

THE SAN DIEGO COUNTY PUBLIC DEFENDER YOUTH COUNCIL  
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PRESENTS

THE  
25 MOST

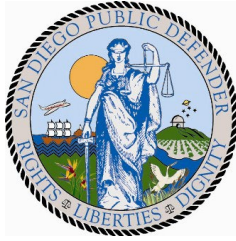
REMARKABLE

TEENS

IN SAN DIEGO

NOVEMBER 10, 2022

# 25 Most Remarkable Teens in San Diego



Welcome  
Todd Gloria, Mayor  
City of San Diego



Introduction  
Misty Jones, Director  
San Diego Public Library

Opening Remarks  
Randy Mize, Public Defender  
San Diego County

## Order of Presentation

### 25 Most Remarkable Teens

#### RECIPIENT

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Katie Tran  
Kyle Tianshi  
Keala Minna-Choe  
Lucia Perez Valles  
Andres Garcia  
Charlee Miller  
Vedant Nahar  
Renee Wang  
Angel Martinez  
Evan Noseworthy  
Nicolette Luna  
Lea Nepomuceno  
Ella Kim  
Bobby Cone  
Jasmine Matthews  
Livia Iacobelli  
Roshan Shah  
Sofie Muneer  
Alurah Chappel  
Makena Stumpo  
Leslie Pagel  
Reed Ganzer  
Naeem Miller  
Ellen Xu

### San Diego Public Defenders

#### READER

Stephanie Acheampong  
Tim Aram  
Kezia Adler  
Andrew Domingo  
Sean Frawley  
Samantha Tumminello  
Diane Ahn  
Destiny Orr  
Brandon John  
Priscilla Alfaro  
Ashanti Smith  
Ash Kargaran  
Taylor Marrinan  
Logan Meyer  
Victoria Andrade-McKeehan  
Varun Sabharwal  
Timothy Sirota  
Marissa Mendoza  
Eidan Shalom  
Natalie Castro  
John Keller  
Madeline Rojer  
Gaia Capperucci  
Summer Shafer  
Graydon Rose

## Closing Remarks

Council President Pro Tem  
Monica Montgomery  
District 4  
San Diego City Council

Councilmember Raul Campillo  
District 7  
San Diego City Council

Councilmember Marnie von Wilpert  
District 5  
San Diego City Council

Councilmember Joe LaCava  
District 1  
San Diego City Council

Council President Sean Elo-Rivera  
District 9  
San Diego City Council



## **Personal Determination**

# **KAIZER JONES**

## **Morse High School**

Kaizer Jones is a 17-year-old senior at Morse High School.

When asked for a word to best describe himself, Kaizer offers the word “determined”. It is a perfect fit.

When Kaizer was four, his family lived in hotels for months while looking for places to stay. Shortly after this period the family moved to a condo until Kaizer was seven. During these years Kaizer was raised in the church, most often attending his father’s church which was run out of the family home.

When Kaizer was seven, his father was in a car accident which caused him to be unable to work. The family lost their lodging and became homeless again. From age seven until 14, Kaizer did not have a home. He stayed with family, in hotels, and even in cars. Kaizer says being homeless was an emotional rollercoaster. It hardened him, but it also taught him endurance. He learned how to rely on himself.

Before his family became homeless for the second time, Kaizer was severely behind in reading. During his homelessness, he began reading the bible and was soon reading at college level. He began studying revolutionary authors and doing research into Malcolm X and Kwaame Ture. These men gave him insight into his own life as a black man and his struggles with poverty.

When Kaizer became a student at Morse, he restarted the Black Student Union (BSU). In his time as Vice President and President of BSU, he has spoken at multiple District events and has become the president of the BSU Coalition which unites BSU’s from high schools all over the county. He has provided feedback to district leaders on how to best meet the needs of African American youth. Because of Kaizer’s leadership, the district invited him to be a student speaker at SDUSD’s annual LCAP Board meeting.

Cynthia Larkin, principal at Morse, says “Kaizer is doing amazing things for both the African American community and the LGBTQ community. He is not afraid to speak his mind. Kaizer is determined to make a difference and fight for what is right.”

Kaizer Jones receives the Remarkable Teen Award in the category of Personal Determination.



## Campus Leadership

# KATIE TRAN

## West Hills High School

Katie Tran is a 16-year-old junior at West Hills High School.

Katie had an unstable childhood moving from home to home and living in different motels from ages seven to nine. She faced bullying at school and struggled with anxiety and depression. Katie says that the love she experienced during these difficult times saved her life. Despite the family's hardships, Katie remembers happiness and kindness too. She remembers being crammed into a motel room that was half the size of her second-grade classroom but still laughing with her brother over SpongeBob on the motel TV. She remembers the kind faces of strangers handing out free food when the family couldn't afford to eat. She remembers her friend pleading with her not to let the depression take over. Katie says everything she does in life now is to make all those who loved, cared, and sacrificed for her feel proud. She is grateful for the support system that gave her the building blocks to succeed.

Katie is extraordinary in her leadership, mentorship, and willingness to give back to her school community. She is president of the 80 member West Hills High School Key Club, and the Service Project Division Leader for all Key Clubs in the Grossmont Union School District. She co-created and is President of the Button Club, a stress-free club spreading positivity around school one button at a time. The club creates buttons for school events like teacher appreciation, Homecoming Carnival, and AP season.

Katie is an ASB student leader, a member of Pack Council which addresses bullying and mental health issues, and a part of the Mending Matters Mental Health Student Advisory. Katie is also a HOWL leader, a group that guides and assists incoming freshman.

Katie is Pole Vault Captain for the Track and Field Team and a summer-school teacher's assistant.

Katie's nominator, Carrin Edwards, says "whether through helping peers or spreading positive messages with buttons students can wear on their backpacks, Katie's resiliency in the face of adversity, her maturity and kindness, and her unrelenting service to others makes the world a better place."

Katie Tran receives the Remarkable Teen Award in the category of Campus Leadership.



**Inventor**

**KYLE  
TIANSHI**

**The Cambridge  
School**

Kyle Tianshi is a 16-year-old junior who attends The Cambridge School.

Kyle is an internationally recognized inventor. His patent-pending design, NEREID detects microplastic contamination in water sources – tiny particles that degrade from larger plastic pieces over time. They can absorb harmful chemicals and toxic bacteria, as well as enter the human body through unclean water.

Kyle offers this layman description of his invention. “NEREID applies a concept called light scattering to make microscopic contamination visible. When a laser shines into a sample of water, all solid particles within the beam of light are illuminated. Under these conditions, a focused microscope can record images of the particles. Then, a Raspberry Pi microcomputer runs an image processing algorithm I developed to produce a data table of particle characteristics. My current design costs under \$60 when purchasing individual parts and produces results in under 10 seconds. There is no other solution on the market that can generate accurate results at such a low cost.”

