

SPARKS OF CHANGE

NEIGHBORHOOD LEADERSHIP PROGRAM ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT REPORT
2017



The Neighborhood Leadership Program

LONG BEACH
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
BUILDING A BETTER LONG BEACH



CITY OF
LONG BEACH

andeavor

Neighborhood Leadership Program (NLP) Neighborhood Leader Achievement Dinner

Monday, January 8, 2018 -- 5:30 pm – 8:00 pm

The Grand Long Beach, 4101 E. Willow St.

Sponsored by Andeavor Foundation

On behalf of the Long Beach Development Services Housing and Neighborhood Services Bureau, I am pleased to welcome you to the Neighborhood Leadership Program (NLP) Neighborhood Leader Achievement. This dinner is made possible by the generous support of the Andeavor Foundation!

This is an opportunity to recognize and celebrate neighborhood leaders for all your hard work. The dinner kicks off recruitment of new leaders to participate in the Neighborhood Leadership Program's Class of 2018.

The Neighborhood Leadership Program thrives with the active involvement of neighborhood leaders engaged in recruiting and training new leaders in our community. Your participation will help us to continue this critically acclaimed program. The success of the program is due to the hard work of staff and volunteers who work tirelessly and include participants that reflect the diversity of our city. Thank you for inviting a friend or family member who is a potential candidate to our Neighborhood Leader Achievement dinner. You all are an inspiration to show how ordinary people can do extraordinary things to make Long Beach a better place to live. Enjoy this evening of food, friends, and fun!

Margaret Madden

Neighborhood Improvement Officer
Neighborhood Leadership Program, Class of 1994

This report was designed by ***Emily Kiwa Tanaka*** (Class of 2011). Follow her on instagram @foam_kiwa or contact her at 562.458.6509 for assistance with your printed matter. #thefutureisfolded

Sparks of Change

This issue of the Neighborhood Leadership Program Alumni Achievement Report highlights the work of Long Beach's neighborhood stars: our graduates! This year, we celebrate the Neighborhood Leadership Program's partnership with the Andeavor Foundation and the priceless contributions and impacts Long Beach grass-roots neighborhood leaders have in roles as neighborhood association presidents, clean-up volunteers, tree planters, historic preservationists, community volunteers, and many others!

CLASS OF 1992

Bryant Ben teaches free Khmer classes at the Mark Twain Neighborhood Library. Long Beach is home to one of the largest populations of Cambodians outside Cambodia. He also volunteered to help the library digitize Cambodian collections so that the Cambodian population could feel a sense of home. On July 17, 2017, Bryant was part of the Long Beach Public Library delegation that received the 2017 National Medal for Museum and Library Service, the nation's highest honor. The medal was awarded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) at the National Archives Museum in Washington D.C. The ceremony emphasized the enduring and evolving relevance of libraries in our nation, highlighted emphatically by the event's guest speaker, journalist and author, Cokie Roberts. For 10 years, Bryant has applauded the library's services and actively encourages others to find their own place at the library by utilizing collections, services, and programs that can help transform their lives.

CLASS OF 1994

Linda Palacios serves as the President of the Washington School Neighborhood Association.

CLASS OF 1997

Sharon McLucas serves as the Founder of Forgotten Images, a traveling education exhibit that includes African-American artifacts from the 1600's to present day. They hosted a Black History Month exhibit in February 2017 with the Andy Street Community Association. The exhibit was featured on KTLA News. Sharon also serves as the Historian of the National Council of Negro Women, Inc. Long Beach Section.

Jo Murray volunteered at the "Bite of Reality" financial literacy training at Jordan High School on December 6, 2017. She continues to write her weekly column in the Grunion Gazette

and last year her February video on Long Beach Filming locations for La La Land went viral. In addition to Jo's volunteer hours at the Assistance League (ALLB) Thrift and Vintage Shop on funky 4th Street, she chairs the nominating committee for the Long Beach Boy Scouts Board, bringing diversity to the board.

Her work with the Long Beach Salvation Army Board is helping them reach their capital funding goals. The Aquatic Capital of America Foundation was thankful for Jo's work on securing a location for the group's Hall of Fame, and her on-going work with Steel Magnolias benefits the Stramski Center at Miller Children's.



Bryant Ben (Class of 1992) part of the Long Beach Public Library delegation that received the 2017 National Medal for Museum and Library Service



Lillian Villa-Quintero (Class of 2005) , **Colleen McDonald** (Class of 2005) and **Mharljoy Mendoza-Macias** (Class of 2011) at Wrigley River Run's Pizza Pig Out Event on June 2, 2017

CLASS OF 1998

Val Lerch serves as the President of Good Neighbors of North Long Beach. Val also serves as Chair of the Long Beach Veterans Day Parade Committee and organized the Annual Long Beach Veteran's Day Parade. Val also serves as Procurement Treasurer for the VA Hospital of Long Beach's Veterans' Day Independence Day Celebration. The group served a BBQ lunch on the Fourth of July at the VA Hospital to 2,400 people! Val also serves on the Advisory Council for US Vets, and the Military Advisory Council for Habitat for Humanity's Greater Los Angeles Chapter.

Rocio Torres serves on the Board of the AOC7 neighborhood association and volunteers at their group's monthly neighborhood clean-up events and neighborhood improvement projects. She helped to write a Neighborhood Partners Program (NPP) Grant. The grant was for a series of projects, including the installation of new vinyl art wraps on four traffic control boxes on 10th Street, eight neighborhood identifier signs, and the installation of two electronic radar speed signs. The grant also funded a planting day event to plant 5,000 rosemary plants inside the sidewalk cuts for 100 I Dig Long Beach street trees that were planted over the past three years.

Rocio is also the school counselor at Roosevelt Elementary School and recruited several Neighborhood Leadership Program alumni to participate in Roosevelt's 2nd Annual Career Day that she hosted on Friday, February 24, 2017. Rocio also organized Roosevelt Elementary School & Food Finders "Food for Kids Walkathon & Food Drive" on Sunday, March 19, 2017 at Chittick Field.

