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San Jose Unified Council of PTAs
2011–2012 Outstanding Service Award Honorees

Allen at Steinbeck K-8 PTA – María Sandoval

“María Sandoval is one of Allen at Steinbeck’s outstanding parent volunteers. In addition to helping with Art Vistas in her son’s classroom, María has played an integral role in SELAC, serving as Secretary and Vice President. María has also been fundamental in the development of both our Los Dichos and Ballet Folklórico programs, serving as the chairperson for the last 3 years.”

— Laura Kitagawa, President, Allen at Steinbeck K-8 PTA

Almaden Elementary PTA – Kathryn Torrez

“Kathryn has always gone above and beyond for our PTA events. We can always depend on her to think of everything for an event and to carry it out successfully. She has been a dedicated board member for the past few years and did an amazing job this year as VP of Fundraising.”

— Melinda Mendolla, President, Almaden Elementary PTA

*Bachrodt Charter Academy PTA – Sydney Bays, Linda Dattilo,
and John Gutierrez*

“John, Linda and Sydney are all staff members (John is our DOP Counselor, Linda teaches 1st Grade and Sydney teaches 3rd Grade) who have continuously served and supported Bachrodt Charter Academy’s PTA for several years. All have held numerous positions on the Executive Board of our PTA and unselfishly give their time and efforts in supporting our students and staff. All three of them make up our event “one dollar food crew” as they are our “go to” people for our concession stands at all events! Thank you to John, Linda and Sydney for all of your support! ”

— Kari Barton, President, Bachrodt Charter Academy PTA

Rachel Carson Elementary PTA – Gaetane Thibaudeau

“We are lucky to have Gaetane at our school. She has overcome all barriers to be here for everyone of our children, and the countless hours she has spent at school are exemplary!! No job is too small or too big for her.”

— Sheetal Singhal, President, Rachel Carson Elementary PTA

Anne Darling Elementary PTA – Ana Frias

“Ana Frias is a great person who has helped and done so much for Anne Darling students and is always available to help me or anyone who needs it. She always helps out at our movie nights and any event that we have, not to mention she knows just about every student’s name here at Anne Darling.”

— Michelle Blanco, President, Anne Darling Elementary PTA

Empire Gardens Elementary PTA – Julia Martínez

“Julia is a dedicated soccer mom with two boys. She is always willing to help at school events. Julia believes in higher education and participates in classes to become a better parent. She has also helped initiate an art program twice a week at Empire, which the kids love.”

— Empire Gardens Elementary School

Hammer Montessori and Galarza Elementary PTA,

Galarza – María Espinosa

“Maria is one of those parents that works behind the scenes. She has been advocating for the PTA in her many ways... She is always there for events and pitches in. She also makes it clear to parents how important the PTA is. She is on SSC, SELAC, and committees at the district. We are blessed that she is on our slate for next year's board.”

Hammer Montessori – Cliff Price

“Cliff has been one of those parents that when you ask him to do something he says "Of course!" He is the resident DJ that keeps our feet moving at the Walk-A-Thon and our family events. He volunteers at our after school robotics club and is the camera man for our CreaTV digital camera. We are very lucky at Hammer to have him!”

— Sherri Taylor, President, Hammer Montessori and Galarza PTA

Los Alamitos Elementary PTA – Jennifer Simmons

“Los Alamitos is grateful for Jennifer Simmons’ years of service developing a site improvement plan and chairing the committee for the last few years. Our campus has never looked better! She and another mom started the Site Improvement committee a few years back to elevate the looks of our school to reflect the pride our community has in Los Alamitos. She has championed the committee solely for the last two years. The change has been visible to everyone who visits. We will miss her, but the results of her hard work will always serve as a reminder of the impact she made at our school.”

— Marybeth Torpey, President, Los Alamitos Elementary PTA

Reed Elementary PTA – Monika Ryser

“Monika Ryser has been instrumental in the wonderful art education enjoyed by Reed students. First an Art Vistas docent, she later became chair and greatly expanded/improved both the program and our annual art show. Now our VP Programs, she's very involved in Reed's reading rewards program. She helps with kindergarten tours/orientation, and has been costume coordinator and rehearsal assistant for our school plays and variety show. She helps wherever needed, and always with a smile!”

— Leigh Dewis, President, Reed PTA

Simonds Elementary PTA – Lisa King

“Lisa King has been chosen for this award for her overall dedication to our school. She has been involved with Art Vistas, book fairs, classroom mom, foundation, and PTA. She has been VP of Fundraising for our Music and Technology Foundation, and is responsible for the ongoing success of raising the needed funds for our these programs at Simonds.”