Kyle’s experience conducting garage research inspired him to co-found Clearwater Innovation, an organization that seeks to generate awareness about the global water crisis and encourage student research through events and educational programs. Composed of over 50 environmental advocates nationwide this organization maintains a weekly advocacy blog, conducts interviews with young scientists, presents at science expos, hosts summer camps and research workshops. Clearwater Innovation has reached thousands of students through environmental campaigns on YouTube, Twitter, and Instagram. Clearwater Innovation has been featured in two documentaries by National Geographic and HP.

Nominator, Los Angeles Barea, producer of the environmental documentary [Green Superheroes](#), met Kyle when he was selected to be part of her production. She says “Kyle is more than an inventor. He believes teenagers can impact communities through their creativity and dedication.”

One of Kyle’s favorite hobbies is to listen for how the music of composers like Scriabin and Chopin inspires the soundtracks of modern cinema. This led him to shoot *Rinna*, a documentary about how his piano teacher, an immigrant born in Ukraine, turned to classical music as a shelter from grief and family loss.

Kyle Tianshi receives the Remarkable Teen Award in the category of Inventor.



## Civic Engagement

# KEALA MINNA- CHOE

Canyon Crest  
Academy

Keala Minna-Choe is a 16-year-old junior at Canyon Crest Academy.

Keala's inspiration to join the climate movement probably began when she was born in South Florida during the 2005 hurricane season, one of the worst on record. Before she was able to comprehend much of anything, including what a hurricane was, South Florida was hit by one. She began to engage in environmental work in earnest when she came to San Diego.

Keala has worked tirelessly to phase out fossil fuels and advocate for a just transition to renewable energy. She is a leader in SD350's Youth4Climate, a grassroots movement to prevent the worst impacts of climate injustice through education, public policy advocacy, and community mobilization.

As the Youth v. Oil team leader, Keala was instrumental in securing endorsements for a climate resolution by two school boards, the San Diego County Office of Education, and the San Diego City Council. The resolution calls upon the Governor to stop issuing new drilling permits and creates a plan to phase out current oil and gas sites in a manner fair to fossil fuel workers. San Diego City Councilmember Joe LaCava says, "Keala is a natural leader and a voice for her generation. Her passion produces results, inspiring her peers and City Hall to fight for the elimination of fossil fuels and a sustainable future for all."

Keala speaks publicly at climate justice rallies and serves on committees of two local climate-action organizations. But climate is not Keala's only passion, her community engagement is broad. She works with the Red Cross and is currently president of the Red Cross club at Canyon Crest combining efforts with the Blood Donor Ambassador Team. She also teams up with a program called Flowers for the Future, helping girls in Afghanistan increase their access to education as well as assisting Afghan refugees living in San Diego.

Nominator Katharine Harrison writes that Keala is "someone who can not only articulate issues but digs into solutions and gets things done. She understands that racial and economic justice are inextricably tied to climate justice and works within the framework of intersectionality for a just future for all."

Keala Minna-Choe receives the Remarkable Teen Award in the category of Civic Engagement.



## **Social Conscience**

# **LUCIA PEREZ VALLES**

**University of  
Southern California**

Lucia Perez Valles is an 18-year-old recent graduate of Olympian High School and a freshman at the University of Southern California.

Lucia's mother immigrated from Mexico seeking to improve her children's future. This move proved difficult for young Lucia, as her family constantly moved between apartments and relied on members of the community for help with food, education, and clothes. During this difficult time, Lucia remembers, "My mother pushed my sister and I to work hard to be our best, but whenever possible to lend a hand to pull others up with us."

Raised in a multicultural milieu, Lucia was exposed to problems occurring in Mexico, and was specifically moved by the difficulties people in Mexico face when trying to access healthcare. Seeing this disparity fueled Lucia's ambition of pursuing a career in community health and opened her eyes to the need for civic engagement in Chula Vista.

A Girl Scout for ten years, Lucia earned her Gold Award by creating and executing "Embrace Our Community", a summer camp for children ages 7 – 12. The aim of the camp was to wean children off cell phones and electronic devices by providing the environment and resources kids need to disconnect. She was inspired to tackle this issue when she noticed how much "real life" children were missing out on by being buried in their devices. She created a telephone brochure, implemented conferences, and filmed a video to engage and educate audiences. Lucia led over 25 workshops to educate children about the resources, programs, and facilities that are available to them in San Ysidro to support their success.

Lucia has been a ballet dancer for 9 years, participating in multiple performances with the San Diego Civic Youth Ballet. Through the academy Lucia has been able to bring ballet to kids with special needs in a program called "Ballet for Me."

Nominator, Michelle Hadley-Torres, coordinator for MANA de San Diego says, "Lucia is a natural leader. Her focus is to give back to the community that supported her to get where she is today."

Lucia Perez Valles receives the Remarkable Teen Award in the category of Social Conscience.



## **Courage to Overcome Adversity: Physical Disability**

**ANDRES GARCIA**

**TRACE Alternative School**

Andres Garcia (AJ) is a 19-year-old graduate of Madison High School who is enrolled at the TRACE School. TRACE is part of San Diego Unified School District's continuum of service options for assisting students transitioning from high school to adult life.

AJ, who is deaf, was born into a home where spoken English and Spanish are used. Anna Pineda, Deaf and Hard of Hearing Itinerant Teacher for SDUSD, says that approximately 90% of deaf children are born into hearing families, and approximately 90% of those families don't learn American Sign Language. AJ uses ASL to communicate, and his mother uses some sign and written English with him.

AJ's challenges were compounded because his family had to move between Chula Vista, Spring Valley, San Diego, and Tijuana throughout his teen years. At one point the family was living in a hotel. When a family member contracted Covid, they had to leave the hotel and ended up in temporary lodging where people with Covid could stay for free. For about 18 months his family lived with his aunt in the U.S. Monday through Friday, and his grandmother in Tijuana on the weekends. But through it all AJ's resilience prevailed. He and his family have lived in one place for almost two years now and AJ is grateful to have a stable living situation.

Although AJ was below grade in reading and math when he entered Trace, he was eager to learn skills in the construction trade to further his goal of working toward a career in construction. AJ says when he was young, he "loved to fix things" and "dreamed of becoming a builder." He was accepted into a pre-apprenticeship training program offered through San Diego College of Continuing Education. Through this program AJ completed a college course, learned multiple construction skills, and has earned certifications in OSHA and Multi-craft Construction programs, and Mobile elevator platform work. AJ was Trace's first student to complete this construction pre-apprenticeship program, and the apprenticeship program's first deaf student.

AJ Garcia receives the Remarkable Teen award in the category of Courage to Overcome Adversity: Physical Disability.