CLASS OF 1999

Martha Cota was recognized by Assemblymember Patrick O'Donnell, as a Woman of the Year at the 70th Assembly District's annual Women of Distinction event on March 23, 2017. Martha is the founding director of Latinos in Action, a local organization that encourages civic engagement among Latino parents and offers leadership development to foster the next generation of Latino leaders. Martha Cota and Latinos in Action organized the groups 10th Annual Health Fair that took place on Saturday, September 16, 2017, in the Roosevelt Linden neighborhood.

Marcos Lopez worked as Director of Homeowner Relations for Habitat for Humanity of Greater Los Angeles and served on Safe Long Beach's Safe Communities Working Group.

CLASS OF 2003

Ines Echegaray serves at the Vice President for the Ridgewood Heights Neighborhood Association and as a leader for the Lightening and Waku Koda Camp Fire Boys and Girls. She and her groups partnered with Neighborhood Services to host an I Dig Long Beach tree planting event in Ridgewood Heights on Saturday, November 18, 2017, and have pledged to water and care for the 44 newly planted trees for the first year.

Coby Skye is serving as the Chair of the Sustainable City Commission. Coby also volunteers as a Board Member for the Long Beach Area Sierra Club.

Gabrielle Weeks serves as the Chair of Sierra Club Long Beach Group. She led her environmental group to partner with Neighborhood Services to host an I Dig Long Beach tree planting event in memory of Neighborhood Leadership Program graduate **Scottie Hinkey** (Class of 2006) and her husband Douglas Hinkey in Rose Park South on Saturday, March 18, 2017, and have pledged to water and care for the 55 newly planted trees for the first year.

CLASS OF 2004

Gavin McKiernan is the Founder of the Long Beach Neighborhood Foundation, a nonprofit organization that hosted free River Runners training sessions twice a week in the Wrigley neighborhood and along the Los Angeles River. The Wrigley River Run fundraising events are held every June, with proceeds benefitting local nonprofit organizations. Gavin helped host their Wrigley River Run 5K/10K/15K races on June 3, 2017.

Francisco Rodriguez volunteered with the California Conference for Equality and Justice and attended Building Bridges camps as a facilitator.

Henry Salzer served as a member of North Alamitos Beach Association and volunteered at their neighborhood clean-up events. Henry also served as a Tour Guide for the Day of Discovery to help train and support the Class of 2017.

CLASS OF 2005

Peggy Kozlowki volunteered to help decorate the Bembridge House in partnership with the Willmore City Heritage Association. The house is an ornate example of Queen Anne Victorian architecture and is in the California and National Register of Historic Places. Every year, the house is decorated for Christmas tours for residents to enjoy this tradition of Victorian Christmas in Long Beach.

Colleen McDonald serves as the Treasurer on the Board of the Wrigley Association. She is a loyal member of the Wrigley Clean Team and participates in the group's twice monthly clean-ups along the Pacific Avenue business corridor in Wrigley Village. Colleen serves on the Consultative Committee of Holy Innocents School and on the Parish Council of Holy Innocents Church. She helped lead a community effort to install sidewalk cuts and plant 12 I Dig Long Beach trees outside Holy Innocents Church on Tuesday, August 29, 2017. Colleen McDonald served as the lead to host the Wrigley Pizza Pig Out community event on Friday, June 2, 2017, at Holy Innocents Elementary School. Colleen also helped host the Wrigley River Run 5K/10K/15K races on Saturday, June 3, 2017. Colleen also volunteers with Wrigley is Going Green and Friends of Alice Robinson.

Lillian Villa-Quintero volunteered at Wrigley River Run's Pizza Pig Out Event on June 2, 2017, at Holy Innocents Elementary School in Wrigley.

CLASS OF 2006

Will Cullen serves as a Board Member for Belmont Heights Community Association. He was a regular contributor to their newsletter during 2017 and wrote many of the articles in their monthly newsletters to help educate residents to learn more about city and community resources. He led his neighborhood association to partner with Neighborhood Services to host an I Dig Long Beach tree planting event in Belmont Heights on May 13, 2017, and have pledged to water and care for the 41 newly planted trees for the first year. Will also volunteered at the "Bite of Reality" financial literacy training at Jordan High School on December 6, 2017.



Juanita Wilson (Class of 2010), **Rocio Torres** (Class of 1998) and **Mary Simmons** (Class of 2010) volunteering for Operation School Bell.



AOC7 shares photos highlighting their neighborhoods successful 2018 projects.

Reyna Ochoa is a Founder of Sunny Central Neighborhood Association and hosted their first clean-up event on October 7, 2017. She led the Breast Day Ever team that for the American Cancer Society's 5K fundraising walk that was held on October 22, 2017. Reyna also volunteers to assist the Neighborhood Leadership Program.

CLASS OF 2007

Nina Allison hosted a neighborhood clean-up event on Saturday, March 18, 2017, in her neighborhood in Central Long Beach.

David Clement serves on the Friends of Bixby Park Board of Directors and as an advisor to the Long Beach Heritage Museum. He has also joined two new boards: Bluff Heights Neighborhood Association and Belmont Heights Community Association.

Cynthia Gonzalez volunteered at the "Bite of Reality" financial literacy training at Jordan High School on December 6, 2017.

CLASS OF 2008

Dan Pressburg serves as President of the Deforest Park Neighborhood Association and helped host their Chili Cookoff on July 22, 2017, and Teen Summit on August 12, 2017 at the Michelle Obama Library.

CLASS OF 2009

Jim Danno serves as the Outreach Coordinator on the Board of the Willmore City Heritage Association. Jim led the group to complete street enhancements including sidewalk cuts, street trees, pedestrian bridge art, and traffic signal box art around Edison Elementary School. Jim also led the Willmore City Heritage Association's (WCHA) holiday lighting installation throughout Drake Park and helped build their Gingerbread Village display that was displayed on Pine Avenue during December 2017. Jim also helped organize the annual Winter in Willmore snow day event at Drake Park on December 16, 2017.

