

2013

City of Santa Rosa Merit Award Recipients

Serving Others, Particularly Young People, Seniors and Those in Need

- **Project TRUE** - For their ongoing efforts in helping to educate young people and other groups about issues associated with drug, alcohol and tobacco use.
- **The Volunteers of Earn it! Keep it! Save it!** - To recognize more than 160 trained tax preparers who volunteered 4000 hours to help lower income individuals and families claim their maximum benefit and refund from the IRS with free tax return preparation.
- **Active 20/30 of the Redwood Empire #1029** - For helping underserved youth in Sonoma County by coordinating egg hunts, providing costumes for Halloween, and coordinating dental check-ups, haircuts and back-to-school shopping sprees.
- **Rafael Vasquez** - For being a valuable member and great mentor in the community, especially with young Latinos, by assisting low income, educationally disadvantaged students achieve their academic goals at Santa Rosa Junior College.
- **Dana and Michael Bryant** – For their creation of the Crossing the Jordan Foundation, a non-profit organization that provides homes for women and children in need.
- **JDSU** – To recognize the passion of the JDSU Employee Giving Program which includes sponsorship of the Human Race; donation of time to the Schools of Hope and partnering with the United Way to assist the California Parenting Institute.
- **Vikki Ausiello** – For her seven years of volunteering 20+ hours per week at Village Elementary School where she coordinates fundraising efforts, created a school garden, acts as a dance and art docent, and represents the school at District meetings.

Beautifying our Community

- **Michelle Keip** – For over seven years of introducing public service to the young students of her pre-Aikido class by leading regular clean-up days on two local creeks through the City of Santa Rosa's Creek Stewardship program.
- **Dawna Gallagher** – In recognition of her tireless volunteer efforts geared toward teaching elementary school students to grow flowers and vegetables in the school garden.

Expanding and Enriching the Artistic and Historical Culture of the City

- **Sandy Gilliom** – To recognize her 13 years of leading and conducting a choir of 20+ singers, all of whom are developmentally disadvantaged.
- **American Philharmonic Sonoma County** – To recognize the 65-member orchestra that is made up of professional-level local musicians who volunteer their time and talents to reach an audience of people in the county who might otherwise not have the opportunity to enjoy the thrill of live orchestral music.
- **Keven and Jeri Brown** – To recognize their years of support of artistic endeavors within the community, and the promotion of local musicians, visual artists and writers.
- **Sonoma County Museum Volunteer Docents** – For their ongoing commitment to provide artistic and historical information to the Museum's many visitors.