident Rhonda Darling and Viji Cammauf, founder of the Little Flock Orphanage.



A bus bought in part by funds raised by local Rotary clubs.