Jesus Esparza hosted a neighborhood clean-up in the Washington School neighborhood on Saturday, June 17, 2017.

CLASS OF 2011

Ida Marie Briggs is presenting and producing a "One Woman" Production in 2018. For details contact her at expectingthebest4imb@gmail.com.

Sidney Cramer volunteers with the On Broadway Merchants Association and their On Broadway Marketing Committee.

Dawn Del Bello served as a lead volunteer for Children's Day USA and

their annual Children's Day event on Saturday, April 29, 2017, at Recreation Park. The free event featured free eye screenings for children, health screenings for adults, consultations with an immigration attorney, free goldfish for all children, and goodie giveaways. The event also featured multi-cultural entertainers singing and dancing. Dawn also volunteered for the on-line radio stations at Long Beach City College KCTYFM.org and KLBC.org and produced her own radio show "Sunny at Best Radio." She got into radio to help boost her morale to beat endometrial cancer.

Otis Hogan serves as the President of the Houghton Park Neighborhood Association and on The LGBTQ Center's Board of Directors.

Emily Kiwa Tanaka is a founding member of Long Beach Zine Fest and serves on the organizing team. She helped organize LBZF 2017 on Sunday, August 6, 2017 at the Museum of Latin American Art (MoLAA). Zines (pronounced zeens) which are self-published magazines were celebrated along with local music, free artist workshops and presentations. The California Heights Neighborhood Association and District 7 Council Office partnered with Emily to create a mural unveiled on Saturday, July 1, 2017, on the walls of the California Heights

Market at the corner of Bixby Road and Orange Avenue. Emily explained that her inspiration for the mural came from a combination of her positive childhood memories growing up in Cal Heights, her love of maps and the streets of Long Beach.

CLASS OF 2012

Andre Beasley serves on the Board for AOC7 neighborhood association and volunteers at their group's monthly neighborhood clean-up events and neighborhood improvement projects. Andre was featured in the Long Beach Police Department's Instagram profile. The Long Beach Police Department posted the photo in recognition of police and community partnerships.

Darlene Broom serves as the Fundraising Chair of the Deforest Park Neighborhood Association and helped to host their Chili Cookoff on July 22, 2017 and their Teen Summit on August 12, 2017 at the Michelle Obama Library.

Lewis Brownson volunteered at tree plantings and neighborhood clean-up events across Long Beach. Lewis serves as a volunteer with the Committee of 300 that is a volunteer auxiliary supporting the Long Beach Grand Prix. Lewis Brownson volunteered at the Long Beach Boy Scouts of America New Frontier District's Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser on Saturday, April 15, 2017, that raised funds for the ScoutReach Program that brings Boy Scouts programs to low-income Long Beach schools. He served as Santa Claus for the Hope Foundation's Christmas Breakfast on Sunday, December 10, 2017. Lewis volunteered at the Cressa Park Clean-Up on December 13, 2017.

Cassandra Davis serves on the Board for AOC7 neighborhood association and volunteers at their group's monthly neighborhood clean-up events and neighborhood improvement projects. She wrote a grant proposal to Arts Council for Long Beach for AOC7's 2018 Literacy Fair.

Anthony Formoso serves as a volunteer with the East Village Association and AOC7 neighborhood associations. He volunteered at dozens of neighborhood clean-ups and I Dig Long Beach tree planting and tree watering events in neighborhoods throughout Long Beach. Anthony serves on the Board of Directors for Pools of Hope and Wrap the Kids. Anthony is an undefeated professional Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) fighter and won a title belt for a Featherweight Championship in his most recent fight on December 16, 2017.

Mary Simmons serves on the Board for AOC7 neighborhood association and volunteers at their group's monthly neighborhood clean-up events and neighborhood improvement projects. Mary wrote several funded grant proposals. The grants funded a series of projects including the installation of new vinyl art wraps on four traffic control boxes on 10th Street, eight neighborhood marking signs, the installation of two electronic radar speed signs and planting Creeping Rosemary ground covering around 100 trees on 10th Street.

Mary Simmons received a 2017 Women of Distinction Award from California State Assemblymember Patrick O'Donnell on March 23, 2017. Mary served as a Tour Guide for the Day of Discovery to help train and support the Class of 2017. She also received Mayor Robert Garcia's 2017 "GO LONG BEACH" Award and the Long Beach Police Department 2017 Community Service Award. Mary was also recognized with Senator Lara's Excellence in the 33rd District Award. Mary also served on the Steering Committee for Building Healthy Communities and volunteered at the cleanup Brooms Across Long Beach on February 4, 2017.

Tommie Simmons serves as a Deacon at The ROCK Christian Fellowship. Tommie volunteered with Project Coffee Cup coordinating sock and underwear collections for the homeless at The ROCK Christian Fellowship. He volunteered with The ROCK Turkey Basket event which gave away over 200 turkeys and baskets at MacArthur Park.



Anthony Formoso (Class of 2012) & **Rebecca Quinn** (Class of 2015) at East Village Association neighborhood clean up.

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Juanita Wilson volunteers with Linden Roosevelt Historic District and hosted a neighborhood clean-up on Saturday, September 17, 2017. Juanita Wilson founded Mama J's Jackets and collected and distributed over 200 jackets to children at Roosevelt Elementary School. Juanita also volunteered at the "Bite of Reality" financial literacy training at Jordan High School on December 6, 2017.

CLASS OF 2013

Gloria Bradley serves as President of the Country Club Manor Neighborhood Association.

Heather Kern serves as the Executive Director of MADE by Millworks. She is also a Co-Producer of the Long Beach Folk Revival Festival and provides business outreach to Beach Streets events that close down business corridors to cars for one day so cyclists, skaters and runners can enjoy them.

John Kindred is a co-founder of the Long Beach Environmental Alliance. The group hosted cleanups on the fourth Sunday of each month at Alamitos Beach. Volunteers picked up trash from the beach and the events also featured a "Cigarette Butt" pickup to help keep them off the beaches, waterways and oceans. John and other alumni had a great time cleaning neighborhoods on Cigarette Butt Awareness Day.

