

## Children's Health Guild Spring Gala Raises \$300,000 for Children's Charities

Submitted by Alice Warren



From left: Mia Dennis, Seeley Roebuck and Kirsten Johnstone Photo provided

Children's Health Guild's annual Spring Gala was held on May 31 at the Claremont Hotel & Spa. This year's theme was Masquerade. The auction and event is always a much-anticipated event according to Orinda resident and event co-chair Kendall Glynn. This year's event sold out with over 300 East Bay residents in attendance and grossed over \$300,000 for Children's Health Guild's two beneficiaries, UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland and the George Mark Children's House of San Leandro. "Children's Health Guild is comprised of 55 women who work hard throughout the year on all aspects of the event from securing sponsorships and donations to decor to staffing on the evening of the event," said Glynn.

The highlight of the evening came when Dr. Kurtis Auguste from UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland and local family, Sean and Alison Eddy, whose son received care from George Mark Children's House told their moving stories of the superb care provided by the two organizations, bringing the audience to their

feet in heartfelt support. The spirited live auction, led by local favorite Steve Haworth, culminated in a generous \$10,000 matching gift from Grubb Company and La Salle Financial.

"We are thankful for the many local organizations [that] supported our cause, especially Village Associates who was our lead sponsor," said Catherine Johnson, co-chair of the event. Originally founded as St. Luke's Junior Auxiliary, the group has raised funds to support women's and children's medical care for over 40 years. As the majority of the membership migrated to the East Bay, the group decided to direct their fundraising efforts to support two local pediatric medical facilities. In 2012, the organization was re-launched as the Children's Health Guild and is now an independent 501(c)(3) non-profit providing financial support to UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland and the George Mark Children's House.

For more information on Children's Health Guild or either of their beneficiaries, visit [www.childrenshealthguild.org](http://www.childrenshealthguild.org).

## Troop 237 Eagle Scouts

Submitted by Lynn Alper



From left: Will Lyons, Elliot Alper, and Tyler Abramson Photo provided

Boy Scout Troop 237 of Orinda announced that three Scouts have earned Eagle Rank. Elliot Alper, Will Lyons and Tyler Abramson were honored at the Troop's Eagle Court of Honor on June 6 at the Orinda Community Church. Scoutmaster Eric Jorgensen presented the awards for the highest rank in Scouting. A very recent Miramonte High School grad, as of last week, Alper's Eagle project benefitted the Orinda Union School District's Wagner Ranch Nature Area. With the help of friends and other scouts, he carved, assembled and installed 12 trail markers for a new Loop Trail. The trail markers lead visitors to the historical highlights in the 18 acre nature preserve and historic site. Lyons, who will be a sophomore at Miramonte in the fall, chose a project to benefit the Western

Service Association in Oakland, which provides support to low income families. He collected over 100 backpacks and 20 bags of school supplies in Orinda for distribution to needy families, and he organized and led over 20 volunteers during five separate occasions to distribute fliers, collect donations, then clean and deliver them. And incoming Miramonte sophomore Abramson's project benefitted Sleepy Hollow Elementary School where he attended elementary school. He planned and then led a group of scouts and friends who repainted the map of the United States on the blacktop at Sleepy Hollow. The map has special meaning to the students at Sleepy Hollow as it is a tradition to play 'state tag' when they are learning the states and capitals in fifth grade.

## Campo Senior Does Service

Submitted by Ashley Ho



Photo Penelope Blair

Campolindo High School senior Justin Dunn took time out of his busy schedule in late May to coach Glorietta Elementary School students on the dangers of drug and alcohol use. Part of the school's character education campaign, this session provided students

with a teenage perspective on how to navigate the peer pressure they'll face in middle and high school. Dunn, a four year scholar athlete and team captain of the Cougar football and basketball teams, is headed to UC Berkeley next fall where he'll play football for Cal.

