PATHWAYS
THE HARVARD-WESTLAKE MIDDLE SCHOOL COMMUNITY SERVICE MAGAZINE
SPRING 2017 VOLUME 22

COEUR D'ALENE
BEETHOVEN TUTORING
PET ORPHANS
COEUR D'ALENE
FULFILLMENT FUND

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN
HEAL THE BAY
FULFILLMENT FUND
COEUR D'ALENE
Students help wash a dog at the shelter.

Maya Mathur ’22 and Jenna Lewis ’22 pet a cat at Pet Orphans of Southern California.

Relaxing in the shade, Sophie Ramirez ’22 and Katharine Steers ’22 hold rescue dogs.

Katharine Steers ’22 and Santiago Kelly ’22 scrub the inside of the shelter.

Isabelle Ahn ’22 feeds a dog a treat during her trip to the shelter.
This year I am volunteering at “Ahead with Horses,” which is a public non-profit organization in Shadow Hills, CA which provides equine developmental therapy sessions for disabled and special needs children. I love children and horses, so working at an organization that helps disabled and special needs children is especially meaningful to me. I have seen the impact that equine therapy has on the children who have lessons at “Ahead with Horses.” When they first arrive at the arena, many of the children are upset and crying, but as they begin to ride their horse they become more relaxed and comfortable in the saddle. Volunteering at “Ahead with Horses” has also helped my own personal growth. It has made me realize how fortunate I am and it has reinforced the importance of making time to help others in the community. I believe that I have gained much from being able to care for other human beings.
Claudio Amaya ‘22 helps clean up the wetland. Paul Boardman’21 getting down and dirty to help with the clean up.

A group of students looking ready to clean up Ballona Wetlands.
Ethan Lachman ’21 and Jake Engelberg ’21 take one final sweep on the beach, for any remaining trash.

Evan Rosenzweig ’20 holds a trash bag while Abarham Gallardo ’20 fills it with trash found on the beach.

Abarham Gallardo ’20, Noah Aire ’20, and Evan Rosenzweig ’21 help each other clean the beach.

The Ballona Wetlands.
**Laundry Love**

*Nikha Sylbert ’20*

During summer break, I volunteered at an organization called Loaves & Fishes in Van Nuys. The sense of community and family within the organization is astounding. Those who volunteer regularly know each other very well, and share their experiences and memories with one another. In the short time that I was there, I learned so much about the other volunteers. Many of them who had previously been homeless themselves told their stories, how they became homeless and how they recovered and put their lives back together, as well as how Loaves & Fishes aided in that process. It was also fulfilling to help others provide for their families and themselves, and to know that they would eat that night. Hearing about others lives and seeing the struggles of those less fortunate than me reminded me of how lucky I am to have food and a home, things I know that I sometimes take for granted.

**P.A.T.H.**

*Emma Limore ’20*

I have been working with P.A.T.H., People Assisting the Homeless, here in Los Angeles. This past Thanksgiving, I collected toiletries that I packaged and donated to P.A.T.H. To do this, I went to different local hotels and collaborated with their managers and even reached out to the companies that supply them with toiletry items. It was really touching to me that those people cooperated with me to give back to the community, and think of those in need, during the time of Thanksgiving. At the end of my 6 week drive I collected over 530 toiletries. This provided P.A.T.H. residents with their own set of toothpaste, a toothbrush, shampoo, body wash, conditioner, etc. During the time of Thanksgiving we can take for granted the simple necessities that make a great difference to homeless people just trying not to go hungry.

**Homeless Love**

*Jane Sidon ’20*

One of the organizations I’m grateful to be involved in is Laundry Love. My Church, Thads, where I also volunteer, takes over a Laundromat on the last Monday of every month and does the laundry for the homeless for free. The homeless community of Venice quickly lines up when the clock strikes 6 outside the doors of RoseBud Laundry. Since I am a regular volunteer most of the people recognize and/or remember me and what we talked about last time...