— Mary Mate, President, Simonds Elementary PTA

Terrell Elementary PTA – Lailani Madruga

“Terrell PTA would like to honor Lailani Madruga. Lailani is an outgoing fifth grade parent. During the time her children have been at Terrell she has held many positions: PTA treasurer, School Uniforms Chair, Box Tops for Education Chair, and Fundraising for Science Camp Chair. She also implemented our Fall Festival that we now hold after our school wide walkathon.”

— Terrell Elementary PTA

Willow Glen Elementary PTA – Bob Shelby

“WGE-PTA would like to honor Bob Shelby with the Outstanding Service Award. Bob is the parent of a 5th grade student and during his years as a member of our elementary school PTA has been a inspiring volunteer. He helped form a student recycling group, assists with band practice before school, helps with student opera and theater productions, and is an ABC Cornerstone volunteer. He is one of the most spirited parents around, helping to design and lead our school's contingent in our neighborhood annual parade (which focused one year on renewable energy), and making regular announcements during weekly assemblies about upcoming events. He is instrumental on campus clean up days, and often can be seen around campus picking up trash in the school yard with his tongs. His positive attitude, calm yet enthusiastic presence, and his bounding spirit makes him much beloved by students, staff and parents. He truly is a role model for service to our school and to the larger community.”

— Lee Anna Botkin, President, Willow Glen Elementary PTA

Castillero Middle PTSA – Peggy Hertzberg

“Peggy is committed to the goals of Project Cornerstone which is helping all children feel valued, respected and known. Thank you, Peggy, for being Castillero's asset building champion!!”

— Wendy Walker, President, Castillero Middle PTSA

Hoover Middle PTSA –

“Holly (Margaret) has been such an asset to Hoover's PTSA! She is an amazing PTSA mentor, maintains a presence on campus during school days, chaperones on field trips, and goes beyond the call of duty for our school.”

— Audrey Doyle, President, Hoover Middle PTSA

John Muir Middle PTSA – Lisa Atencio

“Lisa s not only a very valuable member of our PTSA, but a dear friend of mine. She always steps up to help out even when she is busy with her own work as ASB clerk at John Muir.”

— Lauri Tatum, Muir PTA President

Willow Glen Middle PTA – Tamsen McGinley

“Tamsen has been tirelessly dedicated to the roles of Treasurer, President and Parliamentarian not only for the past three years at Willow Glen Middle School, but previously at Hammer Montessori. She makes a perfect PTA board member who strives for excellence and a strong relationship between principal, parents and teachers. Her work ethics are remarkable, she's incredibly kind and always with a smile even after crunching numbers for hours for our team! I truly value our collaboration and friendship.”

— Severine Secret, President, Willow Glen Middle PTA

Gunderson High PTSA – Rob Iverson

“Rob Iverson is a dedicated and hard working teacher and advisor at Gunderson high School. Rob has taught for many years within the Science department, and he oversees our Leadership program which is responsible for a variety of student activities such as dances, rallies, etc. Rob has worked closely with the PTSA. He even took on coaching our JV Girls Soccer team this year and was able to help the players develop their skills in the game.”

— Pam Greene, President, Gunderson High PTSA

Lincoln High PTSA – Holly Aspiras

“This lady has been involved in school parent groups for many years. She has served in many elected positions and several appointed positions over the last six years in PTSA at Hoover Middle School and Lincoln High school. Any position she accepts she completes with dedication, calmness and humility. She stands for justice, equality, and peace. She is a true friend and upstander for all, especially children. I present to you, Holly Aspiras!”

— Linda Funk, President, Lincoln PTSA

Pioneer High PTSA – Candyce O'Malley

“Candyce has been a wonderful volunteer for many things here at Pioneer. She is very reliable and is great to work with. We all appreciate her dedication!”

— Lisa Haslemann, President, Pioneer High PTSA

San Jose High PTSA – Lorraine Winings

“Lorraine is a former parent and PTSA member. This year she stepped up to assist in getting PTSA up and running again. She organized the books and has served as the treasurer. She is much appreciated!”

— San Jose High PTSA

San Jose Unified Council of PTAs – Jil Musco

“Former Council president Jil Musco has been our behind-the-scenes #1 Bylaws Reader this year, and we appreciate her so much! Thank you, Jil!”

— Christine Gray, President, San Jose Unified Council of PTAs