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**What's Happening**

**Ain-Tei Echaury, 1999**, received her Master's in Social Work from Sacramento State University, 2008, and immediately accepted a full-time position with Family Service in Napa, where she recently completed an internship. She completed her Bachelor's degrees in Chicano Studies and Sociology with a minor in Education at UC Davis, in 2003.



**Jose Uribe, 2005**, has completed his studies at Napa Valley College with a cumulative GPA of 3.54. He will start the Fall '08 semester at Sacramento State University where he will complete his Bachelor's in Administration of Justice. Jose was recognized By Napa Emergency Women's Services on June 26th as the Young Male Role Model for 2008.



**Claire Narlock Holcomb, 1998**, received her Bachelor's in Psychology in 2003 from Sacramento Sate University. She has coordinated programs for Seniors for the City of American Canyon for the last few years. She is preparing to return to school to pursue her dream of becoming a Family Nurse Practitioner. Claire was the 2008 keynote for the If Given awards dinner.

**Catrina Rose Hockney, 2001**, is completing studies at Diablo Valley College as she prepares to enter University of San Francisco to pursue her degree in Nursing.

**Stephanie Holdermann, 2001**. Since earning her BA in Child Development from Mills College in 2007, Stephanie (V.H.S. '01) has been working at Stanford's Bing Nursery School in Palo Alto. She plans to continue working at Bing this year while she finishes her MA degree in Early Childhood Education, also at Mills College. And, in any spare time she has, Stephanie has been working with her high school sweetheart Benjie Nelson to plan out their August '09 wedding.

**Jill Bardakas, 2002**, received her Bachelor's of Science degrees in both Biochemistry and Cell Biology as well as her Bachelor's of Arts degree in Psychology June 2007 from the University of California San Diego.

**Katy Buckner, 2004**, completed her Bachelor's degree in Communication and Fine Arts at Loyola Marymount University. She will continue there to obtain her teaching credential.

**Ashley Cox, 2004**, obtained her Bachelor's of Arts Degree in Art History from University of California Berkeley in May, 2008.

**Help Build a Future of Chances**

In 2008 we were honored to receive a substantial gift to begin building our endowment. The same family has challenged our supporters to match an additional gift, up to \$150,000.

An endowment is how organizations plan for the future and ensure the work they do continues. With a healthy endowment and estate planning, we can ensure that young people of courage will be provided the opportunities and support If Given a Chance was created to provide.

*"The same family has challenged our supporters to match an additional gift, up to \$150,000."*

Join us in supporting our youth today and into the future. Just think, if we have been able to assist over 300 young people fulfill their dreams of success, what can be done with an endowment that will allow us to work in

perpetuity? Join us in creating a vision for the future as it begins to unfold today. Questions? Call Jim King 707-260-5656, or e-mail chance@napanet.net.



Emily Shelley



FOUNDATION

**A Chance Multiplied**

In 1996, Manuel Aguirre received an If Given a Chance scholarship. Manuel is now a Deputy Probation Officer working with youth who have had experiences and background very similar to his own. This year Manuel was co-nominator for a student receiving the scholarship, Shiloh Chavez, as he was in 2005 for Jose Uribe.

Manuel initially was working towards getting his degree in business and opening a restaurant someday. But then his probation officer, Colleen Stoner, invited him to speak about his experiences and choices to groups of young people. She eventually brought him into the Independent Living Program as staff. He ended up coordinating the program. Working with young people and especially alongside Colleen, Nancy Schultz and others, Manuel began to change his focus. He finished his AA degree at Napa Valley College and then entered Sonoma State University to complete his BA in Psychology.

He now has 2 children, a supportive wife and partner, and a community that surrounds him with opportunities.

Nothing has been a straight line in Manuel's life. Besides his experience in working with Colleen, a counselor encouraged him to work with young people and helped him to see that he had a special connection with them. He began to work with this counselor by assisting her in running groups with youth on probation. Eventually his education and experiences brought him full circle back to Probation but in a very different role.