At the June gathering, after grabbing my name tag, the dryer sheets, and the coins I needed, I made my way into my usual spot. One of the younger guys who I usually talk to came up to me and asked me if I was feeling better. Being a little oblivious, I never put together the pieces, so I replied with a short yes. We chatted for a long time, and towards the end, right after my mom’s “10 minute warning”, I asked him why he asked me that. He proceeded to explain that the last time I was there, we had a long talk about our issues with friends and family... As he continued on to refresh my memory, all I could think about was that he remembered me. I don’t think there is a greater feeling in the world than knowing that the people you care so deeply about, always think and worry about, and pray for, do the same for you. Although community service sometimes might seem like a chore or an obligation, it’s moments like these, where you really feel the impact, that makes you know what you’re doing is far more than that.
Matthew Paul ’21 takes his turn in Connect-Four.

Madeline Massey ’21 oversees a game of Candyland.

Nicole Ridi ’21 plays with a student.

Paula Gonzalez ’21 reads with her new friend.

Chloe Schaeffer ’21 and Katie Kennedy ’21 play an intense board game with little ones.

Mak Kriksciun ’21 helps a student with his game piece.

Alexandra Du Manoir ’21 colors a face with her student.

Sydney Gartner ’21 reads a book aloud to her buddies.

Students learn how to play Monopoly.

Capri Woss ’21 reads to her little buddy.

Haley Rothbart ’21 interacts with her new friends.

Ben Kim ’21 and Ryan Moon ’21 concentrate on having fun with their students.
Coeur d’Alene Elementary School

Mimi Offer ’21, Cameron Herring ’21, Paula Gonzalez ’21 help students learn their alphabet and numbers.

Audrey Ahn ’21 and Sydney Gartner ’21 read to elementary school students.

Students run and play during free time.

Trapped in a corner, Ryan Mashian ’21 and India Spencer ’21 engage with students.

Alon Moradi ’21, Ryan Mashian ’21, and Asia Fuqua ’21.

India Spencer ’21 chases a little one around the slide.

Rian Mashian ’21 tries to escape being caught by an elementary student.

Asia Fuqua ’21 helps out in the pretend kitchen with her buddies.

Shay Gillearn ’21 reads to eager elementary school students.

Kylie Gart ’21 and Ellie Baron’21 concentrate on a game of Chutes and Ladders.

Ryan Mashian ’21 and Alon Moradi ’21 play jump rope with students.

Shay Gillearn ’21 and Mimi Offer ’21 attentively color with students.

India Spencer ’21 chases younger students on the playground.

Asia Fuqua ’21 reads to her little buddies.

Liam Weetman ’21 helps a student color in a flower pot.
Jenna Kronenberg’20

In the fall of 2015 I started volunteering for the Freedom School at Stephen S. Wise Temple. Each month I receive a list of children who participate in their summer program and who have a birthday that month. I spend time picking out an age-appropriate book to send them. Then I decorate a card for them and mail them the book. The Freedom School participants all live below the poverty line and most do not read at grade level. Also, for most of the Freedom School participants, books are a luxury that they do not often buy for themselves. They only get to read what is assigned in school. I love to read for fun. By sending them a book for their birthday, I hope I am encouraging them to read and find a real love of reading.

Lola Craig’20 teaches a student how to complete a problem.

Jane Sidon’20 watches over a student as she completes her work.

Jack Hoppus’20 helps a student complete his homework.

Josh Eaton’20 and Andy Lee’20 both help younger students complete math problems.
**Ronald McDonald House**

**Alexa Rostovskiy ’20**

During my time at Freedom School, I learned to not take the fact that we have a great education for granted. During the two weeks that I spent at Freedom School, I helped improve children’s reading and writing. These students are under-served and in at risk environments, and it is such a privilege to be able to teach them and help them build up their future. It is amazing to see how much these children look up to you as a role model and also as a friend. Not only did the students learn a lot, I gained so much from this experience and cannot wait to go back next year!

