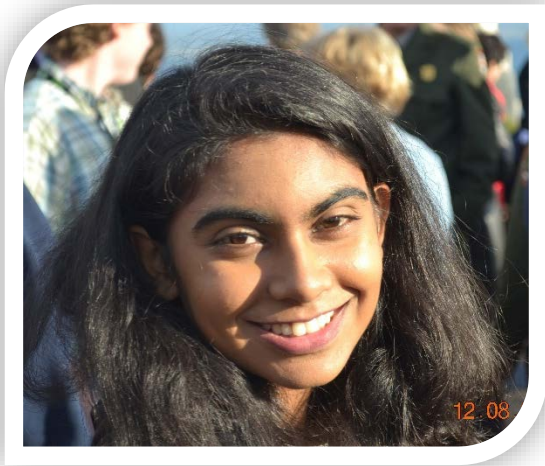


VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARDS

2014

The Volunteer of the Year Awards recognize youth, adult and group volunteers who contribute their time and effort to residents of long-term care facilities.



Youth Volunteer of the Year
Priyanka Nanayakkara
Shea Family Care, La Jolla

A volunteer coordinator's dream who is determined and dedicated, Priyanka Nanayakkara, now 17, started volunteering in 2011 through a program at her high school and has stuck with it, one to two hours every week, despite being college bound and running on the cross-country team. Because of her talent playing the piano, Priyanka was teamed up with a very challenging resident who enjoyed music but who was friendless and without family in the area. Priyanka won a place in the resident's heart. The two of them listen to music, and the resident wears a scarf that Priyanka gave her.



Adult Volunteers of the Year
Beverly and Glenn Rowe
Therapy Dogs Inc.
Meadowood Nursing Center, Clearlake

Now in their 80s, the Rows have been training therapy dogs to bring to the facility for the last 17 years. The trained dogs often have a therapeutic, calming and humorous effect on the residents. The Rows also raises money for resident activities and purchased birds which they donated to the facility aviary, and they have brought in other volunteers from the Lake County Kennel Club. With their dogs and other animals, Beverly and Glenn's goal of is to add life to years, not just years to life.

Group Volunteers of the Year
Conjunto Rios de Agua Viva
Community Care on Palm, Riverside

For the last eight years, Conjunto Rios de Agua Viva has been presenting live worship music, Sunday ministry and cultural validation for the sick and elderly. When residents are too infirm to attend their concerts, group members serenade them in their rooms. Compassionate, faithful and dedicated, Conjunto Rios de Agua Viva makes the facility reverberate with good cheer on Sunday afternoons. Some families purposely time their visits to coincide with the performances. There are always smiling faces as the performers move through the rooms. The group constantly recruits new volunteers, including a daughter of one of the members.