

Volunteer of the Year Award Winners

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

2021

Isabella Romero

Beecan Health

Glendale

During the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, when in-person visits were prohibited, 17-year-old Isabella Romero reached out to Beecan Health to offer to visit with residents virtually. She used Studio B, an online program which allowed her to visit, one-on-one with residents and play and sing songs personalized to their music tastes. Isabella spent 1-2 hour per week entertaining residents during the pandemic and says she was grateful to bring a little bit of joy and excitement to residents.



PREVIOUS WINNERS

2019

James Clay

Windsor Gardens Healthcare Center of the Valley North Hollywood

James Clay, a licensed evangelist at the Bible Study Fellowship Church, has been volunteering at Windsor Gardens for the past seven years. James is best known for leading a Bible study group every Saturday morning. Residents look forward to the gatherings and the delicious pastries he delivers. James also provides personal one-on-one visits for those in need of guidance and support and helps residents understand their special value to him and their continuing impact on their families and society.



Rescue the Children

NorthPointe Healthcare Center Fresno

Residents at NorthPointe Healthcare Center in Fresno participate in the Heart to Serve program, preparing and serving food to needy individuals once a month. During that time, they provided meals to at-risk women and children at Rescue the Children. The recipients were so inspired by the nursing home volunteers that they decided to volunteer at NorthPointe. Once a month at least a dozen women from Rescue the Children take residents to the 99 Cents store and help at special facility events – and they have recruited others to join in. Residents are thrilled that their volunteering efforts inspired others to give back – creating a circle of volunteering.



PREVIOUS WINNERS

2018

Reverend Edmund Green Golden Living Center Portside

Each week for four hours, the Rev. Edmund Green and other volunteers like Elder Willie Marshall entertain residents at Golden Living Center Portside with songs, prayers and familiar gospel hymns. The smiles and brightness of the residents is evident when he and his friend are in the building because they take time to engage and communicate with everyone, even those in the specialty unit. Reverend Green brings liveliness and spunk into the facility and provides entertainment during special events, birthdays and holidays.



Helen Holecsek Golden Living Center Clovis

A long-time fixture at Golden Living Center, Clovis, 84 year-old Helen Holecsek has been volunteering for the past 22 years. She is responsible for incorporating music into the living center's activity program including piano playing and sing-a-longs. The residents look forward to her visit each week. She keeps active as a volunteer at other skilled nursing centers in the area and holds a spot on the Board of Directors at the Clovis Museum. Helen is a great volunteer representative of the long-term care community.



ADDITIONAL PREVIOUS WINNERS

2017 Donna Crocker
English Oaks Nursing & Rehabilitation
Modesto

Richard Tate
Palomar Vista Healthcare Center
Escondido

William & Sylvia Wong
Kei-Ai Los Angeles Healthcare Center
Los Angeles

Pratyush Sridhar
Lincoln Glen Nursing Facility
San Jose

2016 Larry Caris
Vineyard Hills Health Center
Templeton

Danish Care Singers
Danish Care Center
Atascadero

2015 Irma Mingham
English Oaks Nursing & Rehabilitation
Modesto

Incredible Edible Community Garden Club
Upland Rehab & Care Center
Upland

2014 Beverly and Glenn Rowe with Therapy
Dogs Inc.
Meadowood Nursing Center
Clearlake

2014 Conjunto Rios de Agua Viva
(cont.) Community Care on Palm
Riverside

Priyanka Nanayakkara
Shea Family Care
La Jolla

2013 Carol Tasso
The Center at Parkwest
Reseda

Cate School Singers
Cornerstone House of Santa Barbara
Santa Barbara

2012 Richard Brown
Edgemoor Hospital
Santee

Dale & Linda Langrehr
Seneca Healthcare District
Chester

2011 Larry Leslie
Santa Cruz Healthcare Center
Santa Cruz

Forget-Me-Not Foundation
26+ facilities in San Diego County and
Orange County

Rainbow Reflections of Central Valley
Christian School
Horizon Health & Sub-Acute Center
Fresno