**Creativity: Art**

**CHARLEE  
MILLER**

**San Diego  
Mesa College**

Charlee Miller is an 18-year-old 2022 graduate of Madison High School currently in her first year at San Diego Mesa College.

Charlee uses the word imaginative to best describe herself. She pushes her boundaries and limits in art and experiments to new heights. She works in a variety of media and is accomplished in each one. She is dedicated to her concepts and visualizations, and creatively solves complex artistic problems. Charlee is an exceptional artist producing brilliant and thought-provoking works.

Charlee works tirelessly to accomplish her artistic goals all the while sharing techniques and new concepts with other students to help them reach their goals. She believes her personal strength is her kindness.

Life wasn't always easy for Charlee. When she was young, she was bullied for being "weird". Charlee says that having an interest in macabre fiction and her tendency to use words that only made sense to her caused her to be mocked. The "weird" behavior changed as she got older, but the traits did not leave her. Charlee discovered that the world in which those traits lived and took shape was called a paracosm – a detailed imaginary world, populated by what she now calls the inspiration for her writing and art.

Nominator, Jeff Sturkel, art teacher at Madison High School, says that Charlee is one of the most accomplished artists he has had the pleasure to teach. "Charlee is receptive and bright, and she brings that light into her work," he says.

Charlee's creativity is not just confined to works of art. She also writes poetry and fiction, delving into science fiction and dystopian horror as well as exploring existential themes.

Charlee's efforts have earned her an award for academic excellence in the subject of art, and an excellence in creative writing award.

Charlee is also a dedicated student who is most proud of being on the honor roll throughout high school. Charlee is a member of the Promise Program at Mesa College, a program which guarantees two years of free tuition. Once she completes the program she plans to transfer to a four-year university.

Charlee Miller receives the Remarkable Teen Award in the category of Creativity: Art.



**Most Enterprising**

**VEDANT  
NAHAR**

**Scripps Ranch  
High School**

Vedant Nahar is a 16-year-old junior at Scripps Ranch High School.

Vedant is the CEO of a startup company called MedAlert. He led his team from a basic idea to the development of an iOS/Android App. MedAlert is a task management app that allows nurses to create, claim, and delegate tasks using tablets. No longer constrained by paper and having to convey information verbally, nurses can use the app to communicate in real time avoiding errors in patient care and drug dispensing. Vedant developed this app because he saw the increase in medication errors throughout nursing facilities during COVID.

Under Vedant's leadership, the MedAlert team won the Best Healthcare Pitch and placed in the Blue Ocean Entrepreneurship Competition, the most prestigious high school entrepreneurship competition in the world. Vedant and his team were invited to pitch MedAlert to investment groups such as the NuFund Investment Angels. Vedant was interviewed on ABC 10s Positively San Diego series, which focused on the app's benefits including aiding nurses with their tasks while reducing stress and burnout.

Vedant reveals his competitive spirit athletically as well as academically. He is a club and varsity swimmer and a second-degree black belt in Taekwondo.

Vedant follows the tenets of Jainism. He says "this faith has played a profound role in shaping my character. Practicing core Jain values has made me a better listener, helping me to keep an open mind while understanding opposing viewpoints. These teachings have also made me a more compassionate leader by positively encouraging teammates resulting in collaborative relationships. To have an impact, I understand that it is not my grades or standardized test scores that matter, but rather my ethics that will carry me forward."

Percival Capital venture investor and nominator Ted Alexander writes, "Vedant strives to better himself at every stage. He is a young man in competition with himself not his friends or teammates. He delicately balances great personal ambition with strong team orientation, while at the same time being confident and humble."

Vedant Nahar is awarded the Remarkable Teen award in the category of Most Enterprising.



## Innovation

# RENEE WANG

## The Bishop's School

Renee Wang is a 15-year-old junior at the The Bishop's School.

Renee combines her passion for serving the community with her heart for innovation. She founded SOS, the Story of the Streets, an organization whose mission is to alleviate the homelessness crisis in San Diego. Her RUBIX invention has been widely recognized at engineering and science fairs, architectural design competitions, and entrepreneurship challenges.

Renee explains RUBIX. "I wanted to address the root of the homelessness problem and create a better sheltering option. Inspired by Lego bricks and the Rubik's cube, my project RUBIX is probably the smallest version of a tiny home designed for the unhoused. Composed of 10 prefabricated interlocking modular components, RUBIX has its own kitchen and bathroom within the unit. To minimize its environmental impact, the product applies bamboo and recycled plastics as the main construction materials, and it runs entirely on solar power and an independent plumbing system. The modular concept makes fabrication, transportation, and installation cheaper and more efficient."

During the pandemic Renee organized monthly homeless outreach excursions to distribute food, masks, medication, and other necessities to people on the streets. She maintains a bi-weekly blog discussing the needs of homeless people, addressing biases in their communities, and bringing attention to the crisis.

Outside of her commitment to serve homeless communities, Renee also spearheads numerous endeavors for environmental protection. As a competitive junior golfer, Renee proposed environmental initiatives at the local golf courses to urge the reduction of water consumption on the fairways. Renee's blog, "Golf Industry and Its Irresponsible Water Consumption" raised environmental consciousness among the golfing communities of San Diego.

Most recently Renee was named a Rising Global Scholar, one of 100 youth awarded such distinction from a pool of 13,000 nominees from 43 countries.

Renee Wang receives the Remarkable Teen Award in the category of Innovation.



## **Commitment to Personal Excellence**

# **ANGEL MARTINEZ**

**Hoover High  
School**

Angel Martinez is a 17-year-old senior at Hoover High School.

Angel holds a Lieutenant Colonel role, the highest position a student can earn, in the Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps program (JROTC) at Hoover High School. He also holds a district level position in JROTC as the Liaison Officer, communicating with 13 San Diego Unified School District Principals to implement strong leadership roles for JROTC programs districtwide.

Angel says that over his lifetime, he has faced many adversities including other people doubting his ability to succeed. He says he no longer seeks validation from others but works every day to be a better version of himself. Angel's dad left the house when he was in the sixth grade and the separation of his parents led Angel to be his own motivator and push through despite the added challenge of needing to help his mom – a single parent who works two jobs to provide for Angel and his siblings.

Angel is a serious student and naturally takes leadership roles in the clubs and programs he is part of. From being co-founder of Hoover's Guitar Club, to participating on the academic team competing with other San Diego high schools in trivia and jeopardy tournaments - where he is proud to share that he has won a few times, to his involvement with the Ocean Discovery Institute, Angel is an exemplary young man.

Nominator Christina Contreras, College and Career Specialist at Hoover, says that Angel manages to stand out in every group interaction that she has observed him in. "When Angel is part of a group he is in command of the space in that room," Christina shares.

