

2013 ADULT VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Carol Tasso

The Center at Parkwest

Reseda



Carol Tasso from The Center at Parkwest in Reseda is an ecumenical minister for a local parish and a retired registered nurse who began coming to The Center at Parkwest when her mother was admitted as a resident. In 1999 she started bringing Holy Communion to the facility's Roman Catholics. Shortly thereafter, she also started a monthly craft class for residents, supplying all the craft materials herself.

Because of her nursing background, Carol brings a keen eye while interacting with the residents, and she relates her observations to the appropriate staff. Her arts and crafts program brings out the residents' expressive and creative side. The residents' artwork adorns the walls of their rooms and the dining area, which is a source of great pride for everyone.

Carol is very creative herself. She collected recipes from residents, staff and family members and put together a cookbook to share. She also put together a calendar with different pictures of residents for each month. Both her cookbook and her calendar were sold as part of a facility fundraiser.

Carol shares her experiences with members of her parish and others in the community. Her clergy friends at another parish donate all their vases to the facility, and in return The Center at Parkwest shares them with other local facilities. They also collect calendars for the facility so each resident can have a calendar at her or his bedside.

2013 GROUP VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR

Cate School Singers

Carpinteria

The Cate School Singers come from a four-year, coeducational, college-prep boarding school located in Carpinteria, where the motto is “Let us serve,” and the students embody that motto by volunteering throughout the community.

The clients at Cornerstone House of Santa Barbara, which provides a home for developmentally disabled persons, are some of the lucky residents of the Cate School’s efforts.

Each week, a group of six to 10 students from Cate School come to perform songs and interact with the clients. The performances let Cornerstone’s clients experience music and singing with typical teenagers in a natural setting.

The students of Cate School have been performing at Cornerstone for 18 years, and the continuity and consistency of their visits have provided many hours of joy for the clients.

At the end of each school year, Cate School hosts a barbecue for its students, faculty and family members, as well as other community members. The clients and staff at Cornerstone are always invited and gladly attend.