



NEWSLETTER

A Community Makes it Work

community [kə'mju:nIti]

1 people of a district or country considered collectively, especially in the context of social values and responsibilities;

2 condition of sharing or having certain attitudes and interests in common

If Given a Chance would not exist without the encouragement, support and participation of the community of Napa County...and beyond.

Our community, many call it the "If Given a Chance family", begins with the young people we honor and support, nominators who help us identify them, our Board of Directors and Honorary Board, donors, and those who volunteer their time and/or services to support our work.

The latter group often volunteers services directly to those we serve. Many of our recipients grew up impoverished and may not have had the luxury of regular dental visits. They lacked the funds for the computer that is so very necessary to college success. They struggle through a maze of, or lack of, transportation options.

We are enriched by the outpouring of gifts of service, time and support offered by our community. Although we cannot begin to tell the story of each and every caring individual who has found some way to support the If Given recipients, we wish to spotlight a few:

Robert Hampton, DDS, with offices in St. Helena and Yountville, is unassuming and even shy about his support of those in need. He has



Dr. Robert Hampton, DDS

received our newsletters and letters over the years and has learned more as he met recipients speaking at Rotary. A few years ago he contacted us with this message, "My contribution is to provide free dental care to those truly in need. I am happy to serve our community in this way".

Some of our students may now smile with confidence, and more importantly, without pain.

Orion Hill and Bill Wheadon of Napa Valley Computers to Schools work with volunteers to acquire donated used computers from local businesses. They wipe the systems clean, install operating systems, protection software, and productivity programs. The computers are then donated to schools, students and nonprofit organizations working with youth. For many young people and their families, this is the first computer they have owned. They now have a bridge to the Web and the opportunity to excel through connection to a much wider base of knowledge.

Over the last few years, Orion has assisted us in getting laptop computers into the hands of over 30 of our recipients. Not only have they donated time, expertise, and laptops, but they have also made themselves available as the technical support team for our students.



Roseanne Gammello
and Kevin Massie

Kevin Massie of Napa Ford Lincoln Mercury has quietly assisted in bringing transportation to those students who need it most. Through a connection at Rotary, Kent Gardella, an If Given Board member, Kevin began donating used cars to If Given to then give to the student.

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If Given a Chance discovers high school graduates who have overcome extraordinary challenges and mentors them to achieve success

What We Do:

1. *Discovery: discover determined, resilient, and courageous youth who have overcome a tremendous challenge and choose to pursue education beyond high school as a means of their continued success.*

2. *Recognition: Honorees are recognized by community leaders at the Awards Dinner.*

3. *Support: provide mentoring, guidance, and financial assistance to support each student's commitment to overcome adversity, continue education, and become positive contributing members of the community.*

Wish to support If Given A Chance?

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

E-mail: chance@napanet.net
Phone: 707-260-5656
Web: www.ifgivenachance.org

Wish to Volunteer?

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

Graduate Check-In:



Daniel Lamons

Daniel Lamons – (2006, Graduated California State University Sacramento 2011)

Daniel completed his Bachelor’s Degree in Criminal Justice and is seeking a position in Juvenile Probation. While at Sac State, Daniel mentored high school students through the Sacramento Mentoring Program.

Daniel first attended Napa Valley College and obtained an Associate Degree in Behavioral and Social Sciences.



Nicole Wiegref

Nicole Wiegref (Borst) – (2006, Graduated Santa Rosa Junior College 2010)

Nicole completed her Associate Degree in Psychology while also taking health and fitness courses. She worked as a trainer at a local health club while in school. She recently became Assistant Manager at Lululemon Athletica.

She is also married, to Chad Wiegref. Nicole has come back to support If Given a Chance a many times.

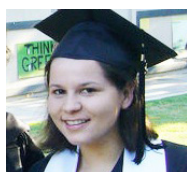


Anastasia Novozhilova

Anastasia Novozhilova – (2007, Graduated Brandeis University 2011)

Anastasia studied in Russia before returning to Brandeis and completing her Bachelor’s Degree. Over the summer she interned at Apple and has now entered her graduate studies in International Economics and Finance at Brandeis.

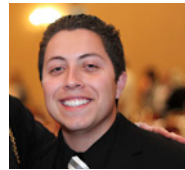
She is excited to be working on teams analyzing companies and their investment, product placement, and pricing strategies. Her team specializes in Eastern European trade.



