

YOLO COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

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www.yolocf.org

NEWS

RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Local Youths Dedicated To Community Service

May, 2008 – Young people throughout Yolo County contribute a great deal to their local communities by volunteering. Nine of them and the eight Yolo County nonprofits they volunteered with have been selected to be recipients of Yolo Community Foundation's Yolo Youth Service Awards in honor of their outstanding performance, emerging leadership and dedication to local philanthropy. The recipients' contributions reflect substantial interest and dedication to the local community.

Yolo Community Foundation believes that leadership requires a commitment to service. Therefore, the Yolo Youth Service Awards have been designed to promote and recognize youth involvement in community life. By encouraging young people to volunteer, Yolo Community Foundation hopes to nurture the future leadership of Yolo County. YCF's Yolo Youth Service Awards support the development of youth leadership in the county through awards of innovative, paired grants to students and to the nonprofits the awardees have volunteered at least 60 hours with.

Yolo Community Foundation made grants of \$1,000 to the Yolo County nonprofit where the young person volunteered and a \$1,000 scholarship to the student. The grants were made from Yolo Community Foundation's Community Development Fund.

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- Nallely Lopez of Winters High School volunteered an average of 20 to 25 hours per month over the past year at Winters Healthcare Foundation giving health insurance enrollment assistance, assisting diabetes groups, offering translation services, helping with health fairs, fundraising and planning. Nallely has been one of eight “Promotoras” trained in health education and outreach acting as a liaison between the Winters Healthcare Clinic and the Latino community (especially providing services and outreach to isolated populations in the community.)
- Felicia White, a Yolo High student, volunteered with the Collins Teen Center in West Sacramento. White provided a professional and engaging personality to answer phones and greet guests and aided their fund raising efforts in the planning and execution of their events. In addition, she helped create a video documentary about what the Teen Center has done for the lives of teens.
- Ian Powell and William Updegraff, both of Clarksburg, each volunteered over 100 hours with Clarksburg Recycles collecting and sorting recyclables and educating the community about recycling. They have helped to provide a regular and reliable resource recovery and recycling service for the unincorporated area of Clarksburg where no other recycling opportunity exists.
- Clarissa Ton-Nu founded the American Red Cross Club of Davis Senior High volunteering 100 plus hours participating in a Hurricane Relief Jazz benefit concert, local Health and Safety Fairs, Relay for Life, Davis Turkey Trot,

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NAMI Thanksgiving dinner, KVIE Pledge drives and First Aid for Youth.

Under Ton-Nu's guidance, the club has educated young people and adults about disaster preparedness, safety, First Aid skills and CPR.

- Sarah Emily Velez attends Saint Francis High School in Davis and has volunteered over five years with All Things Right and Relevant, a nonprofit consignment and thrift shop that provides supplemental funding to ten mental health agencies in Yolo County. Velez trained newer volunteers and processed consignments with a strong work ethic and dedication to the store.
- Ethan Campos, a Pioneer High School student in Woodland, volunteered 1,130 hours over five summers as a Counselor in Training for the YMCA Summer Adventure Day Camp. Campos helped lead campers in daily activities consisting of sports, campfires, arts and crafts, weekly field trips, overnights, team building and community service activities.
- Courtney McLaughlin of Woodland High School volunteered over 126 hours as part of the Woodland Community Interact Club, a service club for 14 to 18 year olds sponsored by Rotary International. McLaughlin has cared for children at foster care Kinship Mini-Conferences, served at the Wayfarer Center, organized and planned Food Bank canned drives, and helped in writing "Santa Letters" to kids in the community.
- Christian DeKnikker of Woodland High School is a life scout in Troop 464 that is working toward his Eagle Scout award. DeKnikker has participated in

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the annual Boy Scout Food Drive for the past five years and helped package food for the annual Woodland Ecumenical Food Basket program. He volunteered for the installation of playground equipment at Woodside Park, Willow Oak Park and the rebuilding of Ferns Park. He volunteers every year to place flags on veteran's graves and has volunteered for Supervisor Rexroad's successful campaign.

DeKnikker hopes to embark on a new project refurbishing the Woodland High School football team's locker room with new lockers and benches.

Formed in 2001, Yolo Community Foundation is a nonprofit public resource created by and for the people of Yolo County for community philanthropy that helps donors make a positive impact on their community. Yolo Community Foundation enables individuals of both modest means and significant wealth to support nonprofit organizations that provide vital programs and services and to contribute to a permanent endowment for the people of Yolo County. Yolo Community Foundation is creating a lasting resource, committed to building civic investment and community involvement. Yolo Community Foundation is establishing a tradition of generosity that has led many people to invest their time and philanthropic dollars to support the common good. Because they address local needs, they are the best source for strengthening the community through projects that encourage leadership and capacity from within, while respecting and valuing the rich heritage and diversity represented in our geographic region. More information about Yolo Community Foundation can be found on their website at www.yolocf.org.

Press release **YOLO COMMUNITY FOUNDATION**

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