



Miracle League of San Diego Honors Graduating Seniors

SAN DIEGO – November 4, 2013 – 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 because of their commitment and dedication to the Miracle League. The Miracle League of San Diego provides the opportunity for children with intellectual and/or physical challenges 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 Carmen Andrews, Jessica Sloan, Ricky Corbin, Hannah Kurtin, Chris Lynn, Grace Backer and Matt Fornaca. In addition to the award plaque the Miracle League scholarship recipients receive a \$250 check.



Carmen Andrews is a Senior at Murrieta Valley High School and has been a consistent buddy on the Mets for 7 seasons. Carmen has shown exceptional leadership skills throughout the years on and off the field. Carmen is also active in her school's MCJROTC Program is currently serving as the program's Supply and Logistics Officer. Carmen was also awarded Daughters of the American Revolution JROTC Bronze Medal for Meritorious Service.

Jessica Sloan is a senior at High Tech High and has been a consistent buddy on the Mets for at least 7 seasons. Jessica has built a great relationship with her buddy Emma Wells and the Wells family. Additionally, Jessica went to Ghana for a month-long trip to conduct community development work. She also consistently volunteers at a downtown homeless shelter where she helps run its clothing distribution program. Jessica is the Ambassador Coordinator and the Head Chair of High Tech Student Senate.

Ricky Corbin has been a buddy for the Storm team for seven years. While he is primarily his sister Kayla's buddy he is also friends with every other member of the team. Ricky attends Torrey Pines High School where he is a member of Best Buddies clubs, attending weekly meetings and other social events with the special needs students on campus. Since he was 14, Ricky has volunteered at the weeklong Easter Seals camp and this past summer was promoted to Camp Counselor.

Hannah Kurtin has been her sister's buddy on the Storm team since its inception seven years ago. Hannah attends the San Diego Jewish Academy where she has participated on the volleyball and golf teams and is Captain for girls cross country and basketball teams. Hannah was nominated by



her peers at school and won the Derekh Eretz award, an award given to the most compassionate student on campus. Hannah also volunteers with Challenger basketball and participated in a friendship circle day camp this summer.

Chris Lynn is currently a senior at Coronado High School. He has a 3.5 GPA, plays the alto saxophone for the school pep and concert bands, is a member of the National Honor Society (NHS), and plays on the school baseball team. He also has Tourette's syndrome, epilepsy, and ADHD. Chris has been a coach for the ML South Bay White Sox for 3 seasons. Chris petitioned to have Coronado High School's (CHS) National Honor Society add Miracle League as an approved Volunteer opportunity. Once approved, he held information sessions for anyone at CHS interested in Miracle League.

Grace Backer is a Senior at Cathedral Catholic High School and a buddy for the Twins team. At Cathedral she has been an Ambassador for 3 years, and has played JV basketball Freshman and Sophomore year and Varsity basketball her Junior year. Grace is a member of National Honor Society. She has received academic awards her freshman, sophomore and junior year.

Matthew Fornaca is a senior at Cathedral Catholic High School and has volunteered for ML for four years, two of which he has been an intern. Matthew has played football all four years for Cathedral Catholic High School. He has also been a member of the CCHS Ambassadors for Christ Corps, since sophomore year. Additionally, Matthew is a member of the National Honor Society and the California Scholastic Federation.

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