Annie Castaneda

Annie Castaneda – (2005, graduated Azuza Pacific University 2010)

Annie obtained her Bachelor’s Degree in Business Administration from Azuza Pacific University. She studied for her Fall 2008 semester in Australia.



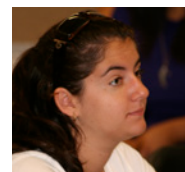
Jose Uribe

Jose Uribe – (2005, Graduated California State University Sacramento 2010)

Jose completed his Associates Degree at Napa Valley College then transferred to Sacramento State University to obtain his Bachelor’s degree in Psychology. He has now moved on to University of Nevada Las Vegas to complete his Master’s degree in Criminal Justice.

Manuel Aguirre, a Probation Officer, who was an If Given a Chance recipient himself in 1996, nominated Jose. Together they nominated another young man, Shiloh Chavez, who is transferring from Napa Valley College to Sacramento State University this year.

Jose has not only continued the “ripple effect” of If Given a Chance but has been an effective speaker for the organization. He believes that If Given a Chance provided him the stability to fulfill his goals. In 2008 Jose was honored as Young man of the Year by Napa Emergency Women’s Services.



Stephanie Macler (Hill)

Stephanie Macler (Hill) – (2008, graduated California State University East Bay 2011)

Stephanie began her studies at California State University Channel Islands. When the school was forced by budget cuts to close the program she was enrolled in, Kinesiology, she transferred to California State University East Bay. When the cost of classes increased, with more increases looming, she enrolled concurrently at Contra Costa

College and Diablo Valley College to ensure that she would be able to enroll in all of the classes she needed for graduation and to accelerate the completion of her degree.

Now that she has acquired her Bachelor’s Degree in Kinesiology, Stephanie is working on her Master’s in Physical Therapy. She has also managed to get married to her childhood friend, Brock Macler.

(Continued from cover: A Community Makes it Work)

Most recently a car went to a student who entered graduate school at University of San Francisco while holding down two jobs. Prior to graduate school she attended UC Berkeley, commuted by BART and Muni to her two jobs in San Francisco while living in the Mission District. To say the car has made her life easier is a gross understatement. There was no way she could make the schedules work with graduate school and her other responsibilities while relying on public transportation. This car helps ensure her future.

There are many ways to define “community” and we are just beginning to build our own definition. Many have stepped forward to help us provide hope, support, and encouragement for young people who have had far too little of each of these. Everyone who has ever given in any way to If Given a Chance, or those we serve, has made this community that much richer.



Kent Gardella and Wes Simpson

Meet the Honorary Board:



Noreen Evans

Noreen Evans, California State Senator

Senator Noreen Evans represents California State Senatorial District Two, covering one third of California's coastline, home to both a world-renowned wine industry and giant redwood forests. Noreen served in the State Assembly from 2004-2010.

Noreen also serves as a Commissioner for the Commission on the Status of Women, Judicial Council of California, California Coastal Conservancy, Pacific Fisheries Legislative Task Force, and the Western State Legislative Forestry Task Force.

Prior to her election to the Assembly in 2004, Noreen served two terms on the Santa Rosa City Council, and three years on the Santa Rosa Planning Commission. Noreen practiced law for more than twenty years, prior to elected office.

Noreen has a Juris Doctor degree from the McGeorge School of Law at the University of Pacific and a Bachelor's degree in Government from California State University, Sacramento.



Ed Henderson

Ed Henderson, Retired, Mayor of Napa, Superintendent, Napa County Office of Education

Ed Henderson graduated from California State University at Fresno with a Bachelor's degree in 1953, and then earned his Master's degree from California State University at San Francisco in 1956.

Ed began teaching in the early 1950's and came to Napa in 1954 to teach at Alta Heights Elementary School.

In 1982, Ed was elected Napa County Superintendent of Schools where he served for 4 terms. Upon his "retirement" Ed was elected Mayor of Napa in March of 1997 and served 2 terms.



Jack Morgan

Jack Morgan, is a graduate of Brigham Young University with a Bachelor's degree in Accounting and Business Management. His newspaper career began in 1959 with Scripps League Newspapers where he

became Vice President of Operations, overseeing ten daily newspapers throughout the country,

a lifestyle magazine, as well as a Washington D.C. news bureau. Jack is the former publisher of The Napa Valley Register. He currently is President of Scripps Enterprises Inc.