Sherry Martinez serves as District Executive for the Boy Scouts of America Long Beach Council. Sherry served as the lead in the Long Beach Boy Scouts of America New Frontier District's Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser on Saturday, April 15, 2017 that raised funds for the ScoutReach Program that brings Boy Scouts programs to low-income Long Beach schools. She helped bring scouts to all the monthly I Dig Long Beach tree planting events in 2017. Sherry served as a Tour Guide for the Day of Discovery to help train and support the Class of 2017. Sherry also volunteered at the "Bite of Reality" financial literacy training at Jordan High School on December 6, 2017.

Renee Rios serves as President of the Longwood Neighborhood Association in North Long Beach. She led an effort to coordinate several different government entities to repave Susana Road on the border of Long Beach and an unincorporated segment of Los Angeles County. The condition of the road was so bad that the neighboring homes would shake when truck traffic drove down the street. Renee visited her neighbors and videotaped the shaking inside their homes to document how bad the problem was to share with the multiple agencies involved in repaving a border street. She also led a campaign to restrict truck parking along Susana Road to reduce the diesel emissions from idling big rigs that impacted the residents of the nearby homes. In the process, she also

videotaped huge clouds of smoke and pollution coming from the adjacent industrial area also to get help for her neighborhood from multiple agencies.

Renee hosted a neighborhood meeting with 60 residents in her driveway to meet with the Air Quality Management District (AQMD) supervisor and elected officials' offices to discuss the air pollution issues related to the adjacent industrial area. During the meeting, another huge chemical plume came over the group and the AQMD was able to experience the problem first hand. Finally, they were on board to help address the problem.

Neighborhood residents utilized testing equipment from the AQMD to test the air during chemical release incidents and the AQMD assisted to reduce the amount of pollution emitted into the air from the nearby industrial area. Renee trained her neighbors on how to utilize the Go Long Beach app to report graffiti, potholes, and sidewalk damage in her neighborhood. She also organized two neighborhood clean-ups with her neighborhood group and Jordan Plus High School. She led some more fun neighborhood projects including a 100 home yard sale project, a Holiday lights contest, and a cookie social on December 15, 2017.

CLASS OF 2014

Andrea Donado is serving as an Associate Member of the Board of Long Beach Lesbian and Gay Pride, Inc.

Lucero Márquez is the City of Long Beach Tobacco Education Program Assistant. Her role is to educate residents on the dangers of smoking, focusing on youth tobacco use prevention and education. Lucero helped plant new trees



Crystal West (Class of 2015), **Juanita Wilson** (Class of 2010) and **Rocio Torres** (Class of 1998) help the children in the Roosevelt Linden Historic District and at Roosevelt Elementary School.



Azul Sanchez (Class of 2015) led the "Bite of Reality" financial literacy training at Jordan High School on December 6, 2017, in her North Pine Neighborhood on October 14, 2017.

Azul Sanchez was instrumental in getting the Orange County Credit Union engaged in I Dig Long Beach tree planting events. For the past four years, they have supported the tree planting events by providing staff volunteers and cases of drinking water for the volunteers at each of the monthly community tree planting events. Azul served as a Tour Guide for the Neighborhood Leadership Program's Day of Discovery to help train and support the Class of 2017. Azul led the "Bite of Reality" financial literacy training at Jordan High School on December 6, 2017.

Paulette Sanders is the Founder of Stopping Pressure on Teens (SPOT) to assist teens from the ages of 13-19 years old to keep those who have not fallen into law-breaking activities focused as well as steering those who've fallen into the cracks of self-destruction and unbalanced living habits into high-esteemed law abiding citizens. Paulette organized a neighborhood clean-up with multiple churches on July 8, 2017.

Paulette serves on the Safe Communities Workgroup which is part of the City of Long Beach's Safe Long Beach Violence Prevention Plan. Paulette also volunteered at the Brooms Across Long Beach clean-up on February 4, 2017.

Carlos Valdez serves as President of Coolidge Triangle Neighborhood Association.

CLASS OF 2015

Jessica Alvarez led her neighborhood group, Parents on a Mission, to partner with Neighborhood Services to host an I Dig Long Beach tree planting event entitled the "Jenni Rivera Memorial Tree Planting" on Santa Fe Avenue in West Long Beach on Saturday, January 28, 2017 and have pledged to water and care for the trees for the first year. Jessica also serves on the Cabrillo High School PTA and Garfield Elementary School PTA.

Kelly Carroll wrote several successful grant proposals for the American Cancer Society, Long Beach Unit including a \$1,000 grant for the Relay for Life of Long Beach fundraiser. The event was a 24-hour walk at Millikan High School to raise funds for local patient services as well as research. Kelly also wrote a grant proposal for a \$5,000 grant for the American Cancer Society's Long Beach Cancer League event entitled "Long Beach Gala" that took place on June 3, 2017 to raise funds for local patient services as well as research. Kelly has written \$13,000 in funded grant proposals since 2015 using the skills she learned in NLP. Kelly serves as the President of the North Pine Neighborhood Alliance and Vice President (President-Elect) of the Downtown Residential Council. Kelly and her North Pine Neighborhood Alliance partnered with Neighborhood Services to host an "I Dig Long Beach" tree planting on October 14, 2017, and have pledged to water and care for the trees for the first year. Kelly also serves as a member of the Neighborhood Leadership Program's Alumni Support Team and served as a Tour Guide for the Day of Discovery to help train and support the Class of 2017.

Stacey Morrison serves as Vice President and Newsletter Editor California Heights Neighborhood Association. Stacey helped led outreach, marketing and social media for their biannual Home Tour that was held on October 15, 2017. She is a founder of the group's newest walking group, The Pavement Pounders, who walk an hour a week through the neighborhood on Wednesday evenings. She also serves as a member Cal Heights Clean Team and participates in weekly clean-ups of California Heights every Thursday and two alley clean-ups in 2017. Stacey helped plant "I Dig Long Beach" trees in Ridgewood Heights on November 18, 2017. Stacey also served as a Tour Guide for the Day of Discovery to help train and support the Class of 2017. Like and follow the California Heights Neighborhood Association page on Facebook! Long Beach trees in Ridgewood Heights on November 18, 2017. Stacey also served as a Tour Guide for the Day of Discovery to help train and support the Class of 2017. Like and follow the California Heights Neighborhood Association page on Facebook!

