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Community Service

Julie Foudy Sports Leadership Academy Choose to Matter Contest

Submitted by Ann Kletz

Mariah Brown is not your typical 13-year-old girl from Lafayette. In addition to going to school and hanging out with friends, Mariah is "choosing to matter" and doing something positive to help Bay Area children less fortunate than her.

Last year, Mariah attended the Julie Foudy Sports Leadership Academy (JFSLA) and learned



Mariah "Molly" Brown

Photo provided

what it means to be a leader not just on the soccer field, but in life as well. She's taken her new found passion and determination and applied it to helping others in need. Mariah, whose nickname is Molly, started a project she calls "Molly's Dollies" to help the Bay Area Crisis Nursery, an organization that provides shelter and supplies for children whose families are in upheaval.

Molly makes dolls to donate to kids supported by the Bay Area Crisis Nursery. Molly explains, "Choosing to matter made me glad to know that I was helping a lot of people out by doing this project. In some small way, I hope when they receive one of our dolls, their lives can be a bit better."

Molly has entered her project in Julie Foudy's "Choose to Matter" contest for a chance to win a trip to the 2012 London Summer Olympic Games.

Daisy Scouts Focus on Giving Back

Submitted by Krista Benson



Daisy Scouts visit with Moraga's Officer Bob Ortiz

Photo provided

Daisy Girl Scout Troop #30694 is made up of 16 first graders from Rheem Elementary School. This year we are focusing on giving back to the community and making our world a better place. Last November we toured the Moraga Library and learned about being responsible for what we do and say. In January we visited with Officer Bob Ortiz from the Moraga Police Department and learned about respecting authority and being a good citizen. Recently we supported a Moraga Girl Scout Cadet with her

Gold Award project by making fleece blankets for sick children at Oakland Children's hospital. This month we sent cards to a US Navy EOD Platoon deployed to the Middle East, this was very touching and personal as one of our girls' father is in this unit. It's important in Girl Scouting to learn many of these fundamental values and essential life skills and we would like to thank the Moraga community for donating their time and resources to further enrich the lives of these girls.

Lion's Club Speech Winner

Submitted by Fred George



Photo provided

On Thursday, February 9 at the Moraga Library, the Moraga Lions Club sponsored its annual Student Speakers' Contest. The winner was Alexandra Glazer of Miramonte High School, speaking on "What could the America of yesterday teach the America of tomorrow?" She is pictured with Moraga Student Speaker Chairman, Fred George, of Lafayette. Alexandra competed against three speakers from Acalan High School, and another from Miramonte High School. She now moves on to the Zone competition to be held March 8 at the Contra Costa Water District Board Room at 7:00 p.m.

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 with the subject header In Service to the Community.

Orinda Woman's Club Awards Grants

Submitted by Whitney Valentine



From left: Susan Domingos, Barbara Rogan, Don Graves (of Contra Costa County Children and Family Services), Allison King, Kathleen Kerr-Schochet
Photo Ohlen Alexander

The Orinda Woman's Club presented the Child Abuse Prevention Council and the Independent Living Skills Program each with a \$15,000 check. The Club recognizes these programs for their service to our population who are hungry, need education and require living skills training. The proceeds from the Festival of Trees in November yielded income of just over \$45,000.00. This was then divided three ways - between the two major beneficiaries and the Woman's Club scholarship program that is designed to assist young women in need to better themselves in education or apprenticeship.

The Club general membership also votes to provide smaller grants to local and county programs that serve community need in our area.

Last year ten programs in the area benefitted in some way from these smaller grants. The Club membership works throughout the year to acquire funds for worthy causes and also provides manpower to assist Programs like A Friendly Place in Oakland where hunger and hygiene are addressed for street people.

The Woman's Club is committed to serving women and children in need locally, regionally and internationally. We welcome new members. Applications for major beneficiary awards 2012 are actively being accepted and processed from eligible agencies in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties. The deadline for consideration of application is March 5, 2012, at 7:00 p.m.

DAR Honors Good Citizens Contest Winners for 2012



From left: DAR Chapter Regent, Brenna Shafizadeh; Sarah Gidre, Acalan High; Elizabeth Ivy, Las Lomas High; Gail Wilson, Chapter Essay Winner, Campolindo High, Peter Santoro, Contra Costa Christian High; Barbara Snyder, DAR Essay Contest Chairperson; not pictured: Courtney Tran, Miramonte High
Photo provided

On February 4, The Daughters of the American Revolution, Acalan Chapter, honored the 2012 winners of their annual DAR Good Citizens Program and Scholarship Contest. The Scholarship Contest began in 1934 and is open to senior high school girls. Contestants must be able to demonstrate the qualities of dependability, service, leadership and patriotism. The student is asked to describe how she demonstrates these qualities in her day to day life and to submit two letters of recommendation along with an official grade transcript. Further, she must complete a timed essay, which is later read aloud at the chapter's award ceremony.

This year's chapter winner was **Gail Wilson**, of Campolindo High School. At school Gail enjoys choir, drama, and track team. Other activities include participation in Chamber Singers Elite Ensemble and Rotary Interact Club. Gail has helped raise funds for Children's Hospital, the Polar Bear Plunge, which raises money for those of special needs, and has been a volunteer at soup kitchens through her church.

Other contestants included **Elizabeth Ivy** of

Las Lomas High School who has participated four years in volleyball, is a recognized scholar-athlete and is president of Peace in Progress Club. **Peter Santoro**, Contra Costa Christian High, the first ever male to be recognized by the chapter, is a soccer player who has volunteered in crisis centers and schools in the Tenderloin in San Francisco. **Sarah Gidre**, Acalan High School, is the founder of Best Buddies, a weekly lunch for socializing with developmentally disabled students and volunteers at Animal Rescue Foundation. **Courtney Tran**, Miramonte High, participates in both Jazz and Symphonic bands and is a Youth Council member for the Oakland Public Library.

These exceptional students attended a luncheon with the members of Acalan Chapter of DAR, where each winner was asked to read their essay aloud for the members. Each winner was given a DAR Good Citizen Pin, a scholarship check and an American flag that has previously been flown over the US Capital Building. After the presentation, the participants and their families joined the DAR chapter for lunch and socializing.