Angel tries his best to exemplify kindness and respect and honor in everything he does. He is committed to helping others achieve their dreams too. When he is teaching his JROTC cadets he reminds them that individual ambition comes second to teamwork. He would like to leave this as his legacy at Hoover. Angel's ambitious career goal is to graduate from Stanford University and work as a paramedic officer in the military.

Angel Martinez receives the Remarkable Teen Award in the category of Commitment to Personal Excellence.



## Entrepreneur

# EVAN NOSEWORTHY

## Classical Academy High School

Evan Noseworthy is an 18-year-old senior at Classical Academy High School.

Evan is an entrepreneur and metaverse architect. Metaverse architecture creates spaces where the real and the virtual world become one.

Evan is the founder and CEO of a metaverse development studio that takes ideas, brands, and companies and represents them across multiple platforms. Evan has spoken at numerous conferences and networking events such as NFT San Diego and Secret Knock. He is working with Eversmart City as their Metaverse head, to help create smart and sustainable cities in both the physical and digital world. He has built out over 25 unique metaverse experiences for clients worldwide.

Evan wants to make sure other students have the same opportunities as he has had and helps hire and train young people to build in the metaverse. He runs his own Junior Mastermind, and he founded Classical Academy's first ever Crypto Currency Club.

Things were not always easy for Evan. Evan writes, "Communication and connection were always a struggle for me. Connection is something I hold closest to my heart because I know how difficult life is without it. I started school in special education due to a speech disorder and ADHD. Eventually I was able to move into regular education and consistently worked to improve my speech and attention span. For the longest time I thought these things were a disability, a roadblock. I now understand that these "disabilities" made me into the confident person I am today. I now see ADHD as a superpower."

While school was difficult, bullying was brutal as Evan struggled with interaction. He worked on his communication skills and now considers them a strength. While it was hard for Evan to focus academically, he discovered that if he had a passion for something, he would become hyper-focused. He used his hyper-focus to push the cutting edges of technology and leap into the developing world of the metaverse. Evan believes that the metaverse is the next version of the internet with endless possibilities.

Evan Noseworthy receives the Remarkable Teen Award in the category of Entrepreneur.



## Journalism

# NICOLETTE LUNA

## Bonita Vista High School

Nicolette Luna is a 16-year-old junior at Bonita Vista High School.

When asked to share her passion, Nicolette answers, “Journalism”.

Nicolette took a Southwestern College journalism class when she was a 14-year-old freshman in high school, and by age 15 she was a News Editor at the Southwestern College Sun student newspaper. Her articles anchored the front page as she became an award-winning feature writer, and editorialist. As editor, she skillfully directed the work of college students, some of whom were twice her age.

Nicolette is a prolific writer often collecting five to six bylines per issue, including an especially inspiring series of interviews she did with Holocaust survivors. As a result of her hard work Nicolette was selected by students and faculty to serve as Editor-in-Chief of the 2022 Southwestern College El Sol Magazine.

Nicolette’s work was awarded three First Place spots at the recent Society of Professional Journalists Banquet, and she was invited to write an op-ed piece in the San Diego Union Tribune. The California College Media Association, San Diego Society of Professional Journalists, and the Journalism Association of Community Colleges have each given Nicolette multiple awards.

Professor of Journalism at Southwestern College, Dr. Max Branscomb, says, “Nicolette is a cauldron of light and inspiration at her high school, her college, and the regional journalism community.”

Nicolette’s goal is to work in the professional news media, first as a reporter, then as an editorial leader. She would like to become part of a vanguard of young Latinas working to diversify the American news media and improve its representation of underrepresented journalists.

Nicolette is on the Bonita High School Mock Trial team and in the Dog Pound club. She enjoys dance and is currently taking a class learning choreography. She is also committee chair for Bonitafest – a multi-day celebration of the rich culture and diversity of South County.

Nicolette Luna receives the Remarkable Teen Award in the category of Journalism.



## Social Justice

# Lea Nepomuceno

## Scripps Ranch High School

Lea Nepomuceno is a 16-year-old senior at Scripps Ranch High School.

Lea is constantly working to make San Diego County a safer, more equitable community.

In 2019, Lea co-founded Youth for Juvenile Justice Reform – interviewing over 200 formerly incarcerated individuals in efforts to educate youth on the criminal justice system. Through the organization, she has collaborated with artists and been featured as a panelist on the VIBE movements, “What’s color got to do with it? Dismantling the School-to Prison Pipeline” series in 2020 as well as Youth Summit NYC 2021. Lea is also the youngest member of the University of Southern California’s Prison Education Project.

To address urban gun violence and crime, Lea created the podcast, Evidence for Change, where she interviews alumni from the Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Violence Solutions Summer Youth Institute. Evidence for Change has over 15,000 listeners. In 2022, Lea was invited to President Biden’s signing ceremony of the bipartisan Safer Communities Act alongside the nation’s leading activists and policymakers on gun violence prevention. Since age 15, Lea has worked with the Brady’s team ENOUGH in its California Solutions Lobbying Collective (The only national, youth-led group lobbying lawmakers for gun reform in America). She was recently appointed to the Executive Council.

Lea has a philosophy about empathy vs. respect when working in the criminal justice system. “Guilty or not guilty, respect says *we care not for who you are or what you’ve done, but the humanity we share*” Lea says that respect is the foundation on which she is unafraid to ask the difficult questions: What led you to this point? How can I help?

Lea is a student board member of the San Diego Unified School Board where she created and chaired the first Police Youth Advisory Commission. Before being elected to the Board, she served in the district as student chair of the Independent Citizens Oversight Committee on Racial Justice and Equity.

Lea co-founded her school’s first student led printed publication, Wings Magazine. The Wings Magazine will be going districtwide this year.

Lea Nepomuceno receives the Remarkable Teen Award in the category of Social Justice.



## **Public Health: Women**

# **SOFIE MUNEER**

## **Canyon Crest Academy**

Sofie Muneer is a 17-year-old senior at Canyon Crest Academy.

Sofie is relentless in her drive to address the inequities and delivery in women's health.

At a young age, Sofie realized that women's health is often pushed to the edges of medical care and shrouded in stigma. Because of her personal experience with polycystic ovarian syndrome and endometriosis, Sophie came to learn that there was little data and research into the conditions in teens.

As a high school junior Sofie founded the nonprofit Endo Teen ([endoteen.org](http://endoteen.org)). Endo Teen is an easy-to-understand platform that includes summaries on different reproductive conditions, new research in the field, and a thorough analysis of gender inequality in healthcare. The first goal of Endo Teen is to make scientific research and medical information about women's health accessible, especially to teens.

Sophie is a member of the National Society of High School Scholars, The Society of Torch and Laurel, Sigma Xi, John Hopkins Center for Talented Youth, and the National Academy of Future Physicians.