---

**Carly Wallace ’20**

Seriously ill or injured children often times have to travel to get the treatment they need. It is really important to have their family nearby during this tough time. In fact, it has actually been proven that kids can heal faster when they are with their family. Ronald McDonald House supplies a place for them to stay for little to no cost at all. My experience at Ronald McDonald House has really helped me to understand the importance of family in my life on a daily basis. We take our families for granted but they might not always be there and I can’t imagine my life without mine. This organization keeps families together which really means a lot to me and I love volunteering at this organization, so I can help in any way possible, even if it just making dinner.

---

**Baskets for Children with Cancer**

Sarina Smoley ’22, Paisley Kandler ’22, Alec Rosenthal ’22, Maria Ozyzolou ’22 color in pages to put into baskets for children with cancer.
During the spring of 2016, I spent twelve hours volunteering for a charity called Wendy Walk, which raises money for patients with Sarcoma cancer. I hosted 15 friends to make care packages for people with Sarcoma. We included drawing books, blankets, lotion, and fuzzy socks. The time we put into the decorating the bags was so special and put a smile on many patients faces. My brother is on the Junior Committee of Wendy Walk, and we delivered the bags to the patients’ at the hospital. It meant so much to me seeing tears of happiness come out of the patient’s eyes. This showed me how small things can make a big difference and I was filled with happiness seeing their smiles and gratitude. This taught me a life lesson that I can make happy memories for people in need with my dedication and work.

Jessa Glassman ‘20

Since last summer, I have been working with the pediatric patients at Providence Tarzana Hospital as a child life volunteer. As a volunteer who specializes in playing with kids and counseling them through their stay at the hospital, each day that I come in I leave feeling more and more rewarded. At the hospital, I get to bring toys to kids in their rooms, play with them in the playroom or bedside, help them to get through their time away from home, give parents some time to sleep or get some coffee, and let the kids escape from their worries. Giving a sick patient the chance to take their mind off of their upcoming procedure or annoying IV through talking and playing games can affect his or her mood greatly and help them to have some fun in a not so fun place.

Wendy Walk

Carolina Rodriguez ‘21

Over the summer of 2016, I spent twelve hours volunteering at Westside Children’s Center (WCC), located in Culver City, California. Westside Children’s Center provides at-risk preschool and toddler aged children with a place to learn, play, and escape their difficult lives at home during the day. When I thought about some of the situations they had to deal with at home, I realized how blessed I truly am to have such a caring family, food on the table, and the access to such an amazing education. Over the course of the four days that I worked at WCC, I became especially close with a two year-old girl named Adriana. She was loving, bright, and very playful. Spending twelve hours with such a sweet and intelligent little girl showed me the hope and joy someone can have, even with difficult living conditions at home. Her unflinching smile showed me the joy and kindness that all people should try to carry about themselves, no matter what difficult situations they may face. These young kids taught me more about life than I ever could have imagined, and imprinted values upon me that I will never leave behind.

Lily Bailey ‘21

Since last summer, I have been working with the pediatric patients at Providence Tarzana Hospital as a child life volunteer. As a volunteer who specializes in playing with kids and counseling them through their stay at the hospital, each day that I come in I leave feeling more and more rewarded. At the hospital, I get to bring toys to kids in their rooms, play with them in the playroom or bedside, help them to get through their time away from home, give parents some time to sleep or get some coffee, and let the kids escape from their worries. Giving a sick patient the chance to take their mind off of their upcoming procedure or annoying IV through talking and playing games can affect his or her mood greatly and help them to have some fun in a not so fun place.

Jessa Glassman ‘20

Since last summer, I have been working with the pediatric patients at Providence Tarzana Hospital as a child life volunteer. As a volunteer who specializes in playing with kids and counseling them through their stay at the hospital, each day that I come in I leave feeling more and more rewarded. At the hospital, I get to bring toys to kids in their rooms, play with them in the playroom or bedside, help them to get through their time away from home, give parents some time to sleep or get some coffee, and let the kids escape from their worries. Giving a sick patient the chance to take their mind off of their upcoming procedure or annoying IV through talking and playing games can affect his or her mood greatly and help them to have some fun in a not so fun place.