Rebecca Quinn serves as the East Village Association Representative to the Downtown Residential Council. She helped plant "I Dig Long Beach" trees in the North Pine neighborhood on October 14, 2017.

Amanda Randel serves as Vice President for North Alamitos Beach Association. She hosted a neighborhood clean-up event Saturday, April 8, 2017. She also volunteers for Garden Church's Laundry Love program. Laundry Love provides free laundry to the Long Beach community. Amanda also served as a Tour Guide for the Day of Discovery to help train and support the Class of 2017.

Tom Underhill has volunteered at many "I Dig Long Beach" tree planting events and has help document the tree planting with his photos. Tom continues to work with Friends of The

Los Angeles River and document the efforts they make to clean our local water ways. These photos are used in annual reports and on there social media and for there news media as well. He also serves as a member of the California Heights Neighborhood Association and as a member of the Cal Heights Clean Team. He participates weekly clean-ups of California Heights every Thursday and two alley clean-ups in 2017. Volunteered at Wrigley Clean Team events along Pacific Avenue, helped plant "I Dig Long Beach" trees in Ridgewood Heights on November 18, 2017 and in Wrigley on December 9, 2017, and helped clean Cressa Park on December 13, 2017. Tom serves as a member of the Neighborhood Leadership Program's Alumni Support Team, and was the official photographer for the Class of 2017.

CLASS OF 2016

Nicolai de L'Archeveque serves as the President of the West Gateway Group and volunteers to water and care for the "I Dig Long Beach" trees planted in his neighborhood.

Pedro Jimenez is serving as a MALE Academy leader for Long Beach Unified School District.

Anel Parra hosted an event to highlight a campaign that celebrates women survivors. The "I am BOLD. I Rise Campaign" features twelve phenomenal Latina women who have risen above their circumstances and are now able to share their triumph with boldness on how they have overcome sexual abuse, depression, bullying, and finding their voice, just to name a few.

CLASS OF 2017

Jean Acevedo launched Long Beach's newest neighborhood group called Friends of MacArthur Park. She also serves on the AOC7 neighborhood association Board and volunteers with their annual literacy fair, neighborhood improvement projects and monthly neighborhood clean-ups.

Jenilee Arnaldo has organized clean-ups in the East Village Arts District Neighborhood.

Raul Nario serves as a volunteer with the Starr King Neighborhood Association and volunteers at their group's monthly neighborhood clean-up events.

Debra Shelton serves as President of College Square Neighborhood Association and volunteers to help



Juanita Wilson (Class of 2010) launched Mama J Jackets during the summer of 2017 and enlisted volunteers to help her collect new and gently used coats for the children at Roosevelt Elementary School.



Remembering Jerry Caligiuri

Jerry was a graduate of the Neighborhood Leadership Program Class of 1997. He served as the President of the Kiwanis Club of Bixby Knolls/North Long Beach and was recently elected to serve on the Board of Directors of Neighborhoods, USA. Jerry made a difference in the lives of so many Long Beach residents. He has inspired a great number of neighborhood leaders that will continue his work. Jerry frequently participated in "I Dig Long Beach" tree planting events and recruited Kiwanis Club members and Key Club youth to participate. Friends including NLP Alumni and Kiwanians planted a street tree in Jerry's memory at the Ridgewood Heights "I Dig Long Beach" tree planting event on Saturday, November 18, 2017.

Alumni In Action

Graduates hosted over two dozen neighborhood clean-up events in the AOC7, Central, Hamilton, Roosevelt, Washington School, West East Side and Willmore City and West Long Beach neighborhoods utilizing the Neighborhood Cleanup Assistance Program. During 2017, Neighborhood Leadership Program alumni coordinated community events and projects in neighborhoods. Some of these events are highlighted here.

AOC7

Members of the **Anaheim Street, Orange Avenue, Cherry Avenue and 7th Street (AOC7) Neighborhood Association** received the Community Service Award from the Long Beach Police Department on June 8, 2017. Association leaders **Rocio Torres** (Class of 1998), **Mary Simmons**, **Andre Beasley** and **Cassandra Davis** all from the Class of 2012, and **Jesus Lopez** (Class of 2014) were present to receive recognition from Police Chief Robert Luna.

AOC7 also hosted their 5th Annual Literacy Fair at MacArthur Park that promoted reading and distributed 5,000 children's books and 150 bags of groceries on Saturday, May 20, 2017. The group organized a total of eight cleanup events in 2017 removing an incredible 72 tons of trash from the neighborhood!

AOC7 hosted their 10th Street Beautification Project on Saturday

October 21, 2017 to complete their 10th Street improvements funded by a grant from the Neighborhood Partners Program.

ART

Betty Ys (Class of 2017) and **Christina Johnson** (Class of 2017) joined forces to reconstitute a local, grassroots animal welfare organization, the **Animal Resource Team (ART)**. ART works to reduce shelter intakes (and euthanasia) and keep pets in their homes by providing pet guardians with whatever resources they may need. Betty is serving as President of the Board of Directors, and Christina has joined as a Board Member and Legal Advisor. Betty and Christina, and the rest of the ART Board, are hard at work raising funds and reestablishing ART's structure and functions. They look forward to serving pet guardians in the Long Beach community in 2018!

Reyna Ochoa (Class of 2006) & **Francisco Rodriguez** (Class of 2004) represented the Neighborhood Leadership Program as a finalist in the May 2017 Neighborhoods, USA national conference.

