

## Girl Scout Gold Award project helps homeless

Submitted by Diana Lee



Mina Boozarpour with "Tool Kits"

Photo provided

Homelessness is an issue in many communities and the larger East Bay Area is no different. Homeless or highly mobile children often have a harder time keeping up in school and progressing academically. It is well known that lack of or poor education is a major cause of poverty, which can lead to homelessness. One Campolindo senior, Mina Boozarpour, decided that her Girl Scout Gold Award Project would focus on helping the homeless in the East Bay. After much research into different services and outreach programs for the homeless, Boozarpour decided to develop her project to support the Oakland-based nonprofit Community Education Partnerships, started in 2011, which supports HHM children in pre-kindergarten through 12th grade by recruiting and training volunteers who are willing to provide academic tutoring to HHM children. The

CEP mission is to partner with community members to increase the learning opportunities and enhance the academic achievement of HHM youth.

Boozarpour's project involved creating, through the collection of education materials from various sources, "tool boxes" that provide quick resources of education material organized by grade level and common core structure. Mina raised money for her project through a bake sale and worked with other troop members and friends to collect and develop tool boxes for grades pre-K and kindergarten through third grade. She also enjoyed meeting with many educators, some past teachers, and attending CEP tutor training. If you would like to test out one of the tool boxes, consider volunteering with CEP to make a difference in a child's life.

## Lions provide free eye screenings in Lafayette

Submitted by Bob Murtagh

Members of the Lamorinda Lions Club and Lions Center for the Visually Impaired teamed up on Nov. 5 to check 28 residents of Chateau Lafayette for a various eye problems. The Lions Center for the Visually Impaired preserves vision, fosters independence and enhances the quality of life for adults in the East Bay who are blind or at risk for vision loss. If the screening detects

the need for further eye care the person is referred to appropriate medical professionals. If necessary, Lions will cover the expenses of additional medical care to include providing eyeglasses.

For further information about Lions Eye Screening, contact the Lions Center for the Visually Impaired at (925) 432-3013.

Community Service: We are pleased to make space available whenever possible for some of Lamorinda's dedicated community service organizations to submit news and information about their activities. Submissions may be sent to [storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com) with the subject header In Service to the Community.

### Share Your Celebrations and Remembrances

If you would like to share an announcement about a special event or achievement, such as a wedding, engagement, scholarship or graduation of a local resident, or about a special person from Lamorinda who has passed, send a photo along with your text (up to 250 words) to [storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com), and include "Celebrations and Remembrances" in the subject line.

## Foundation linked to Lady Gaga promotes acts of kindness in local communities

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Smith takes no credit for Be Kind 21. "Every mom uses everything they have at their fingertips to make their kids kinder. I just have access to a different set of things," she humbly said.

With the holiday season upon us, Smith and Born This Way have just inaugurated a new kind-ness campaign: #MultiplyYour-Good. "Kindness is being in a community where people ask 'what unmet need can I help meet? How can I alleviate the suffering of another person?'" Smith explained. The

new campaign asks all of us to do an act of good by volunteering or donating to a nonprofit in our own community. The foundation will match every act of good pledged, and reported by performing an act of good for one of its nonprofit partners. (More information may be found at [bornthisway.foundation](http://bornthisway.foundation).)

As Smith, who lives every day thinking of new ways to make the world a better place, noted, "It is such an honor to work for the foundation and be a steward of kind-ness."

## Lafayette: New Eagle Scouts in Troop 200

Submitted by Ben Douglas



Lafayette Troop 200's newest Eagle Scouts. Back row from left: Nick Shaw, Donovan Fuller, Cole Brightbill, Isaac Douglas; Front row from left: Ed Laskey, Ryan Everly, Maverick Fabela, Matthew Raffel  
Photo Robert Raffel

Boy Scout Troop 200, chartered by Our Savior's Lutheran Church of Lafayette, is proud to announce its fall 2018 Eagle Scouts - Ryan Everly, Isaac Douglas, Cole Brightbill, Matthew Raffel, Maverick Fabela, Nicholas Shaw, Edward Laskey and Donovan Fuller. The new Eagle Scouts were honored at a National Eagle Court of Honor ceremony on Nov. 10. To become an Eagle Scout, a candidate must earn a minimum of 21 merit badges, including 13 Eagle-required badges, demonstrate leadership and Scout spirit, and successfully complete a community service project.