What stood out about Shiloh and Jose for Manuel was that special "something" that made him take a second look at the young people he worked with. As he worked with many young people, there were those rare moments when he could see that special "something" in each. These are young people who got caught up in being in the



Shiloh Chavez

"A Chance Multiplied" page 2

**14th Annual If Given a Chance Scholarship Awards Dinner**

28 new names have been added to the If Given a Chance family of scholarship recipients. Our newest board member, Bruce Miroglio, served as the Master of Ceremonies while our board chair, Lee Broad introduced each recipient.

For the first time, we were sold out well before the event date. A challenge for the coming year will be finding a suitable place for the 15th annual event. The Napa Valley Marriott proved to be an excellent experience for all. There were many new faces and many who have made this event a part of their yearly plans.



Matt Prieto and friends

In addition to the 28, 2008 recipients, many of our continuing students were there to celebrate their own accomplishments as well as congratulate those joining them in this tradition. Claire Narlock Holcomb, 1998 cohort, was our keynote speaker. She shared a bit about her struggles and triumphs including receiving her Bachelor's degree in Psychology from Sacramento State University in 2003. She has been coordinating programs and services for senior citizens in American Canyon for the last few years while

"14th Annual IGAC Scholarship Awards Dinner" page 3

respect  
responsibility  
resiliency

NEWSLETTER

*If Given a Chance exists to recognize youth who have demonstrated exceptional courage in overcoming extraordinary personal challenges, and to provide guidance and financial assistance so they may achieve their educational potential.*

**Who are our recipients?**

57% have experienced abuse

39% have faced neglect

31% have witnessed domestic violence

44% have survived substance abuse issues

31% were in the justice system

25% came from foster care

70 students are currently attending 34 schools: UC Berkeley, Stanford, Napa Valley College, Cal Poly . . .

Wish to support If Given A Chance?

Send your donation to:

If Given a Chance P.O. Box 2607 Napa, CA 94558

For estate planning or to donate stock please contact the Executive Director, Jim King at:

Phone: 707-260-5656 E-mail: chance@napanet.net

How you nominate someone:

Applications are distributed, and posted on our website at in October. The applications are due in February. All students must be nominated by an adult.

Wish to Volunteer?

Phone: 707-226-8890 E-mail: sking@can-v.org

Want to learn more about If Given A Chance?

If Given a Chance P.O. Box 2607 Napa, CA 94558

www.ifgivenachance.org

E-mail: chance@napanet.net Phone: 707-260-5656



"A Chance Multiplied" from page 1

wrong place at the wrong time doing the wrong things.

Both Shiloh's and Jose's mothers became involved early and helped solidify that these kids had something to build on. Manuel believes that if the youth has the support and involvement of their family and receive the same message at home, Probation, and school, cycles can be broken. By surrounding the young person with love, support, and encouragement, we are able to instill beliefs and values that will guide the young person towards a positive and productive future.

After he received encouragement from Colleen and Nancy, Manuel became a Probation Assistant and then a Probation Officer, eventually working the gang office caseload for 5 years. Manuel also rose from presenter/staff of the Independent Living Program to coordinating the program. He is very fulfilled by working with young people who faced some of the same challenges he did and hopes, long term, to help effect change in their lives and provide them with some of the chances he received. Having obtained his Bachelor's degree, he plans on continuing his education with a goal of becoming a Psychologist.

Manuel wants to emulate those who helped him. He simply wants to give back what has been given to him. In his mind, Colleen Stoner has been his rock and he believes that having that rock, that special someone to mentor and support you is key to successfully breaking negative cycles. He is becoming that rock for young people like Jose and Shiloh.

His thoughts for this year's recipients are simple; Take advantage of the scholarship and support you receive from If Given a Chance. Find a mentor who you can turn to when things may not be going the way you wish or you are facing obstacles which seem far to difficult to deal with. As Manuel found in his own life, that one person who believes in and supports you can make all the difference in the world.

Manuel wants to share his experiences to help others make wiser choices. He also wishes to share what he has found to be important about If Given a Chance. The first point he thinks will encourage donors to support If Given a Chance. "It works, it is that simple". For the community he expanded a bit. He wants the community to know that outreach is so very difficult. It seems

that the community only gets fully engaged when something negative happens or problems have already occurred. He envisions our coming together to craft solutions before the problems occur and while there is more of a chance of having a positive impact on the young people of our community. He also believes that parental involvement is crucial to support change. He wants each of us to be more cognizant of the power that one significant person in a young person's life and be willing to become that person for someone. As he said, "Wasn't there someone there for each of us?"