BOR

Neighborhood Leadership Program alumni **Kirk Davis** (Class of 2012), **Lucero Marquez** (Class of 2014), **Cynthia Gonzalez** (Class of 2004), **Juanita Wilson** (Class of 2010), **Jo Murray** (Class of 1997), **Esmeralda Arguello** (Class of 2017), **Sherry Martinez** (Class of 2014), and **Will Cullen** (Class of 2006) joined the Orange County's Credit Union led by **Azul Sanchez** (Class of 2014), and the Jordan High School WRAP Program Xi Sisters and Omega Brothers led by **Candace Meehan** (Class of 2015), to host a "**Bite of Reality**," a financial literacy training event for students. The free training featured an interactive simulation, offering students an opportunity to learn more about making financial decisions and personal budgeting. Students were assigned an occupation, a family, and a salary, and were asked to visit several stations to acquire a home, transportation, food, clothing, and other necessities and extras. Students also learned about the importance of developing and maintaining good credit. Housing and Neighborhood Services Bureau Staff were also involved with the event. Staff members on site were **Teresa Gonzalez** (Class of 1992), **Margaret Madden** (Class of 1998), **Griselda Barba** (Class of 2003), **Francisco Rodriguez** (Class of 2004), **Reyna Ochoa** (Class of 2006) and **Isela Zarate** (Class of 2012).



BALB

Thank you to the alumni that volunteered at the **Brooms Across Long Beach** clean-up of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue neighborhood and all the adjacent neighborhoods. Over 200 volunteers removed 41.5 tons of trash and debris and over 2 tons of e-waste and tires during this one day clean-up on Saturday, February 4, 2017. **Lewis Brownson** (Class of 2012), **Jessica Alvarez** (Class of 2015), **Andre Beasley** (Class of 2012), **Martha Cota** (Class of 2001), **Tom Flores** (Class of 2010), **Sherry Martinez** (Class of 2013), **Alice Robinson** (Class of 2010), **Paulette Sanders** (Class of 2014), **Mary Simmons** (Class of 2012), **Francisco Rodriguez** (Class of 1994), **Reyna Ochoa** (Class of 2006), **Isela Zarate** (Class of 2012), **Bryant Ben** (Class of 1992), **Chantara Nop** (Class of 1992), **Teresa Gonzalez** (Class of 1992), **Samuel Molina** (Class of 2013), and **Margaret Madden** (Class of 1994).

CHNA

Tom Underhill (Class of 2015) and **Stacey Morrison** (Class of 2015) are both active with **Cal Heights Clean Streets Team** and **Cal Heights Neighborhood Association**. Cal Heights Clean Streets Team have picked up 2.5 tons of trash from local streets. That's a lot of fast food packaging and cigarette butts. They team up with Cal Trans and have quarterly alley and freeway off ramp cleanups. Cal Heights members have also teamed up with the Wrigley Clean Team to clean the area around the Wardlow Blue Line Station on a once a month. California Heights Neighborhood association had a very successful Historic Home Tour this year with over 400 guest helping to raise close to \$9,000 dollars for upcoming neighborhood projects.

FOAR

The Friends of Alice Robinson (Class of 2010), continue to host a monthly community lunch program at Martin Luther King, Jr. Park in Central Long Beach. Friends of Alice Robinson were

recipients of the Excellence in the 33rd District Awards from Senator Ricardo Lara for making a positive impact in our community. The event took place on August 9, 2017 in the City of Long Beach. **Juanita Wilson** (Class of 2010) and **Colleen McDonald** (Class of 2005) are regular volunteers at the monthly lunch events.

LBZF

Emily Kiwa Tanaka (Class of 2011) and **Ziba Zehdar** (Class of 2016) are part of the **Long Beach Zine Fest (LBZF)** organizing team. On August 8, 2017 +4,000 people attended the one day event at MOLAA. Zines (pronounced zeens) which are self-published magazines were celebrated along with local music, free artist workshops and talks.

MLKP

NLP Alumni marched in the **2017 Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade**. Among those representing NLP at the parade were **Margaret Madden** (Class of 1994), **Francisco Rodriguez** (Class of 2004), **Jose Rodriguez** (Class of 2015), **Jesus Lopez** (Class of 2014), **Reyna Ochoa** (Class of 2006), **Jessica Alvarez** (Class of 2015), **Douglas Champion** (Class of 2012), **Isela Zarate** (Class of 2012), **Andre Beasley** (Class of 2012), and **Jacque Chagolla** (Class of 2015). All

of these graduates helped recruit the community along the parade route.

NUSA

Reyna Ochoa (Class of 2006) and **Francisco Rodriguez** (Class of 2004) represented the Neighborhood Leadership Program as a finalist in the May 2017 Neighborhoods, USA national conference in Omaha, Nebraska. The program won third place recognition in the Best Neighborhood Program – Social Revitalization Category.

OSB

Rocio Torres (Class of 1998) helped organize a backpack packing day for **Operation School Bell**. The program is sponsored by the Assistance League of Long Beach and it provides uniforms and backpacks to Long Beach Unified School District students (LBUSD). All LBUSD schools can apply for these materials for their students. The Assistance League of Long Beach asked for volunteers to help pack backpacks with uniforms and school materials so Rocio organized a backpack packing day with help from **Juanita Wilson** (Class of 2010) and **Mary Simmons** (Class of 2012).



Many thanks to the alumni that volunteered at the **Brooms Across Long Beach** clean-up of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue neighborhood and all the adjacent neighborhoods.

PLAy

Karla Jimenez Teran (Class of 2017), **Maribel Mireles** (Class of 2015) and **Monica Parilla** (Class of 2005) participated in the **Parent Leadership Academy (PLAy)** offered by The Long Beach Early Childhood Education Committee. The academy is an eight-session course for parents and it covers topics like public policy, mental health awareness, school readiness and early childhood issues.

RLHD

A group of caring residents are working together to help the children in the **Roosevelt Linden Historic District** and at Roosevelt Elementary School and are utilizing the skills they learned through the Neighborhood Leadership Program to make a difference in the community.