Wendy Walk

Carolina Rodriguez ‘21

During the spring of 2016, I spent twelve hours volunteering for a charity called Wendy Walk, which raises money for patients with Sarcoma cancer. I hosted 15 friends to make care packages for people with Sarcoma. We included drawing books, blankets, lotion, and fuzzy socks. The time we put into the decorating the bags was so special and put a smile on many patients faces. My brother is on the Junior Committee of Wendy Walk, and we delivered the bags to the patients’ at the hospital. It meant so much to me seeing tears of happiness come out of the patient’s eyes. This showed me how small things can make a big difference and I was filled with happiness seeing their smiles and gratitude. This taught me a life lesson that I can make happy memories for people in need with my dedication and work.

Lily Bailey ‘21

Over the summer of 2016, I spent twelve hours volunteering at Westside Children’s Center (WCC), located in Culver City, California. Westside Children’s Center provides at-risk preschool and toddler aged children with a place to learn, play, and escape their difficult lives at home during the day. When I thought about some of the situations they had to deal with at home, I realized how blessed I truly am to have such a caring family, food on the table, and the access to such an amazing education. Over the course of the four days that I worked at WCC, I became especially close with a two year-old girl named Adriana. She was loving, bright, and very playful. Spending twelve hours with such a sweet and intelligent little girl showed me the hope and joy someone can have, even with difficult living conditions at home. Her unflinching smile showed me the joy and kindness that all people should try to carry about themselves, no matter what difficult situations they may face. These young kids taught me more about life than I ever could have imagined, and imprinted values upon me that I will never leave behind.

Jessa Glassman ‘20

Since last summer, I have been working with the pediatric patients at Providence Tarzana Hospital as a child life volunteer. As a volunteer who specializes in playing with kids and counseling them through their stay at the hospital, each day that I come in I leave feeling more and more rewarded. At the hospital, I get to bring toys to kids in their rooms, play with them in the playroom or bedside, help them to get through their time away from home, give parents some time to sleep or get some coffee, and let the kids escape from their worries. Giving a sick patient the chance to take their mind off of their upcoming procedure or annoying IV through talking and playing games can affect his or her mood greatly and help them to have some fun in a not so fun place.

Wendy Walk

Carolina Rodriguez ‘21

During the spring of 2016, I spent twelve hours volunteering for a charity called Wendy Walk, which raises money for patients with Sarcoma cancer. I hosted 15 friends to make care packages for people with Sarcoma. We included drawing books, blankets, lotion, and fuzzy socks. The time we put into the decorating the bags was so special and put a smile on many patients faces. My brother is on the Junior Committee of Wendy Walk, and we delivered the bags to the patients’ at the hospital. It meant so much to me seeing tears of happiness come out of the patient’s eyes. This showed me how small things can make a big difference and I was filled with happiness seeing their smiles and gratitude. This taught me a life lesson that I can make happy memories for people in need with my dedication and work.

Lily Bailey ‘21

Over the summer of 2016, I spent twelve hours volunteering at Westside Children’s Center (WCC), located in Culver City, California. Westside Children’s Center provides at-risk preschool and toddler aged children with a place to learn, play, and escape their difficult lives at home during the day. When I thought about some of the situations they had to deal with at home, I realized how blessed I truly am to have such a caring family, food on the table, and the access to such an amazing education. Over the course of the four days that I worked at WCC, I became especially close with a two year-old girl named Adriana. She was loving, bright, and very playful. Spending twelve hours with such a sweet and intelligent little girl showed me the hope and joy someone can have, even with difficult living conditions at home. Her unflinching smile showed me the joy and kindness that all people should try to carry about themselves, no matter what difficult situations they may face. These young kids taught me more about life than I ever could have imagined, and imprinted values upon me that I will never leave behind.

