

**For Immediate Release**



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## **KIDS TAKE CHARGE TO SERVE UP KINDNESS & COMPASSION FOR FIFTH ANNUAL COMMUNITY HEROES ‘DAY OF GIVING’**

*Community Heroes, a local nonprofit grooming young philanthropists and social activists, is bringing together hundreds of volunteer students and parents from Marin County schools to celebrate gratitude and compassion for others through their annual service event.*

**SAN RAFAEL, Calif., February 28, 2018** – With national headlines highlighting the loss of compassion and kindness in our society, one local organization is striving to shift culture from ME to WE by making community service easy and fun for the whole family. Community Heroes’ signature event, the fifth annual [Day of Giving](#), is a way for families to experience the joy and power of making a difference through community service, according to event founder Kala Venugopal Shah.

Since its inception in 2014, the Day of Giving has brought together hundreds of students and their families each year for projects including making meals and care kits for shelter residents, creating superhero capes for sick kids and beautifying local spaces. **The event will take place on Sunday, March 4, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Marin County Office of Education** and other venues around San Rafael. Community Heroes schools including Sun Valley, Dixie, Mary Silveira, Vallecito Elementaries, along with partner schools Marin Academy and Mark Day School, will participate Sunday.

The Day of Giving was borne out of [Community Heroes](#), a student service club started by Sun Valley Elementary parent Kala Shah in 2012. This year’s program will feature middle and high school students taking the lead on several of the projects, some of whom have been participating in Community Heroes programs from its early days. “We are cultivating compassionate leaders and social activists through our elementary school program and finding that by the time the students hit middle school, they are ready to take on bigger and more sophisticated efforts serving their community.” Shah said. “We light the spark, provide guidance, and keep it fun to help create a lifelong love of service for these kids.”

### **Day of Giving Service Projects:**

*Registration and opening program at 9 a.m. on Sunday, March 4, 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 12 noon to debrief and share stories. Onsite projects at MCOE include:*

- **Act Local, Think Global Meal Prep:** 8<sup>th</sup> grader from Mark Day School demonstrates social enterprise [Wonderbag](#) and leads meal preparation, that will be delivered and served by students directly to residents of Homeward Bound’s Voyager Carmel facility.
- **Making superhero capes and comfort blankets** for hospitalized youth at [UCSF Benioff Children’s](#)

## Hospitals of San Francisco and Oakland

- **Assembling shelter care and comfort kits** for domestic violence victims and homeless shelter residents benefiting [Center for Domestic Peace](#), [Downtown Streets Team](#) and [Homeward Bound of Marin](#).
- **Random acts of kindness:** Making crafts and delivering to seniors at Alma Via retirement home and making gratitude packets for firefighters at local area fire stations.
- **Creating pet toys** to benefit [Marin Humane Society](#)
- **Making art kits for seniors** battling memory loss served by [Senior Access](#)

*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](#)
- **Community Building with Homeward Bound's Oma Village residents: a Gratitude Project:** Following a conversation about homelessness, the group will head to Oma Village to jointly make cards and banners for kids at UCSF Oakland/SF along with OV residents

**Media Availability:** Sunday, March 4th, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Marin County Office of Education, 1111 Las Gallinas Ave., San Rafael

**For more information:** [Marin IJ 2016 article](#), [Marin IJ 2014 article](#) and [2014 Day of Giving video](#), [www.comheroes.org/dayofgiving](http://www.comheroes.org/dayofgiving), Follow @BeComHeroes

## **About Community Heroes: Inspiring ACTION through KINDNESS and COMPASSION**

[Community Heroes](#), a 501(c)(3) non-profit, is a school-based program grooming young philanthropists and social activists with the inspiration, skills and tools to be enthusiastic, effective, positive agents of change. We empower students with skills including problem-solving and project execution, while contributing to social-emotional development. We lead facilitated lunch-clubs, video and social media storytelling workshops, student-inspired fundraisers and service events.

“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.”

The organization has received a \$10,000 LinkedIn Innovation grant and support from the Marin County Community Services fund to help grow and replicate the program at other schools in San Rafael and beyond.

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