Nominator Paromita Laskar, says "Sophie pushes herself hard to achieve her dream of providing equitable health care and to bridge the gap in clinical data for medical issues in women and communities of color."

Culture is important to Sofie. She is most sensitive to the issue of cultural misunderstanding having experienced it firsthand. As President of HPR Queens, a multicultural organization of strong women from the International Cottages in Balboa Park, she has found a way to embrace and share her culture. Sofie is Queen of the House of India and founder of the HPR Queens newsletter. Sofie is trained in Indian Classical Dance and has participated in dance competitions regionally and nationally.

Sofie shared a poem she wrote in context of the situation in Iran and all over the world. A few lines... "Or is there a way to spin without the lies, to spin the truth and prevent a family's cries. Can we keep the world spinning without our scared need to dominate? This is the question that faces us today. It is a question whose answer will always elude us. The light in the tunnel...or the darkness that destroys us."

Sophie Muneer receives the Remarkable Teen Award in the category of Public Health: Women.



## Musical Theatre

# BOBBY CONE

## San Diego School of Creative and Performing Arts

Roberto Cone is a 16-year-old sophomore at San Diego School of Creative and Performing Arts.

Roberto, known to family and friends as Bobby, is a performer. He became involved in musical theater at age eight and devoted himself to his craft. Despite facing academic challenges early on, Bobby found his passion in the arts. He committed to musical theater – specifically to acting and singing. Bobby couldn't read until third grade. He still struggles to read. But when he started acting, his resilience kicked in and Bobby's solution was to memorize his lines quickly. He found that memorizing lines came much easier to him than to other people.

Bobby says that music changes him. He says most people who don't know him well probably think he's shy. He admits he's quiet but says if he's given a play, a song, and a spotlight, he comes alive. Once his father told him that off stage, he is like Clark Kent but onstage he becomes Superman. Bobby says that just like the sun gives Superman strength and nobility, the spotlight gives him hope and joy.

Over the past several years, Bobby has played numerous parts in various plays produced by the California Youth Conservatory, Theatre Arts School of San Diego, San Diego Junior Theatre, and his own school, the San Diego School of Creative and Performing Arts.

Bobby has played Chuck the Dungeon Master in *She Kills Monsters*. He has been in the ensemble cast of *Tommy*, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, *Sleepy Hollow*, *The Wiz*, the *Jungle Book Musical* and many more productions. In 2021 Bobby received the San Diego School of Creative and Performing Art award for Outstanding Artist in Musical Theatre.

Bobby's nominator, Harini Raghupathi, says, "Despite facing academic challenges early on, Bobby found his passion in the arts. When he is on stage, he shines. He overcame his challenges with reading and found that he could be successful despite adversity. He also performs because the musical theater experience transports his audience to other worlds and broadens their horizons. Bobby embodies the idea of art as a connection."

Bobby Cone receives the Remarkable Teen Award in the category of Performing Arts: Musical Theatre.



## Perseverance

# JASMINE MATTHEWS

## The Preuss School

Jasmine Matthews is a 17-year-old senior at The Preuss School.

Jasmine is a young woman who maintains a positive outlook and attitude even when things are not going well in her personal life. She understands the importance of mental health and reaches out for support when things feel overwhelming. She is logical and straightforward with what she needs, and advocates for others when things don't seem to be right on campus. Her peers at Preuss admire her for her resiliency and respect her for her success because she has a story.

Jasmine has had to face many hardships in her young life. Jasmine was homeless during second and fourth grade, then returned to homelessness again for her entire junior year of high school. A critical time academically and emotionally. Returning to these circumstances was especially challenging mentally, having to adapt to a new routine every day as well as dealing with the feeling of hopelessness and a sense that this would be her life going forward. Toward the end of her junior year, Jasmine stayed with a friend so she would have an environment where she could finish her homework without the added stress of wondering where she was going to sleep.

Jasmine's family still struggles to get by, but Jasmine says she is grateful for what she has. She is in school seven hours a day and leaves the house at 6:15 a.m. for Preuss, taking 2 busses and two trolleys in her commute from El Cajon, then does it again at the end of the school day.

Through all these hardships, Jasmine has excelled academically. She has earned awards in Chemistry and Algebra and has been inducted into the Rho Kappa National Social Studies Honor Society. Jasmine is also a member of the Girls Varsity basketball team and is Co-President of the Black Student Union.

Jasmine's nominator, school counselor Allyson Cobbs, writes that Jasmine is accomplished, self-motivated, passionate, and responsible. "She continues to show resiliency, motivation and passion despite facing adversity."

Jasmine plans to attend UCLA and major in Film Studies with the hope of becoming a screenwriter.

Jasmine Matthews receives the Remarkable Teen Award in the category of Perseverance.



## Community Service

# LIVIA IACOBELLI

High Tech High  
School, North  
County

Livia Iacobelli is a 17-year-old senior at High Tech High School, North County.

In 10<sup>th</sup> grade, Livia launched a non-profit called the Student Healthcare Readiness Program (SHRP). The organization serves low-income youth with a desire to pursue a career in medicine. SHRP connects high school students with college mentors, hosts monthly keynote speakers, and presents workshops to educate students on the various facets of this career path. Livia leads group meetings, creates presentations, prepares assignments, and directs her SHRP staff. She has personally dedicated over 1,000 hours to the SHRP program since its inception.

As a volunteer at the La Jolla Institute for Immunology, Livia created a system which was used to breed the Double Reporter Mouse, a mouse that expresses fluorescent proteins for the imaging of NETs to use to model pulmonary thrombosis because of COVID-19.

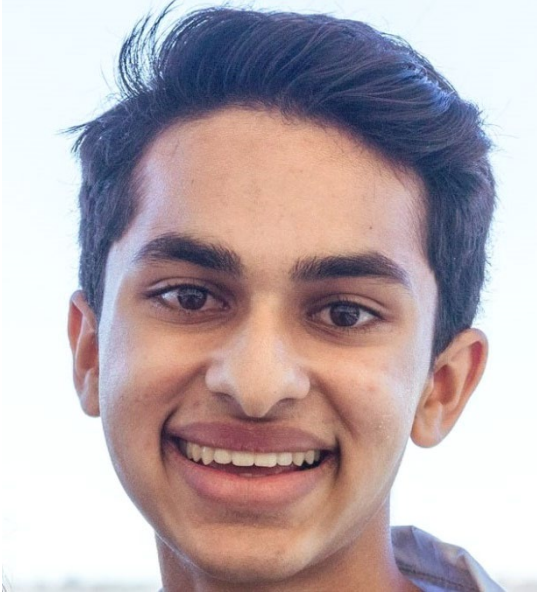
Livia also volunteers with the UCSD Healthcare Call Pool where she helps marginalized patients navigate the maze of the health care system: making sure patients know where to go, what to ask for, and what paperwork they need. Livia serves as “Google translator” and companion to many immigrants seeking care. Early on she recognized the need to be a voice for people who are often unheard and disregarded.