Joy Ho ‘22 and Tessa Dillman ‘22 cut and measure ribbon to tie off their baskets.
Sara Maniscalco ’21

The Community Service outreach experience that made a major impression on me was volunteering as a camp counselor at a community park. Most of the children were very young and learning how to play soccer for the first time. Also, some of the children did not speak English, which required me to teach through demonstrations rather than through verbal instruction. I learned so much from this experience. I learned that when I am teaching something to younger children, it is more effective to make it fun and to take my time. The more patient I was with the younger kids, the faster they were able to learn a new skill and have fun doing it! We laughed a lot together and I became like a big sister to the campers. They began to trust me and I was able to teach them new skills.
NEW BREAK ORCHESTRA

Caitlin Chung ’20

A community service outreach that made a major impact on me was at one of New Break Orchestra’s outreach events. At the time, I was a 6th grader and was the newest member of the group. At the beginning, the conductor assigned me different parts to play along with the violins and the viola, but after one practice, he pulled me aside and told me to prepare a solo piece for the next event. I practiced and practiced every day until the day of the performance. As my name was called and people applauded, I got up and performed my piece. As I glanced around that room, all I saw were smiles and teary grandmothers and grandfathers holding each other’s hands and swaying to the song. I could feel the love and joy vibrating in the room and it was then when I physically experienced the joy people say they feel while serving the community. Before that experience, I never truly understood the meaning of community service. It was not about the hours and credit on college resumes but about the love and experience you get out of each event.

MEALS ON WHEELS

Kyra Hudson ’20

This organization prepares and delivers meals to the elderly, the disabled, those who are recovering from surgery, and people who are unable to prepare meals for themselves for other reasons. At this organization I helped prepare the meals so they would be ready for delivery and I then went to deliver the meals to the clients relying on this organization for their meals. Right away I began to really like this organization since I could see the immediate impact of what I was doing. The appreciation on someone’s face when I handed them the meal really made me admire people who are dedicating their lives to things as important as this. Also seeing how much people need our help so close to us shows me how grateful I am for the wonderful opportunities that are available to me.

NORTH HOLLYWOOD INTERFAITH FOOD PANTRY

Sara Maniscalco ’21

Every summer, I work at the North Hollywood Interfaith Food Pantry, organizing food, sorting food, making bags, handing out bags, and picking up and receiving donations. I have worked at the Pantry since I was in 4th grade, and know the workers very well. Over the years I have gained responsibilities and met all sorts of people - from homeless people to big families to veterans getting back on their feet. I have learned to not judge people on what they look like and that there is community everywhere. By talking to people with different stories and different backgrounds and opinions, I have learned to be much more accepting. I realized that anyone, including me as an individual, could make a huge difference in someone’s day and even someone’s life, through big or small action. By giving people food, I was also giving people hope.
People casually popped in, stayed for the warmth, and popped out with a new sweater. Hundreds came by the thrift shop and came out with a smile and a gift for others or themselves. A sense of community walked through the brittle, paned doors at the St. Matthew’s Thrift Shop on Main St. & Ashland Ave.

Everyone has seen strangers and assumed that they’re just “strangers”. It wasn’t until this experience that I realized that these “strangers” are most often the ones that will brighten your day. Having the opportunity to work in my own community has allowed me to see the people that I pass by everyday as potential friends. Meeting “The Everyday People” has opened my mind about my community and the good people that I often mistook for strangers. Talking to and interacting with people from all walks of life that love this thrift shop has built an appreciation for community in me.
Jaidev Pant ’21

Although there were many outreach events that made an impression on me, the event that made the greatest impression was the operation gratitude trip. In this event, I worked in an assembly line that made care packages for people serving in our military. I was surprised that so many Harvard-Westlake people showed up for this event. At the time, I was entering 7th grade and was unsure about my new classmates I was about to meet. Seeing that so many were willing to go and volunteer their time to help other made me realize that I was lucky to be going to school with caring people. This is one outreach event that made a real impression on me and I hope to continue having these great experiences through community service at HW.