Everly is a senior at Acalanes High School. For his Eagle Scout project, he replaced broken and rotted benches between the big and small gyms at Acalanes. Douglas is a 2018 graduate of Acalanes, and currently a freshman at UC San Diego. For his Eagle project, he renovated the remainder of the benches between the gyms at Acalanes, replacing rotted surfaces with new redwood.

Brightbill, a senior at Acalanes, designed and constructed an oversized vegetable box at Burton Valley Elementary's Garden Classroom for his Eagle Scout project. Raffel, another Acalanes senior, built a drinking fountain at Springhill Elementary School,

digging ditches for the pipes, laying a foundation, and then building the fountain.

Fabela is a senior at Acalanes. For his Eagle Scout project, he oversaw the collection, repair and cleaning of musical instruments, which he then delivered to the Oakland Unified School District for the use of students in need of instruments. Shaw, a senior at Campolindo High School, assembled baskets of home essentials for veterans and previously-homeless families moving into new homes for Shelter Inc.

Laskey is a senior at Acalanes. For his Eagle Scout project, he led a group of friends and younger scouts in refurbishing and repainting the Acalanes ticket booth. Fuller, also a senior at Acalanes, built a display table for the Lafayette Historical Society (located on the ground floor of the Lafayette Library and Learning Center), now being used to display periodically rotating exhibits.

Troop 200 invites boys and girls to attend its Open House at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 11 at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Lafayette. For information, contact Scoutmaster Mark Weyland at [jadesigns@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jadesigns@sbcglobal.net) or ASM Anthony Toribio at [at7724@yahoo.com](mailto:at7724@yahoo.com).

## Troop 237's newest Eagle Scouts

Submitted by Shaun Ansel



Photo provided

Boy Scout Troop 237 of Orinda honored five Scouts, Ryan Ansel, Matt Lyons, Mason Januszewski, Adam Brudzinski and Andrew Patten, for achieving Scouting's highest rank of Eagle Scout on Sunday, Nov. 25 at the Orinda Community Church.

Ansel, a junior at Miramonte High School, wanted to give back to his high school and chose a project to support Miramonte's horticulture program. He built four large planter boxes with integrated covers. The covers provide insect and frost protection enabling the planter boxes to be used for the full school year. The produce grown is used by students in the culinary program. In addition to Scouting, Ryan plays baseball for Miramonte and is an avid surfer.

Lyons is a sophomore at Miramonte High School and designed a project to support fundraising efforts for Sleepy Hollow Elementary School. He organized Scouts to build eight life-sized figures out of plywood and mount them around the school's carpool circle, which would remind parents to donate. These "kids" are now part of the school's culture and are frequently brought out and redecored for holidays and for fundraising efforts. Outside of Scouting, Lyons rows for Oakland Strokes Rowing Club.

Januszewski, who is a junior at Campolindo High School, designed and built a cage-free mobile adoption center for Cat Town in Oakland. Cat Town is dedicated to providing shy, senior and other at-risk cats a second chance at adoption in a cage free environment. The goal of the project was to demonstrate Cat Town's on-site adoption

success by duplicating its cage-free experience on the road. Januszewski also served as the Troop's Senior Patrol Leader in the 2017-18 school year. Outside of Scouting, Januszewski is on Campolindo's football and track and field teams.

Brudzinski, who is a freshman at Miramonte High School, partnered with the East Bay Regional Park District to conserve water and protect a young grove of 84 redwood trees at the Kennedy Grove Park. The project involved protecting the tree bases with landscaping fabric and wood chips and is estimated to save 8,900 gallons of water per year. In addition to Scouting, Brudzinski plays JV football at Miramonte and likes to ski and golf.

Patten, a junior at Miramonte High School, upgraded a fence at the Wagner Ranch Nature Area frog pond. The nature area is an outdoor education center serving the Orinda Schools. Together with fellow scout volunteers, Andrew rebuilt portions of the perimeter fence and dug a trench system around the fence to add a barrier net to keep predator wildlife out of the pond area, which is home to a variety of native and rare species. The location of the project was personal to Patten, as he visited the nature area often during elementary school and benefited from the hands-on outdoor education experience it provides. Outside of Scouting, Patten is on Miramonte's wrestling and cross-country teams.

For more information about Troop 237, visit [www.troop27orinda.org](http://www.troop27orinda.org).