Livia has had a tremendous impact on fellow middle and high school students, especially through Key Club. Livia is the Key Club pioneer, creating the HTHNC Key Club entirely on her own. Because of Livia HTHNC now has a robust Key Club program with club officers and student leaders.

Livia also helps read books on Zoom to kindergarten students for Traveling Stories, and has volunteered at the Oceanside Mortuary, and the Jameson Lab at Cal State San Marcos.

Livia shares her thoughts on service. “I am lucky to have been raised in a household that emphasizes the importance of supporting those who don’t always have a voice. Assisting people through my time at UCSD Healthcare, my community through Key Club, and youth through my non-profit, all have given me an understanding of the importance of being that voice – especially for my future endeavors as a doctor.”

Livia Iacobelli receives the Remarkable Teen Award in the category of Community Service.



**Public Health:  
Innovation**

**ROSHAN  
SHAH**

**Westview High  
School**

Roshan Shah is a 17-year-old senior at Westview High School.

Roshan volunteered in classrooms for students with special needs and noticed that students with communication needs were not allowed to take their school issued communication devices (tablets, iPad, PCs) with them after high school graduation which meant they were left with no way to communicate online. Communication devices with an app can cost almost \$1,000 and many families cannot afford the expense. Roshan wanted to help so he worked with school officials to analyze the extent of the problem. This led him to create [VoicesGo.Org](http://VoicesGo.Org), a website rich with resources to make it easier for families to understand the avenues available to help fund and secure a device.

The VoicesGo mission statement reads: “We offer resources to students and school districts to empower people with disabilities to obtain a device through grants, scholarships, and loans when they leave a school district so they can continue to experience inclusion and to communicate fully.” [VoicesGo.org](http://VoicesGo.org)

VoicesGo has helped students obtain devices so they can participate in society, register to vote, gain employment, and interact with family and peers. The problem of leaving a public school district without a communication device affects thousands of students across California. Interested in systemic change, Roshan drafted a bill for the California State Legislature and has pitched his bill to members of the offices of both Senator Atkins and Assembly Member Maienschein. His proposed law would cost taxpayers nothing but would enable students with disabilities to procure a device before leaving public school. Roshan meets regularly with families and IEP providers to identify areas of need. He has even created a lending library for students who don’t yet have a device.

Nominator Kim Fleming, Special Education teacher at Westview shares what she believes sets Roshan apart from his peers. “Roshan has demonstrated flexible problem solving, sensitivity to vulnerable populations, and a desire to empower others through information. Roshan has gone above and beyond by proposing a law and meeting with elected officials to implement systemic change.”

Roshan Shah receives the Remarkable Teen Award in the category of Public Health: Innovation.



## Writing

**ELLA  
KIM**

**Francis Parker  
School**

Ella Kim is a 15-year-old junior at Francis Parker School.

As a Korean American, Ella is motivated to give voice to those whose silent struggles and difficulties she can understand. Ella believes that the simple act of seeing oneself reflected in the world, in any way, is inexplicably powerful, whether through music, writing or other mediums, and it is through both her stories and her actions that Ella wants to bring that vision to those around her.

Ella explains that when she was young, she never saw books that explained her culture or her history and later felt like she grew up missing that part of herself. Ella intends to address that deficiency through her Girl Scout Gold Award project by creating an illustrated children's book focused on the topic of Korean history. "I believe it is important for the generations after me to have access to resources that reflect and educate about that which is not often spoken," Ella says.

When asked about the accomplishment she is proudest of Ella offers the Parkers Writer's Circle which she created. Ella is also a member of her school's robotics team and a founding member of the National History Society Project, head of publicity on the Parker Community Engagement Board, and co-head of writing for the Culture of San Diego Club.

Nominator Kevin Dunn, Director of Community Engagement at Francis Parker, notes that "Ella's thoughtful introspection and work ethic set her apart. She is hardworking and kind at the same time. She is passionate about making a real impact – not only for Korean Americans who, like her, are struggling to better understand their identity, but also for non-Korean American students to help them better understand her community. A beacon of light in a very challenging time for teens."

In her poem, "To Fathom a Utopia", the final stanza encapsulates Ella's hopes and dreams for the world: "A world where opportunities are given out of potential rather than gender, where it doesn't matter what you identify as, Because You are You, and You matter simply because you are human, no strings attached."

Ella Kim receives the Remarkable Teen Award in the category of Writing.



## **Courage to Overcome Adversity: Family Situation**

# **ALURAH CHAPPELL**

**San Pasqual Academy**

Alurah Chappell is a 17-year-old senior at San Pasqual Academy.

Alurah is on track to attend college – hopefully UCSD – and she plans to be the first in her family to graduate from college. The path toward this goal has not been an easy one.

Alurah was sent to Polinsky Children’s Center just after she finished her freshman year of high school. She has been in the foster care system ever since.

Alurah grew up poor and in a bad neighborhood with gunshots firing every night. Family life was tumultuous, her father volatile, her brothers disinterested in school or learning. Alurah’s father looked to her to be different, the one everyone could count on to succeed. Alurah was the youngest in the family.

Alurah says that being away from the family allows her to understand what she wants from life and gives her the freedom to make her own decisions. On the other hand, being away from her parents means she must handle problems on her own without anyone to “save” her. “No matter what age you are when you come into the foster system, you are immediately forced to make life decisions that adults normally would make for a child,” Alurah writes in her essay.

Last year, Alurah reached a desperate low and decided she didn’t want to go on. She reached deep and found the strength to help her move through that awful time. Alurah believes she will now make it no matter what. She will step up. She will be an example.

Hard working and laser focused, Alurah has maintained a 4.0 GPA and received 10 awards in academic excellence. She has also played five different sports. This past summer, Alurah took and passed a difficult college class at Palomar College that allowed her to realize exactly what she is capable of.

Nominator Chris Toomey writes that Alurah “is determined – and even when she wants to give up, she never does. When she seems to hit a wall, she finds a way to go up and over it.”

Alurah Chappell receives the Remarkable Teen Award in the category of Courage to Overcome: Family Situation.



## **Performing Arts: Music**

# **MAKENA STUMPO**

## **Pacific Beach Middle School**

Makena Stumpo is a 13-year-old 8th grade student at Pacific Beach Middle School.

From a very young age, Makena has been drawn to music in all forms. He plays piano and guitar both by ear and by reading music, and he is a soulful vocalist. His music teacher shares that Makena has a special gift of being able to listen to a song and then replicate it perfectly on his piano or transpose it into a piece of his own.

