

2021 Merit Awards

City of Santa Rosa Merit Award Recipients

COMMUNITY HEROES

- **Bayside Church** for supporting small businesses and creating outdoor dining spaces for families during the pandemic.
- **Common Ground Society** for making Santa Rosa a more inclusive and accepting place for people with disabilities.
- **Katie Sanchez** for leadership and policy advocacy on behalf of children and serving with the Court Appointed Special Advocate program.
- **Memphis Roetter** for outstanding fundraising in support of Redwood Empire Food Bank.
- **Sonoma County Acts of Kindness** for advocating on behalf of community members experiencing homelessness and providing them with necessities and resources.

CULTURAL ENRICHMENT

- **Efrain Nava** for bringing joy to his neighbors through free musical performances during the shelter-in-place order.
- **Rebekah Thomas** for preserving, maintaining, and protecting the historic Santa Rosa Rural Cemetery through educational tours and events.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

- **Paulina Lopez** for serving as a youth community leader to solve human rights and climate change issues.
- **The Bird Rescue Center volunteers** for medical care and feeding of wild birds, and stopping the spread of the deadly salmonella infection within the local wild bird population.

SERVING OTHERS

- **Elisha's Pantry volunteers** for providing food, including fresh vegetables to feed the hungry.
- **Marilyn Lane** for uplifting Santa Rosa's senior citizens through dance performances.
- **Riya Ramakrishnan** for leadership in educating and protecting youth on the dangers of tobacco.
- **Shawn Hanna** for mentoring youth, teaching self-sufficiency, teamwork, and leadership skills.
- **Sonoma County Vet Connect, Inc** for providing outreach and assistance to current and former military service members and their families.

STRENGTHENING NEIGHBORHOODS

- **Brayden Hall** for showing youth leadership and diligently maintaining the Santa Rosa Pump Track for the community's enjoyment.
- **United Womens Group / Grupo de Mujeres Unidas** for strengthening, uplifting, and supporting the Roseland community.