## Community Service

### Moraga's 'Be the Star You Are' Charity Honored as 2014 Top-Rated Nonprofit

Submitted by Cynthia Brian



From left: Cynthia Brian, Caiseen Kelley, James Shand (back), Jennifer Lee, Sommar Ververka, and Brian Rokowski Photo provided

Be the Star You Are charity announced that it has been honored with a prestigious 2014 Top-Rated Award by GreatNonprofits, the leading provider of user reviews about nonprofit organizations. The Moraga not-for-profit 501(c)(3) corporation empowers women, families and youth through improved literacy and positive media. Be the Star You Are collects and distributes books and other resources as a way to raise their life skills and self esteem. This media ranges from education and advisement to inspiration and guidance and covers every aspect of life, from abuse through money management. This is the sixth year that the charity has

received this tribute.

"We are excited to be named a Top-Rated 2014 Nonprofit once again!" says Cynthia Brian, founder and executive director of Be the Star You Are. "All the volunteers have worked very hard at community events and many of the local volunteers contribute to Teen Scene in the *Lamorinda Weekly*. We are very proud of our accomplishments this year, including our Operation Tornado Disaster Relief program and our two international radio shows that are bringing positive messages to the world." The Top-Rated Nonprofit award was based on the large number of positive reviews that Be the Star You Are received - reviews written by volunteers, donors and clients. People posted their personal experience with the nonprofit. For example, one person wrote, "To say that Be the Star You Are has changed my life would be an understatement!"

Be the Star You Are is an all-volunteer organization that operates through contributions, in-kind donations, and proceeds from fund-raising events. It does not receive state or federal funding and is solely dependent on contributions from the community and corporations. The nonprofit has no religious or political agendas or affiliations.

To listen to the radio shows, visit <http://www.StarStyleRadio.com>. For information about Be the Star You Are, visit [www.BetheStarYouAre.org](http://www.BetheStarYouAre.org). To learn about GreatNonprofits, visit <http://greatnonprofits.org>.

## New Troop 234 Eagle Scouts

Submitted by Lily Wescott



From left, back row: Mitchell Carlson, Geoff Ringlee, and Marcus Harland-Dunaway; front: Nicolas Woolford, Alex Capurro, Steven Wescott, and Tyrone Yanaga Photos provided

Eight Boy Scouts from Troop 234 recently attained the rank of Eagle Scout. Their accomplishments were celebrated in a Court of Honor on Sunday, May 18. Steven Wescott's Eagle service project involved building 25 portable bike racks for the Town of Moraga to use in the annual Treeline Triathlon. Nicolas Woolford's project also helped the Town of Moraga - he built an 18 ft long bridge in the botanical gardens of the Hacienda de las Flores for visitor access. Tyrone Yanaga built a deck stage for Campolindo High School. Maximilian Schoenbrunner installed hillside amphitheater-style seating at Campolindo to be used in conjunction with the stage that Tyrone built. In the same area, Marcus Harland-

Dunaway built raised beds for the Campolindo High School garden. Mitchell Carlson improved an area at the Soda Aquatic Center by clearing trash and weeds, landscaping it and then installing a brick paver walking path. Alex Capurro's Eagle project helped Los Perales Elementary School by replacing and installing a new wallball wall at the playground. Geoff Ringlee worked with St. Stephen's Church parish of Orinda, to construct a wooden enclosure that provided a more aesthetic facade for dumpsters and secured them out of children's reach. Jointly, with the help of their Troop and other volunteers, these Eagle Scouts contributed more than 1,000 community service hours via their projects.

## Troop 224 Scouts Awarded Eagle Rank

Submitted by Joanne Layshock



From left: Gregory Fellows and Joey Layshock Photo provided

Lafayette's Boy Scout Troop 224 honored two new Eagle Scouts at a National Court of Honor on Sunday, June 1 at the Veterans Memorial Building in Lafayette. Acalanes High School juniors Joey Layshock and Gregory Fellows achieved Boy Scout's highest award after

completing their individual community service projects. Layshock made improvements to Husky House at Happy Valley Elementary School, including replacing backpack hooks, painting backpack shelves, refinishing the deck, and building shelves for a storage shed. Fellows designed and built six standalone white board PVC pipe signs to be used for events at Acalanes High School. With 56 members, led by scoutmaster Kyle Blocker, Troop 224 has an active year-round program including camps, summer camps and high adventure activities. For more information on the troop, visit [www.troop224lafayette.com](http://www.troop224lafayette.com).