Makena started performing in public in 2021 and within the last year has built a following in San Diego. He has performed at retirement homes and a variety of other venues.

Makena loves to play in public spaces for anyone to watch and listen. He also enjoys being a busker – a person who performs music in a public place for donations. This summer, with his parents by his side, Makena found a spot downtown, put a sign up that said the proceeds would go to the Prevent Drowning Foundation, and with his electric keyboard played music and sang. He raised \$200 through this effort.

Music teacher Naomi Smentkowski writes that Makena will often play a line of sheet music and then pause to gaze into space. A moment later, he will play a completely different song by ear, formulating new chords based off the sheet music because it reminds him of something. Naomi says “his attention to music composition and chord structure continually surprises me. I have never had a student like him before.”

Makena participates in San Diego Junior Lifeguards, a skill-based program, where each year the “Captain” award is presented to two of the top students. Representing leadership, compassion, and athleticism. Makena has earned this award three times. Makena also plays football, volleyball, and track and field.

Makena’s biggest fear is a world without music. He says he loves how music brings the world together. Makena plays drums, piano, and guitar.

What does Makena want to be when he grows up? “Happy,” he says.

Makena Stumpo receives the Remarkable Teen Award in the category of Performing Arts: Music.



## **LGBTQIA+ Activist**

# **LESLIE PAGEL**

## **Crawford High School**

Leslie Pagel is a 17-year-old senior at Crawford High School.

Leslie had a “quite graceful” experience growing up in Tijuana. Her early years were spent shifting between school and visiting San Diego to see family. Looking back, Leslie credits her parents for doing such a great job of isolating her from the violence and hatred that unfortunately became all too real when she turned 12 and came out as queer.

Throughout her middle school years in Mexico, Leslie was harassed, not only because of her identity but because of her body too. Verbal harassment and cruelty toward gay students was not only tolerated but openly condoned by school staff. According to Leslie, “even the principal of her school took the time to pass by every classroom just to “spit” on the gay community.”

In her freshman year, her family moved to the U.S. and Leslie found a sense of community at Crawford that she had never experienced before. Eventually she took on the role of President of the Gay Student Alliance (GSA), committed to teach members about the underrepresented LGBTQ history. Support from peers and teachers was something Leslie wished her former classmates in Tijuana could have experienced.

Leslie thrived at Crawford, and so did GSA. Inspired by this safe place within the school Leslie spent hours researching LGBTQ history to educate and engage GSA members and to spread information through crafting presentations, Jeopardy games, a Kahoot about pride flags, and other creative events.

Leslie’s other passion is art. As an artist, Leslie has attended workshops to learn from working artists and expand the media she is comfortable with. She earned recognition when she won the grand prize in San Diego Public Library’s Pride Card contest with her powerful design of trans pioneering advocate and icon, Marsha P. Johnson. Her portrait of Johnson is printed on library cards distributed citywide.

Librarian Francesca de Vera who leads the LGBTQIA Library Services Committee and worked closely with Leslie during the submission of her design says, “Leslie chose the design to celebrate once-silenced stories and to educate and empower her youth peers about LGBTQIA+ history.

Leslie Pagel receives the Remarkable Teen Award in the category of LGBTQIA+ Activist.



## **Technology: Robotics**

# **REED GANZER**

**Poway High  
School**

Reed Ganzer is a 16-year-old junior at Poway High School.

Reed served as outreach lead for two years on his robotics team, First Tech Challenge Cerulean Centaurs, and for two years on the Green Griffins robotics team. Since 2018, he has volunteered at over 80 outreach robotics events. He has mentored five younger First Lego league teams sharing his love for robotics and making certain that young participants have a successful robotics experience.

Concerned about the environment, Reed created the STEM to STEAM initiative in 2018 to repurpose waste from robotics competitions. Robotics competitions often require metal or plastic that are thrown out at the end of the competition season, so Reed partnered with local colleges and donated robotics materials destined for the landfill to art programs at San Diego State University and Southwestern College.

Reed stands apart in his unwavering commitment and willingness to inspire others. He presented at the 2022 San Diego Engineer's Week Festival and co-founded a Society of Women Engineers Club on his robotics team whose purpose is to increase the number of women who will advance in the field. Realizing the importance of representation, Reed educates him and others to promote equity, diversity, and inclusion in robotics. He mentors young students in computer programming through his after-school job at Code Ninjas in Poway.

Reed also plays the euphonium and won the Band Manager position in the Poway High Wind Ensemble 2 group. Reed believes that the best way to give back and create a better school community is to organize concerts, build school clubs, and inspire students to pursue paths in technology. Using the analogy of composing music Reed writes, "No matter what you have, give. Each effort moves things along and I work to encourage everyone to contribute their note to the composition."

Nominator, Dr. Tracy Nguyen of the Society of Women Engineers San Diego observes, "As a leader of clubs, initiatives and volunteer efforts, Reed Ganzer's leadership roles converge together to act as a force for change in his community. Reed is teen leadership at its best."

Reed Ganzer receives the Remarkable Teen Award in the category of Technology: Robotics.



**Environmental  
Activist**

**NAEEM  
MILLER**

**San Pasqual High  
School**

Naeem Miller is a 16-year-old junior at San Pasqual High School.

Naeem believes that everyone has the right to breathe clean air and drink clean water. He has volunteered with CleanEarth4kids for the past two years. CleanEarth4Kids is a non-profit dedicated to the preservation and maintenance of clean air and water, streams, rivers, oceans, public lands, forests, trees, wildlife, and ecosystems. The organization works at the local, state, and federal levels for change, and strives to protect air, water, children's health, and the environment through education.

Naeem estimates that he has spent 700 hours volunteering with CleanEarth4Kids. During that time, he has worked tirelessly to spread awareness and educate people about the dangers of secondhand smoke, toxic chemicals and pesticides, and pollution and plastics to public health and the environment.

Naeem has worked and spoken at events, activities, and meetings in San Diego and other cities to lobby for the passage of AB2771, the California PFAS-Free Cosmetic Act, to ban PFAS from personal care and beauty products, and AB1817, the California Safer Clothes and Textiles Act, to stop the use of all PFAS from clothing and textiles made and sold in California. He has also worked on legislation requiring a 3,200-foot buffer zone to protect homes, hospitals, schools, parks and other sensitive areas from oil and gas drilling, a law to require that schools install water refill stations in new construction and remodels, and a law that there be Environmental Justice and Tribal representation on California Water Boards.

Naeem recognizes many problems in the world are beyond his control, but he believes that there are other problems that he can address by speaking out and making the case for climate and the environment. He is dedicated to making a difference. Naeem regularly speaks at City Council meetings, school board meetings and to the County Board of Supervisors here in San Diego. Naeem believes that he must do whatever is necessary to preserve our planet.

