



Volunteer of the Year Award

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.

Previous Winners

2025

Rick Del

Rick Del has been a devoted volunteer at Northpoint Healthcare and Wellness Centre in Fresno, sharing his gift of music and his warm heart. A talented accordion player and singer, Rick began visiting while a close friend was a resident, and continued even after her passing. He brings joy, laughter, and unforgettable singalongs to the facility's monthly birthday parties and special events. Rick's compassion and consistency make him much more than a performer: he is a beloved member of the community. His presence uplifts spirits and fosters connection.



Workforce Connection (Group)

The "Workforce Connection" brings together a group of young adults with residents at Northpoint Healthcare and Wellness Centre through everyday tasks. These volunteers help in the kitchen, do laundry, and other activities... offering consistent support and creating meaningful connections with residents. Many of them have never interacted with older generations, but through this program, they build empathy, gain valuable experience, and form lasting bonds. Some volunteers have even gone on to be hired into facility roles in dietary, activities, or laundry departments.



Previous Winners

2024

Quynh Hoa Music Entertainment Mission Palms Healthcare Center

Quynh Hoa Music Entertainment at Mission Palms Healthcare Center started with one musician and three singers. Now, there are 14 members. The group consists of musicians and singers, as well as retired doctors, engineers, and business entrepreneurs who enjoy performing. They also donate gifts and refreshments on special holidays and cultural events. Even though the group's members are retirees, they have continued to give back to the community by volunteering at Mission Palms for the past 12 years.



California Home for the Aged Home Guild and Ani Guild

Starting in 1958 with just four members, the Home Guild grew to nearly 120 members in just one year! The volunteers help create a comfortable and culturally familiar environment for residents by preparing traditional dishes, organizing fundraisers, and celebrating birthdays. Nearly a decade later, the Ani Guild started sponsoring and leading two activities per month for residents. It can be anything from decorating the home for the holidays or arranging live entertainment. Plus, the money that's raised through various events is used toward beautification projects.



Previous Winners

2022

Lifting Spirits with Music

“Lifting Spirits with Music” is a community outreach program comprised of student musicians from the Sacramento community at large. The musicians provide monthly programs for seniors in independent, assisted living, and skilled nursing facilities throughout the region. When the COVID-19 pandemic forced nursing homes to close, the students connected with residents virtually. In the spring of 2020, the student musicians made their YouTube debut providing entertainment to individuals across the country. The free concerts were beneficial to sheltered residents and student performers alike and still continue.



2021

Isabella Romero Beecan Health

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.

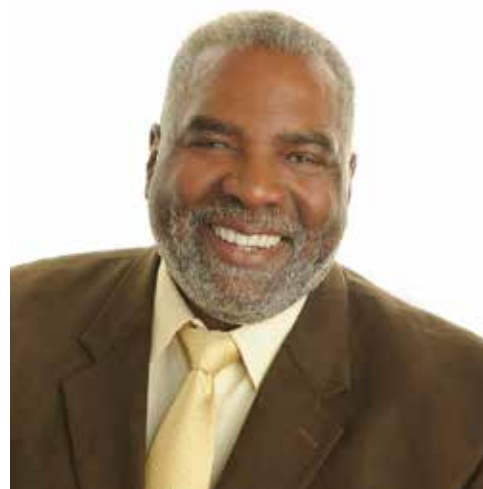


Previous Winners

2019

James Clay **Windsor Gardens Healthcare Center of the Valley**

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**

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.