This year, **Crystal West** (Class of 2015), **Juanita Wilson** (Class of 2010) and their neighbors have been breathing new life into their Roosevelt Linden Historic District neighborhood association. The group was dormant for the last four years after the leader of their group became ill. Crystal and Juanita, connected with **Rocio Torres**, a Counselor at Roosevelt Elementary School (and a graduate of the Neighborhood Leadership Program's Class of 1998.) Together, they have been making a difference in the lives of families throughout the neighborhood.

When Juanita walked her young granddaughters to school on chilly mornings, she started noticing that there were children walking to school without jackets on. "I saw the need in the community," she said. She started asking around and found that there are lots of displaced and foster children attending the school.

Juanita started thinking about how she could help these children. She shared her idea for hosting a coat drive with a group of young people who graduated from Long Beach City College and the Young Poets Society

during a discussion about dreams and goals for the future. The young adults were quick to offer to help with making this dream come true for Juanita.

With this encouragement, Juanita launched Mama J Jackets during the summer of 2017 and enlisted volunteers to help her collect new and gently used coats for the children at Roosevelt Elementary School. She connected the neighborhood association, the school and additional partners and set a goal to collect coats for every child at the school who needed one. The Neighborhood Resource Center is a donation drop off location and has helped outreach to the community through their e-mail blast. Neighborhood Leadership Program alumni volunteers hosted a coat washing day at a local laundrymat on October 17, 2017.

The coats and 50 pairs of new shoes will be distributed to the children at the school on November 17, 2017.

Juanita wants other people to replicate this model at other schools across Long Beach (and throughout the country!) to make a difference in the lives of children in their communities. She wants to help others to get started and says, "I'd like to continue to keep this dream going on." She is documenting

her project on the MAMA J Jackets Facebook page to celebrate the volunteers and partners helping to bring her idea to life and to help others see how to host a similar effort in their communities.

Crystal and Juanita also tapped in to the school to help recruit volunteers for neighborhood clean-up events. Juanita walked throughout the community with the kids helping to pass out flyers for their neighborhood clean-ups and meetings. "Everybody got flyers on their door," Juanita shared. She recruited bilingual parents to get involved in the neighborhood group, the clean ups, and the coat drive.

Crystal is proud her neighborhood is re-energized and they are now able to "get together with neighbors creating solutions together." The Neighborhood Resource Center and Neighborhood Clean-Up Assistance Program have been important tools to assist her to organize her neighborhood. This year, she met neighbors she didn't know before. "Being able to speak with your neighbors, the excitement they get that somebody actually cares, the things we are doing is exactly what they have been wanting to do" and help Crystal to continue to improve her neighborhood, "we talk about solutions, instead of problems."



Parent Leadership Academy (PLAy) graduates include **Karla Jimenez Teran** (Class of 2017), **Maribel Mireles** (Class of 2015) and **Monica Parilla** (Class of 2005)



Sunny Central Neighborhood Association (SCNA) first community clean-up on October 7, 2017.

Rocio Torres spearheaded several new initiatives to assist the children and families at the school. On Friday, December 2, 2016, Rocio organized a movie night at the school with a twist – she included a resource fair as part of the event to share information and resources with families in need. The project was a big success, 900 students and families came out to watch the movie “Zootopia” outdoors on an inflatable screen in the quad. While they were there, these families learned about programs for mental health, homeless services, domestic violence assistance, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and the public library. Rocio was especially happy to have Officer Betanzos from the Long Beach Police Department come out to interact with the children, it was “a unique way to make a positive connection with our boys and girls instead of in an investigation or in a different light.” She plans to make the movie night & resource fair even bigger next year.

Rocio organized Roosevelt’s 2nd Annual Career Day on Friday, February 24, 2017. She partnered with Food Finders to create a food backpack program to help children during the weekends and organized fundraisers and food drives to pay for it. On Sunday, March 19, 2017, Food Finders, Roosevelt Elementary School and CSULB Graduate students hosted “Food for Kids Walkathon & Food Drive.” Rocio

is currently organizing a “Parent Café” on the first Friday of the month to connect with parents and neighbors and fundraise for the school starting in November 2017.

Rocio said she is using all her training from the Neighborhood Leadership Program (NLP) to make these projects happen, “NLP and the NPP taught me that I just have to ask for donations in a way that will get people to say yes. You just have to ask, people are willing to give you stuff. You just have to ask.” She made a Task List and Timeline to plan out the events, just like she learned in NLP, “I learned in the NLP to make sure we know what we want to do before we do it.”

Rocio appreciates all the support from Neighborhood Leadership Program graduates across the city, “that network of NLP alumni grows and grows! I am in awe sometimes. Alumni have come to my Career Day, and a mini-resource fair at Open House. NLP alumni have provided donations for refreshments for Movie Night and hundreds of box tops for the school fundraiser.”

Juanita has good advice for others looking to organize their neighbors to make a difference in the community, “when you first get started, it is not a sit-down job. You gotta put your lipstick on and get out there and communicate with the people.”

SCNA

Laura Ochoa (Class of 2017) and **Reyna Ochoa** (Class of 2006) established the **Sunny Central Neighborhood Association (SCNA)** and organized their first community clean-up on October 7, 2017. NLP Alumni helped support their clean up and collected over 14 tons of trash and debris!

TBDE

Kelly Carroll (Class of 2015), **Katie Neal** (Class of 2016), **Dale Neal** (Class of 2013), **Ana Ochoa** (Class of 2010), **Laura Ochoa** (Class of 2017), **Mayra Ochoa** (Class of 2010), **Reyna Ochoa** (Class of 2006), **Isela Zarate** (Class of 2012) were members of **Team Breast Day Ever**. Together they raised over \$1,000 for the American Cancer Society’s “Making Strides Against Breast Cancer” walk in honor of cancer survivor **Ana Ochoa** (Class of 2010).