Naeem's nominator, Suzanne Hume, educational director at CleanEarth4kids, says "Naeem cares deeply about people and the environment and works hard to help everyone."

Naeem Miller receives the Remarkable Teen Award in the category of Environmental Activist.



## **Public Defender's Award of Excellence**

# **ELLEN XU**

## **Del Norte High School**

Ellen Xu is a 17-year-old senior at Del Norte High School.

Inspired by her younger sister who was diagnosed with Kawasaki disease as a young child, Ellen began delving into significant research with the doctors and researchers at the UCSD Kawasaki Disease Research Center and Rady Children's Hospital. Ellen was an integral contributor to the development of an Artificial Intelligence image recognition algorithm early diagnostic tool for Kawasaki disease which is key to increased survival rates among young patients. Ellen has presented her findings at the International Kawasaki Disease Symposium in Tokyo, and at multiple other scientific conferences. Ellen has been inducted into the Sigma Xi Scientific Research Honor Society and has been honored with multiple awards.

While grateful for the recognition, Ellen's work is most meaningful to her because of the human lives she has affected. Ellen writes, "While the boundless magical capabilities of AI technology fuel my curiosity and creation, it's the deeply human that makes progress more meaningful. To touch someone else's life, to transform a shared reality - an unmet human need - into one of progress and meaning for an international community, to bring more hope and humanity amidst hardship, that is what defines the heart of my work."

In her free time, Ellen enjoys fencing saber, creative writing, solving puzzles, and building fun projects such as a geodesic dome in her backyard. Having fenced competitively for six years, Ellen has represented the US at the Romania Cadet World Cup and captained the Junior Olympic silver medalist team in 2020. Through Zipline Theory, an organization she started, Ellen enjoys teaching technology and led a cybersecurity program for girls of military families. At school, Ellen serves as Co-Editor in Chief for her school's literary magazine and on the PUSD Literature Adoption Committee, encouraging creative voices and a diverse literary canon.

Nominator Kathleen Marron, a Del Norte counselor says, "Ellen is relentless in her commitment to finding solutions to a variety of global challenges. She greets every day with a smile and a positive attitude with the goal of saving lives and expanding futures."

Ellen Xu receives the Remarkable Teen Award in the category of Public Defender's Award of Excellence.

# IN MEMORIAM

April 20, 1999 – Columbine High School – Columbine, Colorado – 13 Killed

January 14, 1999 – Deming Middle School – Deming, New Mexico – 1 Killed

March 5, 2001 – Santana High School – Santee, California – 2 Killed

January 16, 2002 – Appalachian School of Law – Grundy, Virginia – 3 Killed

April 14, 2003 – John McDonogh High School – New Orleans, Louisiana – 1 Killed

March 21, 2005 – Red Lake Senior High School – Red Lake, Minnesota – 10 Killed

October 2, 2006 – West Nickel Mines School – Bart Township, Pennsylvania – 6 Killed

April 16, 2007 – Virginia Polytechnic Institute – Blacksburg, Virginia – 32 Killed

February 14, 2008 – Northern Illinois University – DeKalb, Illinois – 6 Killed

February 27, 2012 – Chardon High School – Chardon, Ohio – 3 Killed

April 2, 2012 – Oikos University – Oakland, California – 7 Killed

December 14, 2012 – Sandy Hook Elementary – Sandy Hook, Connecticut – 28 Killed

June 7, 2013 – Santa Monica College – Santa Monica, California- 6 Killed

May 23, 2014 - University of California Santa Barbara – Isla Vista, California – 7 Killed

October 24, 2014 – Marysville Pilchuck High School – Marysville, Washington – 4 Killed

October 1, 2015 – Umpqua Community College – Roseburg, Oregon – 10 Killed

September 28, 2016 – Townville Elementary School – Townville, South Carolina – 2 Killed

September 13, 2017 – Freeman High School – Spokane, Washington – 1 Killed

November 14, 2017 – Rancho Tehama Elementary – Rancho Tehama, California – 6 Killed

December 17, 2017 – Aztec High School – Aztec, New Mexico – 2 Killed

January 23, 2018 – Marshall County High School – Draffenville, Kentucky – 2 Killed

February 14, 2018 – Marjory Stoneman Douglas High – Parkland, Florida – 17 Killed

May 18, 2018 – Santa Fe High School – Santa Fe, Texas – 10 Killed

May 7, 2019 – STEM School Highlands Ranch – Douglas County, Colorado – 1 Killed

November 14, 2019 – Saugus High School – Santa Clarita, California – 3 Killed

November 30, 2021 – Oxford High School – Oxford Township, Michigan – 4 Killed

May 24, 2022 – Robb Elementary School – Uvalde, Texas – 22 Killed

October 24, 2022 – Central Visual and Performing Arts High - St. Louis, Missouri – 3 Killed

# 25 MOST REMARKABLE TEENS IN SAN DIEGO

## SPECIAL GUESTS

Todd Gloria Mayor City of San Diego	Helen Robbins-Meyer Chief Administrative Officer for the County of San Diego
Council President Sean Elo-Rivera District 9 San Diego City Council	Council President Pro Tem Monica Montgomery Steppe District 4 San Diego City Council
Councilmember Raul Campillo District 7 San Diego City Council	Councilmember Marni von Wilpert District 5 San Diego City Council
Councilmember Joe LaCava District 1 San Diego City Council	Misty Jones, Director San Diego Public Library City of San Diego
Randy Mize Public Defender San Diego County	Kate Braner, Chief Deputy Primary Public Defender San Diego County
Richard Gates, Chief Deputy Multiple Conflicts Office – Major Cases San Diego County	Michael Garcia, Chief Deputy Office of Assigned Counsel San Diego County
Miwa Pumpelly, Chief Departmental Administrative Services San Diego County	Dr. Erin Richison Area Superintendent of High Schools San Diego Unified School District
Tina Douglas Interim Superintendent San Dieguito Union High School District	Moises G. Aguirre, Ed.D Superintendent Sweetwater Union High School District
Kimi Lochtefeld Executive Director Learning Support Services Poway Unified School District	Mary Beth Kastan Superintendent Grossmont Union High School District
Dr. Erin Richison Area Superintendent of High Schools San Diego Unified School District	Froylan Villanueva Principal Crawford High School
Stacey Perez Principal Classical Academy	Cynthia Larkin Principal Morse High School
Charles De Freitas Principal Hoover High School	Dianne Huslin Principal Olympian High School
Garry Thornton Principal Canyon Crest Academy	April Baker Principal West Hills High School
Kimberly Meng Principal Pacific Beach Middle School	Tessa Leon Counselor San Pasqual High School

