

If Given A Chance Welcomes New Executive Director, Marisa Binder

It's been a busy summer! I started in the role of Executive Director at *If Given A Chance* in June. For me, taking the job with *IGAC* was a no-brainer. The opportunity to make a difference in the community in which I live and in which I'm raising my son was impossible to pass up. At a time when the news in the world can feel so overwhelming, I'm excited to partner with our supporters to focus on all the wonderful things we can make happen for our Napa Valley students.



As Anastasia, our alumna speaker at our last Celebrate Our Stars event, shared, "When you invest in a student's education, you change their future. And their siblings' futures. And the lives of the children they will raise. And the communities they'll serve. You create ripples that last for generations."

Let's make some waves together.



Donor Spotlight: Marvin Sakakihara

About 25 years ago, I was introduced to *If Given A Chance* by Judge Ron Young. The mission aligned with my belief that a high level of education should be in reach of all socioeconomic groups.

I grew up in a poor community in Sacramento. I was able to go to MIT, my dream-come-true college. However, the first

year I was really homesick and unsure. I wish I had had access to the counseling, mental health services and peer support made possible by *IGAC*.

My wife, Jean, sadly died last summer. In discussions with my trust attorney, I was asked, "Do you have any favorite charities? With the money you have in your IRA and the required minimum distribution (RMD), you or your son when he inherits it, will be paying 1/3 of that for taxes". That realization set off a whole new set of thoughts. With donations from the RMD or other Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs), 100% goes to charity! Using my IRA funds has allowed me to support *IGAC* in a much more substantial way and give more students that support I wish I had had.

Meet Our New Students!



What do you hope to study?

I'm hoping to get into something in the medical field. Right now, I'm really interested in becoming an EMT and then eventually moving into firefighting.



What do you hope to study?

I'm hoping to study music and composition / sound engineering



How did you hear about IGAC?

I heard about IGAC through my school. They provided me the information to submit an application, and specifically asked for me to apply.



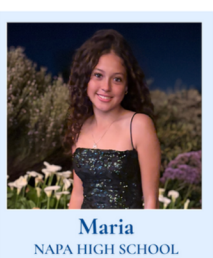
What do you hope to study?

I am hoping to study pharmaceutical science or earn my credentials in education.



How did you hear about IGAC?

I heard about IGAC through a past mentor (Karina Garcia) from CLARA UpValley Family Centers.



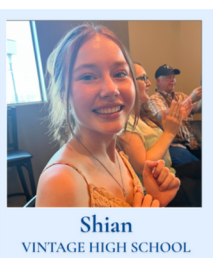
What are you most looking forward to in the IGAC program?

I'm really looking forward to the group meetings and the chance to build strong relationships with other students in the program.



What are you most looking forward to in the IGAC program?

I'm truly looking forward to all the support I'll receive through the IGAC program and all the knowledge I'll gain, especially when it comes to college matching and writing.



What do you hope to study?

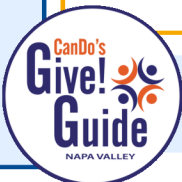
I am hoping to study something in the medical field. I am waiting to start physical therapy to see if I am able to do nursing school with my mild condition of cerebral palsy.

Not Pictured: Michelle, American Canyon High School, and Jayden, Vintage High School

To learn more about our new students, visit our website: www.ifgivenachance.org

Congratulations to our new college freshmen as they start their journeys at:

- Princeton University
- Chico State
- UC Davis
- Santa Rosa Junior College
- Napa Valley College
- American River Community College
- CSU Long Beach
- UC Santa Cruz
- UC Berkeley



Donate to Support Our Students and Programs

When you give to IGAC you are helping to support students to complete a higher education and fulfill life transforming goals.

ifgivenachance.org/donate

We're a proud participant of the CanDo's Give! Guide
www.candogiveguide.org

This Fall, *If Given A Chance* is proud to support 39 Napa County students in high school and college.

Follow us on



If Given A Chance is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization, ID# 91-1852336
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