George Grube’20

In my lifetime, many scores of stitches have been knitted by my hands. I taught myself how to tricote (with YouTube) when I was around nine years old, and I have worked on projects ever since. After a while, knitting became very easy, as I became rather quick with the craft but especially after I came to posses the ability to do so without looking. So, I decided, over the summer, that I would challenge myself with using thin yarns for lighter scarves as a part of knitting club’s drive for donating scarves to soldiers in combat, wounded warriors as well as veterans. Making these thin-yarned scarves has helped me realize the great challenges of knitting once more, so it was a humbling experience, but I also appreciate ever more the giving of these works to deserving individuals. I thank the universe for my ability to bring joy to people’s lives with this valuable talent that it has chosen to give me.

Brooke Stanford ‘21

One specific outreach experience that I feel impacted me the strongest was the March to the Top Soulcycle event. For weeks my classmates and I prepared for this event, raising awareness and reaching out to students to sign up. We achieved an outstanding level of success and were able to provide scholarships for New Hope Graduates in Kenya. These students will now be able to pursue opportunities that would otherwise not be possible for them. This event was truly an incredible experience. It allowed for me to make a difference, and allowed for children across the world to be as fortunate as I am (something I often take for granted).
Kylie Azizzadeh ‘21

On October 16th, 2016, I participated in the Facial Paralysis and Bell’s Palsy Foundation Walkathon. During this event, I helped set up, walked for two miles, and listened to many people’s stories about their Facial Paralysis and Bell’s Palsy and how it was caused. This was very impactful because I stepped into other people’s shoes and felt what it is like with a facial deformity, and it opened my eyes to something I would not usually find out about. Getting a first experience perspective really opened my eyes to what it is like for other people.

Ellie Baron ‘21

TOP Soccer is an organization that provides a safe space for children and adults with disabilities to play soccer. It really made an impact knowing that I could provide a fun experience for people who don’t often get the opportunity to do these things. It was amazing to see all kinds of people drawing enjoyment from something that I love to do so much. Soccer is one of my favorite things to do and sharing that joy with people who don’t often get it helped me appreciate the opportunities I have been given even more. I learned the importance of helping others find joy, because there is no greater feeling than helping someone enjoy something you love so much.
Shane’s Inspiration fosters a bias-free world for children with disabilities through inclusive playgrounds and programs. My Play Club is a free community outreach program. It is open to children of all abilities and meets monthly for a day at one of Shane’s Inspiration’s inclusive playgrounds.

Timothy Li ’20 runs with a boy during his community service.

Caitlyn Dovel ’21 and Sophia Haynes ’22 laugh while making art with a young girl.

Sophia Haynes ’22, Caitlyn Dovel ’21, Josie Jun ’22 and Sofia Llevat ’22 play on the seesaw with a little girl at Shane’s Inspiration park.

Jason Morganbesser ’22 pushes a boy in swing.
This is the eighteenth year the Middle School Tamkin Service Award has been bestowed. The award was established by Jerome and Judith Tamkin “to recognize two Ninth graders who, during their Middle School years at Harvard-Westlake, actively and voluntarily participated in the affairs of the community beyond the School, and who, in doing so, have been instrumental in encouraging others to become similarly involved.”

This year’s Middle School Tamkin Service Award recipients are Jane Sidon and Otis Gordon. Two years ago, both recipients discovered a particular volunteer opportunity that allowed them to interact directly with a community in need.

Jane Sidon ’20 has devoted much of the last two years to volunteering through her church, THADS Church of Santa Monica. In particular, she has become involved in their “Laundry Love” program where they set up shop at Rose Bud Laundry on the last Monday of every month and open the doors to the homeless community of Venice, helping them do their laundry for free.

Jane helps people wash, dry and fold their clothes, but the real impact for her has come from the conversations she has been able to have while volunteering and the relationships she has built over her years of service with the program.

Otis Gordon ’20 has devoted many Sunday afternoons to tutoring young people at the Alpine Recreation Center in Chinatown. This program is sponsored by the Harvard-Westlake Chinese Culture Club, taking place almost every Sunday throughout the school year. Otis has been involved with the program since 7th grade and has become a fixture of the program, returning week after week to tutor and make a difference in the lives of a group of kids who really need a little extra attention and support.

As part of the Tamkin Award, each recipient is given the opportunity to decide upon an organization that will receive a donation given in their name by the Tamkin Foundation.