"What stood out about Shiloh and Jose for Manuel was that special "something" that made him take a second look at the young people he worked with."

He further encourages us to identify programs which work and fully supporting them. In one of his talks with Colleen, she shared a story of a mother and child walking on the beach. There were many, many starfish laying on the sand. The mother began throwing starfish after starfish back into the water. Her son asks her why since most are brought almost immediately back to shore by the waves. Her answer was simple, "if only one of the many I throw back makes it and survives, then I have accomplished something wonderful". Obviously Manuel survived and continues the wonderful work that Colleen started in him.

Manuel represents an important milestone for us. He has been instilled not only with a faith in himself and his future but also a commitment to reach out to his community and to those who have experienced challenges similar to his own. Manuel has broken one cycle and begun another, which will enrich our organization, those we serve and this community.

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"14th Annual IGAC Scholarship Awards Dinner" from page 1

starting a family. She spoke of her wonderfully supportive husband, Michael and her beautiful daughter Mykala. She also revealed that her second child is on the way.

The stories were powerful, as always. The audience was moved by the young people who shared their courage and dreams. Everyone was renewed by the experience of the evening.

This year's recipients

Winiarski Family

Jesus Cachu • Monica Garcia

Scholarship Provided by local Christians, given in the name of the Lord Emily Shelley

Ruth Epstein Schuler Foundation

Christopher Marshall • Leah LaRoche • Katherine Shelton

Broad/Levitan Family Scholarship

Montanna Sutherland

Napa Valley Publishing

Dominique Markarian • Stephen Peck

Chiatt/Gladfelder

Matthew Prieto

Napa Noontime Rotary

Wes Simpson • Dianna Lindsey • Sarita Guerra

Chance Encounter/Harris Nussbaum

Catherine Florian

Napa Oddfellows/Rebekah Lodge Scholarship

Cinthya Cisneros

Community Projects

Maribel Carrillo • Mayra Moctezuma

Polly Wagenknecht Memorial

Johanna Stinson

Napa County District Attorney Gary Lieberstein

Shiloh Chavez • Karen Morales Guzman

Professional Women Friends of Napa and Sonoma Paying it Forward Kymberlie Salas

Lucy Cameron Memorial

Lisa Blackard

Adriane Insogna Memorial/Napa Noontime Rotary

Stephanie Hill

Ed Solomon Memorial

Sabrina Noblet

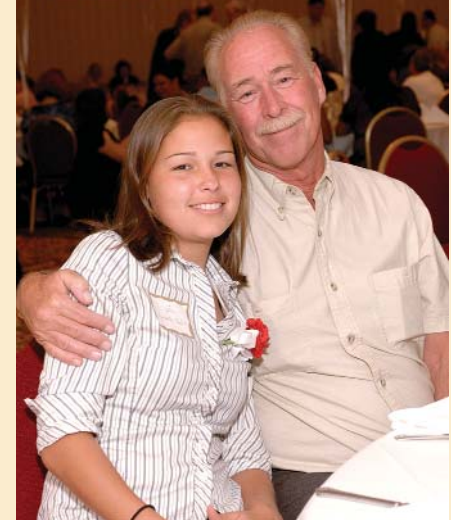
Dexta Corporation

Eugenia Scales • Ashley Sigler

Queen of the Valley Hospital Community Outreach

Kristina Bird • Samantha Gainer • Christina Vallbuena

Kymberlie Salas



Ashley Sigler



Johanna Stinson



Upcoming Events

Chance Encounter: October 19, 2008 Copia

Chance Salon Series: TBA

If Given a Chance Awards Dinner: May 22, 2009, Napa Valley Marriot

2008 Chance Encounter Honorees Chosen

The Chance Encounter honorees for 2008 are Leslie Medine from On the Move and Tom Amato from Angwin Teen Center. Both have had a significant positive impact on youth in our commu-

nity. Come celebrate these amazing people at Chance Encounter, COPIA South Gardens, October 19, 2008 from 4 to 6 pm. Watch our website, the mail and local media for more info.