WNA

Wrigley Neighborhood Association: **Gavin McKiernan** (Class of 2004), **Colleen Mc Donald** (Class of 2005), **Lillian Quintero** (Class of 2005) and **Joy Mendoza** (Class of 2012) volunteered at the Pizza Pigout event in Wrigley on June 2, 2017. The event was a fundraiser and a pre-race event for the June 3, 2017 Wrigley River Run put on by the Long Beach Community Foundation. Gavin McKiernan is a Co-founder of the Foundation and has led the organization in organizing 10 annual races with the proceeds of the race going to local schools and community organizations.



Wrigley Neighborhood Association neighborhood clean-up.



Brooms Across Long Beach clean-up of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue neighborhood and all the adjacent neighborhoods.



Anel Parra (Class of 2016) hosted an event celebrating women survivors.



Operation School Backpack backpacks



Andre Beasley (Class of 2012) on IG!!!



Jenilee Arnaldo (Class of 2017) volunteering at East Village Association event.



Gabrielle Weeks (Class of 2003) at "I Dig Long Beach" event.



AOC7 Neighborhood Association received the Community Service Award from the Long Beach Police Department on June 8, 2017.



Several alumni participate in the **2017 Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade**. Make plans to walk with us in 2018.



Will Cullen (Class of 2006) leads the Belmont Heights Community Association in an "I Dig Long Beach" tree planting event.



Team Breast Day Ever at American Cancer Society's "Making Strides Against Breast Cancer" walk in honor of cancer survivor **Ana Ochoa** (Class of 2010).



Juanita Wilson (Class of 2012) hosts a coat drive.



Mary Simmons (Class of 2012) received a 2017 Women of Distinction Award from California State Assemblymember Patrick O'Donnell



Lewis Brownson (Class of 2012) volunteering at a neighborhood clean-up & LB Grand Prix.



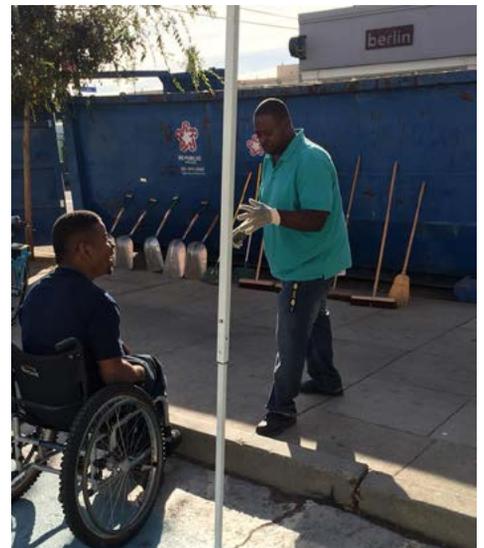


Raul Nario (Class of 2017) hosted a cleanup in the Starr King neighborhood.

Sunny Central Neighborhood Association (SCNA) first community clean-up on October 7, 2017.



Renee Rios (Class of 2013) host a clean-up for Longwood Neighborhood Association



Anthony Formoso (Class of 2012) is on Couch Patrol during an East Village Association clean-up.



John Kindred (Class of 2013) of Long Beach Environmental Alliance hosts cleanups on the fourth Sunday of each month at Alamitos Beach



Paulette Sanders (Class of 2014) at a cleanup with Stopping Pressure on Teens.



Emily Kiwa Tanaka (Class of 2011) partnered with California Heights Neighborhood Association and Councilman Roberto Uranga - District 7 Council Office to create a mural on the walls of the California Heights Market at the corner of Bixby Road and Orange Avenue.



Tom Underhill (Class of 2015) at Cressa Park clean-up event.



The Alumni Support Team with Mayor Dr. Robert Garcia.

Alumni Support Team for 2017

The Alumni Support Team 2017 is a group of graduates who volunteer their time to assist the facilitation team. Thank you **Kelly Carroll** (Class of 2015), **Lucero Marquez** (Class of 2014), **Magaly Molina** (Class of 2014), **Katie Neal** (Class of 2016), **Reyna Ochoa** (Class of 2009), **Francisco Rodriguez** (Class of 2004), **Thomas Underhill** (Class of 2015) and **Isela Zárate** (Class of 2012) for helping to develop grassroots neighborhood leaders in Long Beach!

Dale Neal (Class of 2012), **Lucero Marquez** (Class of 2014), **Thomas Underhill** (Class of 2015), and **Kelly Carroll** (Class of 2015), served as Team Project Mentors to the Neighborhood Leadership Class of 2017.



Congratulations Class of 2017!!!



The Neighborhood Leadership Program Alumni Creed

As graduating Alumni of the Neighborhood Leadership Program (NLP), we carry the responsibility of representing the core values of the City of Long Beach Neighborhood Leadership Program.

At all times, in all places, we will respect others while trusting the process of creating a safe environment and being committed to improving our community. Because the Neighborhood Leadership Program emphasizes team work, we agree to support our elected, appointed and volunteer leaders, and to create change through consensus, inclusion, and community building.

As NLP graduates, we are motivated by previous alumni and we will make continuous efforts to inspire new generations of neighborhood leaders. We will be mindful of taking advantage of opportunities to give back to NLP.

This is our own little way of sharing our pride for Long Beach!

Creed written by members of the
Neighborhood Leadership Program Alumni Support Team on June 28, 2014.





The Neighborhood Leadership Program

The Neighborhood Leadership Program is offered by the City of Long Beach Housing and Neighborhood Services Bureau. This five (5) month multilingual program assists grass-roots residents and provides you with the skills, knowledge and resources you need to make a difference in the quality of life in our community. This program is free to participants and is partially funded through the Federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program.

This program will help you:

- Improve your communication skills
- Recognize the benefits of diversity
- Create innovative solutions for improving your neighborhood
- Identify resources and partnerships
- Apply for grants
- Plan and complete a community project
- Gain confidence as a public speaker
- Meet Long Beach decision-makers:
 - » Mayor and City Council
 - » Community, Government and Nonprofit Leaders
 - » Neighborhood Leadership Program Alumni

For more information, please contact the Housing and Neighborhood Services Bureau at (562) 570-1010 or via e-mail to Francisco.Rodriguez@longbeach.gov.

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