



Miracle League of San Diego Honors Graduating Seniors

SAN DIEGO, CA – October 16, 2014 – The Miracle League of San Diego recently awarded scholarships to seven local students recognizing their exceptional service to special needs athletes. All seven graduating seniors were awarded the Outstanding Service Award for their leadership skills on and off the field and their commitment to Miracle League. The Miracle League of San Diego provides the opportunity for special needs children to experience the fun of playing organized baseball at two locations in San Diego County: Engel Family Field, a Little Padres Park, at San Dieguito Park in Solana Beach and Coronado Green Field at Coronado High School in Coronado. Students and adults serve as coaches and buddies, assisting the athletes in the dugout, around the field and at bat.

Recipients for the Outstanding Service Award are Olivia Angelino, Jordan Engel, Ari Lew, Jamie MacDonald, Ethan Rappaport, John Schade and Molly Stead. In addition to the award plaque each of the Miracle League scholarship recipients received a \$250 check.

Olivia Angelino is a senior at Coronado High School. She is a buddy for Steven Dixon and Camden Hauer at Green Field since Spring of 2013. She is passionate about being a buddy with the Diamondbacks and helping others, whether at a Miracle League game or as a teacher's assistant for special needs children at Coronado Elementary School during their 2012 summer enrichment program. She excels with a cumulative, weighted GPA of 4.42 and has been involved in her school's Associated Student Body (ASB) for all four years of high school. She is the current President of the CHS National Honor Society, the student representative for the Coronado Schools Foundation, the Vice President of Mu Alpha Theta (mathletes), and an active member of the Coronado Octagon Club. Olivia received the Saint Anselm College Book Award at the end of her junior year for excellence in leadership and academics.

Jordan Engel has been a buddy for each of the Miracle League's 16 seasons, all but two with Jenny Wolford, with the exception of one year when Jenny moved to Texas and Jordan buddied for another player. Jordan is a senior at Canyon Crest Academy and has maintained a weighted GPA of 4.375 over her last two years. She volunteers after school at Solana Highlands as an aid in the Learning Center, in a kindergarten room and with the reading coach. She has attended Camp Hess Kramer in Malibu since she was in second grade, and this past summer was a Counselor in Training. She is interested in many of the UC schools, with her first choices being Berkeley and UCLA, in addition to some east coast schools such as the University of Pennsylvania and Georgetown University. She hopes to study psychology and pursue a research oriented career.

Ari Lew has been a buddy for five years and on the Rays team for 8 seasons. Not only has Ari committed himself to countless Saturdays with MLSD, he has also started and runs an



Organization called Orphanages in Tijuana. The organization works with orphanages to provide them with opportunities to go to the beach, movies, and other activities. Ari is in the process of applying to several difference colleges including John Hopkins. He has shown interest in studying Environmental Science but has not decided on a major yet.

Jamie MacDonald has been involved with the Miracle League since its inaugural season eight years ago, and has been a buddy every season since. Two years ago she assumed the responsibility of being an intern at the Miracle League where her leadership skills have blossomed. Jamie is active outside of school and the Miracle League. For over a year, she has worked as a volunteer on the Orthopedic Floor at Scripps Hospital. She is also active in her National Charity League chapter, from which Jamie has earned many leadership and philanthropic awards for volunteering over 100 hours a year. In her NCL class, Jamie has held an office every year since 7th grade. Last summer, Jamie attended a National Leaders Conference In Health Programs at the University Of Washington. School is very important to Jamie. She has taken many AP classes, and this summer earned an AP Scholar award from the College Board. She is currently applying to colleges and plans to pursue a career in the medical field.

Ethan Rappaport has been a buddy for the Miracle League since inception. He is a senior at Canyon Crest Academy, where he has been the Creative Director of *Pulse Magazine* for the last two years. Ethan has also been part of the student run coffee house, *The Nest*, since his freshman year, and served as COO last year. He volunteers with the San Dieguito Alliance for a Drug Free Youth, speaking to students about choosing a drug and alcohol free lifestyle. Ethan received the Rotary Youth Leadership Award (RYLA) for outstanding school and community leadership. He is also an accomplished musician, playing guitar, piano and a variety or percussion instruments, including the cajon. He was part of a duo that played several dates at the San Diego County Fair this past summer, and is part of the Kavannah music ensemble at Temple Solel.

John Schade has been a Baseball Buddy with the Marlins every season since the Opening Day of Miracle League of San Diego in May 2007. He has been extremely fortunate to be a buddy for the same team, the Marlins, every season since opening day. He values the friendships and bonds he has made with the Marlins family and enjoys watching the player's excitement playing the game. He was a player in the Solana Beach Little League when he started volunteering as a baseball buddy for Miracle League. John is a senior at Canyon Crest Academy were he is a multisport athlete in water polo and soccer and a 2014 Union Tribune CIF All-Academic Team member for soccer. John plays competitive soccer with San Diego Football Academy and has been a member of the CCA Surf Team for 3 years. John recently was named a 2014 AP Scholar. After high school, John plans to study architecture in college. Some of his top college choices include Cal Poly, UC Berkeley, Cooper Union and Washington University St. Louis.



Molly Stead is a senior at Santa Fe Christian school. She has been a buddy on the storm team for six years. Molly is also a dedicated member of the Del Norte Chapter of National Charity League where she has donated over 400 hours of service! Molly is also very active with her church and school where she has participated in mission trips to Russia, Hungary and France. She also volunteers as a tutor at Casa Amistad with children who need help with their English and their homework. At school Molly is editor of the yearbook and a member of the tennis team. Molly plans to attend a 4-year college and major in either communications or special needs education.