



For Immediate Release

Media Contact:
Kala Shah
kala@comheroes.org
415-577-3123

Local Families Band Together to Serve Up Kindness & Compassion for Fourth Annual Day of Giving

Community Heroes, a local nonprofit, is bringing together more than 300 volunteer students and parents from 10 Marin County schools to celebrate empathy and compassion for others through small acts of kindness

SAN RAFAEL, Calif., March 1, 2017 – The fourth annual **Day of Giving** is a way for families to experience the power of making a difference through community service, according to lead organizer, Kala Shah. Since its inception in 2014, the event has grown to include ever-greater numbers of like-minded parents and children who come together for projects including producing care kits for shelter residents, creating superhero capes for sick kids and beautifying local spaces. The event will take place on Sunday, March 5, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Marin County Office of Education and other venues around San Rafael.

Beyond the many service activities planned, the program will also feature conversations and storytelling by members of the Downtown Streets Team (which assists homeless and at-risk homeless), cancer survivors and social venture companies to help participants learn about the intricacies of homelessness and an array of ways to give back.

“Kindness and compassion are values that we all treasure and want to cultivate in our kids,” Shah said. “These kids are enthusiastic, excited to serve and have ever-growing hearts.”

The **Day of Giving** was borne out of [Community Heroes](#), a student service club started by Shah in 2012 at Sun Valley Elementary in San Rafael, where her children attend. The organization has received a \$10,000 LinkedIn Innovation grant and support from the Marin County Community Services fund to replicate the program at other schools in San Rafael and Novato. All five Community Heroes schools (Sun Valley, Dixie, Mary Silveira, Vallecito and Rancho) will participate on Sunday, along with representatives from several other Bay Area partner schools, who have shown interest in adopting the program.

“At a time when traditional service clubs are finding volunteer recruitment a challenge,” Marin County Superintendent Mary Jane Burke said, “Community Heroes offers a unique grow-your-own approach, with the Day of Giving bringing all participating schools together. It’s inspiring to see such passion for giving taking shape within our schools.”

Media Availability: Sunday, March 5, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Marin County Office of Education, 1111 Las Gallinas Ave., San Rafael

Day of Giving Projects (listed below):

Registration and opening program at 9 a.m. on Sunday, March 5, at the Marin County Office of Education, 1111 Las Gallinas Ave., San Rafael. Teams will launch into projects at 9:45 a.m. and reconvene at noon to debrief and share stories. Onsite projects at MCOE include:

- **Making superhero capes for hospitalized youth at [UCSF Benioff Children's Hospitals of San Francisco and Oakland](#)**
- **Assembling shelter comfort kits for domestic violence victims and homeless shelter residents and having conversations with those being served, benefiting [Center for Domestic Peace](#), [Downtown Streets Team](#), [Homeward Bound of Marin](#), [Marin County Veterans Service Office](#), [St. Vincent's](#), and [California Reentry Institute](#)**
- **Random acts of kindness: making a craft and delivering it to unsuspecting seniors at a retirement home and strangers in the community**
- **Creating reading mats for local preschools from recycled T-shirts**

Offsite projects (first gathering at MCOE at 9 a.m. and reconvening at noon):

- **Habitat restoration and cleanup at McInnis Park (310 Smith Ranch Rd., San Rafael) in cooperation with [Marin County Parks](#)**
- **Book sorting, labeling and distribution to benefit underserved children at [Global Book Exchange](#) (852 Del Ganado Road, San Rafael)**

For more information: [Marin IJ 2016 article](#), [Marin IJ 2014 article](#) and [2014 Day of Giving video](#), www.comheroes.org, <http://comheroes.org/dayofgiving2017-savethedate.pdf>

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