Jack is a founding member and past Chairman of the Board for Friends of Lincoln Theater. He also served on the board of directors for The Napa Valley Opera House.



Dr. Barbara Nemko

Dr. Barbara Nemko, Superintendent, Napa County Office of Education

Dr. Barbara Nemko has been the Superintendent of Schools for Napa County since 1997. Prior to that time she was a classroom teacher in New York City, developed curriculum for the Berkeley Unified School District, and directed state-funded projects for the California Department of Education. In her spare time she loves to participate in community theatre.



Joseph G. Peatman

Joseph G. Peatman, President, Peter A. and Vernice H. Gasser Foundation

Mr. Peatman is President and CEO of The Peter A. and Vernice H. Gasser Foundation, benefactor of many Napa charities. He was a founding partner of the law firm of Dickenson, Peatman and Fogarty. He practiced land use law in Napa for forty years before being elected President of the Gasser Foundation. He served as a director of Silverado Savings and Loan Association, Independence Savings and Loan Association, Napa National Bank and the Queen of the Valley Hospital. He has held elective offices including; Napa Valley Unified School District (President), Napa Valley College, and Napa County Board of Supervisors. He is a graduate of Stanford University and Stanford Law School.



Mike Thompson

Mike Thompson, U.S. Congressman:

Mike was first elected to represent California's 1st Congressional District in 1998. Previously, Mike represented the 2nd District in the California State Senate. Mike was the first Vietnam veteran elected to the State Senate. He served in combat with the U.S. Army and was wounded and received a Purple Heart.

Mike is a small vineyard owner and has taught Public Administration and State Government at

San Francisco State University and California State University, Chico.

At the First Annual If Given a Chance Awards Dinner, Mike was the Keynote Speaker.



Judge Ron Young

Ron Young, retired, Judge of the Superior Court:

Prior to becoming a judge, Ron served as a deputy district attorney in San Diego and Napa counties. In the late 1970s he joined the Napa firm of Coombs & Dunlap. While at the firm, he worked as a city attorney for Yountville and Napa. He was elected to the Napa County Municipal Court in 1984. In 1990 he assisted with the merger of the Municipal Court and the Superior Court.

Ron also helped to form the Napa County Drug Court, and to establish the Court Appointed Special Advocates.

Introducing 2011 Honorees:



Kelsey Cole

Kelsey Cole - Valley Oak High School. Nominators: Julie Lovie and Michelle McMaster. ... "as with coal, when exposed to high temperatures and extreme pressure, diamonds are formed. Kelsey has emerged

from high risk and extreme difficulty and is becoming that diamond". She will be pursuing a career with CHP, Probation or the law. Kelsey received the Napa Sunrise Rotary Award.



Sara Shimmel

Sara Shimmel - New Technology High School. Nominators: Harris Nussbaum and Maria Guadalupe Martinez-Ramirez. ... "determined, hard working, resilient, polite, intelligent,

compassionate, involved, wholesome, morally and socially conscious, and a true leader." Those words describe this recipient in spite of the challenges she has faced. She volunteers with Big Brothers-Big Sisters, Salvation Army, and Dreamweavers. She is seeking degrees in Sociology and Public Administration with a plan to join the Peace Corps following college. Sara received the Polly Wagenknecht Memorial Award funded by Soroptimist International of Napa. She attends UC Santa Cruz.

Executive Director

Jim King

Isadora Asch
Student Liaison

Board of Directors 2011

Greg Bennett
CPA, G & J Seiberlich & Co., LLP

Mary Butler
Chief Probation Officer, Napa County

Matt Eisenberg
Attorney-At-Law

Kent Gardella
Business Owner, Napa Valley Jewelers

Allison Haley
Deputy District Attorney, Napa County

Mark Luce
Napa County Supervisor

Bruce Miroglio
Attorney at Law

Michael Pearson
Principal, Redwood Middle School

Warren Winiarski
Founder, Stag's Leap Wine Cellars

Honorary Board Members

Hon. Noreen Evans
California Assembly Member

Hon. Ed Henderson
Past Mayor, City of Napa
Past Superintendent, Napa County Office
of Education

Jack Morgan
President, Scripps Enterprises

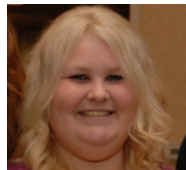
Dr. Barbara Nemko, Ph.D.
Superintendent, Napa County Office of
Education

