

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA



Commission
for Women

2013 Service Award Recipients

1st District

Girls Inc. of Carpinteria Eureka Program

Through the Girls Inc. of Carpinteria Eureka Program (*Eureka!*), Carpinteria girls are provided with support to seek higher education through a long term comprehensive program featuring rigorous academics, tutoring, mentoring, and life skills development. The *Eureka!* Program puts local middle school girls, many of whom will be first-generation college students, on a university campus for a four week summer program. Participants agree to a five (5) year commitment. During the first two summers, girls spend four weeks on a college campus engaged in hands-on activities focused on math, science, technology, sports, personal development, college readiness and careers. During the third summer, girls participate in a four-week paid internship in a career field of their choice hosted by successful professional women. Girls also meet with adult mentors to help further personal and educational goals throughout the year. Years 4 and 5 will primarily focus on supporting girls as they navigate the college and scholarship application process as well as touring college campuses. The program also includes an important parent component.

Girls Inc. staff members act as role models who encourage girls to seek scholarships through Girls Inc. and other sources. They offer support and workshops focused on college applications, financial aid, test preparation, and career exploration that may lead to alternative post-secondary education opportunities.

Eureka! has become a critical part of the core mission at Girls Inc. to empower young women to achieve personal, social, political and economic success in order to become strong, smart and bold.

2nd District
California Youth Connection Santa Barbara Chapter

California Youth Connection (CYC) was founded in 1988 by a group of foster youth and supportive adults to provide a vehicle for California foster youth to learn leadership and advocacy skills and to engage directly with policymakers to improve the foster care system. Founded on the model of youth empowerment, more than twenty (20) years later, CYC maintains a dual focus on policy and youth development. CYC is the only organization in California to engage foster youth in the policy making process, and is now a national model. CYC serves more than 500 foster youth members, ages 14-24, through thirty-two (32) county-based chapters throughout the state.

The Santa Barbara Chapter was started in 2011. CYC Santa Barbara Chapter currently serves twenty (20) foster youth and is growing yearly. For the past two (2) years, they have traveled to Sacramento to meet with legislators and in 2012 the Santa Barbara Chapter won the CYC state chapter debate competition. The Santa Barbara Chapter currently meets three (3) times a month at La Mirada and UCSB. In May 2013 the Santa Barbara Chapter will hold a celebration to honor CYC's 25th anniversary.

3rd District
Women's Independent Giving Society (WIGS)

Founded in 2009, the mission of the Women's Independent Giving Society (WIGS) is to develop and maintain a women's giving society, to fund selected human services for disadvantaged individuals, families and children throughout the Santa Ynez Valley. The WIGS Founders have chosen People Helping People (PHP) as the umbrella organization.

The goal of the WIGS is to empower women who want to make a positive difference in their community by providing a way to combine resources and thus have a greater impact than by giving individually. With the diversity of its 4 program areas (Family Resource Centers, Emergency Services, Advocates for Domestic and Child Abuse Prevention, Buellton Youth (Seeking Success) After School, Youth Down 2 Business (Workforce Investment), encompassing 18 distinct social services, PHP enables members of the WIGS to select from among a wide array of programs that serve the communities of the Santa Ynez and Los Alamos Valleys.

4th District
WonHeart

In 2006, Joelyn Lutz discovered Challenge Day, an experiential program for teens that deal with bullying, suicide, and oppression, and she decided to create WonHeart to deal with the needs of her community in Santa Barbara County. WonHeart's vision is to strengthen the local community, creating an atmosphere where people feel safe, loved and celebrated for who they are. Their mission is accomplished through on-site educational workshops and assemblies featuring music and experiential experiences. WonHeart offers workshops and programs tailored to specific needs of all ages, with specific emphasis on bullying, health, the performing arts and compassionate communication (formally known as non-violent communication).

Throughout 2012, WonHeart either created or co-created several programs, including Soul Shoppe, which brought an anti-bullying program to the YMCA and Boys and Girls Club camp. In September 2012, WonHeart presented a program for Peace Week called "From Bully to Peace Maker."

During 2013, WonHeart's focus will be on creating Peacemakers. The hope is to create a movement of Peacemakers in every school from Santa Barbara to Paso Robles. The program uses an interactive and musical approach to engage the student from grades Kindergarten through 6th grade, while building life skills and empathy.

5th District
North County Rape Crisis and Child Protection Center

The North County Rape Crisis and Child Protection Center provides support to survivors of sexual assault and child abuse and their significant others. Originally established as the Lompoc Rape Crisis Center in 1974, it was renamed the North County Rape Crisis and Child Protection Center in 1990 and provides services from offices located in Lompoc and Santa Maria. The Center's mission is to reduce the incidence of and vulnerability to sexual assault and child abuse by providing education and prevention skills to community children and adults, and to alleviate the trauma experienced by survivors of these crimes by providing direct services.

With the able assistance of many volunteers, the Center provides direct services to the 225,000 people living in northern Santa Barbara County, including 24-hour Hotline support, crisis intervention, counseling, case management, and advocacy. In 2011-2012, there were more than 1,700 specific intervention services provided to 590 people. Based upon the philosophy that education is the key to prevention, the Center's staff also works tirelessly with area children and adults. The education and prevention programming includes some of the following: ChildSAFE program available to all North County schools; healthy relationship programs to students at Allan Hancock College; working with students in the SAVE (Students Against Violent Experiences) Club at Lompoc High School; and a host

of other presentations. In 2011-2012, 641 education and prevention programs were presented to 16,340 people.

Until the day arrives that no child or adult suffers the pain caused by being abused or sexually assaulted, the dedicated staff and volunteers of the North County Rape Crisis and Child Protection Center will continue to work on behalf of sexual assault victims in north Santa Barbara County.