Joseph G. Peatman
President of Peter A. & Vernice H. Gasser
Foundation

Hon. Mike Thompson
United States Congressman

Hon. Ron Young
Superior Court Judge, Retired

(Continued from page 3: Introducing 2011 Honorees)



Jena Graves

Jena Graves - Vintage High School. Nominators: Matthew Eustice and Cindy Johnson. In spite of health issues, Jena excelled academically. Although much of her schooling has occurred at home, she maintained friendships and a connection with the school. Most impressive is her ability to stay positive and focused in times of challenge. Her goal is to become a Veterinarian. Jena received the Adriane Insogna Memorial Award funded by Community Projects.



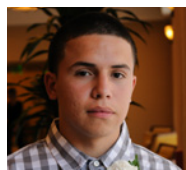
Alina Zavala

Alina Zavala - Valley Oak High School. Nominators: Julie Lovie and Rev. Linda S. Powers. By seeing that others in our community cared about her, Alina learned to care about herself and make needed changes for her future. Her challenges were not all of her own making, nevertheless, she found the strength to rise above the negative and build on the positive. She has the determination and drive to do whatever she puts her mind to. She plans on becoming a Pediatrician. Alina received the Napa Valley Publishing Award.



Carrie Troughton

Carrie Troughton - Valley Oak High School. Nominators: Julie Lovey and Chris McClure. Carrie is now taking steps to set goals and work towards a positive future, but she had to overcome challenges and struggles to get here. Although her confidence was shattered at times by lack of stability and support in her life, she is now a young woman with a thirst for knowledge and determination to pursue a dream of becoming a Veterinarian. Carrie received the Lucy Cameron Memorial award funded by Napa County District Attorney Gary Lieberstein.



Salvador Vargas

Salvador Vargas - Liberty High School. Nominators: Mari Jo Dickerson and Jane Chrisco. Salvador has known great loss, turned mistakes into lessons learned, and has committed himself to a more positive future. He wants his life to count. Salvador attends Wyotech. Salvador received the Lucy Cameron Memorial Award funded by Napa County District Attorney Gary Lieberstein.



Jacob Hallett

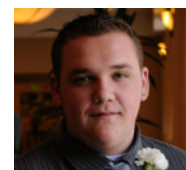
Jacob Hallett - Napa High School. Nominators: Ursula Ahajanian and Robin Hampton. Jacob has learned many important lessons in a young life; learn from

other's mistakes, in spite of circumstances you can succeed, and overcoming hurdles increases one's strength. Jacob is truly a resilient young man who understands the importance of love, support and guidance. He is pursuing certification as a paramedic fire fighter. He also has a deep love of music and hopes to expand on his knowledge. Jacob received the Napa Noontime Rotary Award. Jacob attends Santa Barbara City College.



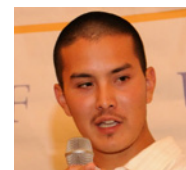
Dan'yell Powell

Dan'yell Powell - New Technology High School. Nominators: Harris Nussbaum and Lillian Zmed. Through physical and other challenges, Dan'yell has prevailed. She is a member of Key Club, the Drama Club, acted in plays, and interned with Dreamweavers Theater, and studied ballet, Tae Kwon Do...and much more. She is a survivor, and has grown from the experience of her challenges. She has a purpose in life; to bring light to people in need. She is studying Performing Arts and Cosmetology. Dan'yell received the Napa Noontime Rotary Award and attends Napa Valley College.



Bradley Ford

Bradley Ford - Napa High School. Nominators: Learetta Boulding and Coleen McCluskey. Through struggles that stretched him, Bradley discovered attitude is choice, compassion essential, that forgiveness brings peace, and that helping others is the best therapy. Bradley is studying Nursing. Bradley received the Ed Solomon Memorial Award funded by the Winiarski Family. Bradley attends Napa Valley College.



Travis Partida

Travis Partida - Crossroads High School. Nominators: Andres Viera and Eileen Davin. His resilience helped him overcome adversity throughout his life. He discovered that "education is power" and cannot be taken away. His experiences gave him a passion to help other at risk youth. He is studying Criminal Justice and Psychology. Travis received the Vera Trinchero Torres Award. He is attends Napa Valley College.