



Belle Haven Action

advocacy • inclusion • collaboration

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COMMUNITY OUTREACH TEAM



Angie Bautista



Abraham Ocampo



Marlene Santoyo



Sean Watkins



Willie Beasley



Shontelle Watkins



John Selvas



Cecilia Taylor

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

A Stronger Belle Haven Community

The Belle Haven community gathered at Hamilton Park on Tuesday, August 4, for this year's National Night Out, bringing residents together with local firefighters and police officers.

The Belle Haven National Night Out is all about community connection. It is designed as a chance for neighbors to come together, mingle, and build real relationships with local first responders, including Menlo Park firefighters and police officers.

The well-attended event provided a welcoming space for families, drawing out many mothers and small children who enjoyed a jumper house and a popular face-painting booth run by team member Shontelle. Attendees also contributed to a "Freedom Board," taking time to write

Attendees also contributed to a "Freedom Board," taking time to write down what freedom means to them.



Photo Collages by Angie Bautista

Above, snapshots of community members engaged at the August 2026 National Night Out in the Belle Haven community in Menlo Park, CA. Below, fancy face painting from BHA Member, Shontelle Watkins.



The atmosphere was filled with good music—featuring plenty of Michael Jackson classics—and a notable swarm of dragonflies.

down what freedom means to them.

The atmosphere was filled with good music—featuring plenty of Michael Jackson classics—and a notable swarm of dragonflies. Food options included fish and chips and local tacos, with vendors wrapping up as the evening drew to a close.

An event of this scale does not happen on its own. Organizers extended a massive thank you to the eight dedicated volunteers who worked behind the scenes to bring everything together.

Crucial logistical support also came from the City of Menlo Park, which provided the bathrooms, canopies, tables, and chairs necessary for the venue.

As families packed up and neighbors chatted in the evening air, the gathering served as a powerful reminder of the strength and unity of the Belle Haven community.*



More snapshots of community members engaged at the August 2026 National Night Out in the Belle Haven community in Menlo Park, CA.



Courtesy Photo
BHA Team pose in the community garden located at their office.



Courtesy Photos

Above, BHA Summer Intern, John prepares the garden for harvest. Below, John is picking the first harvest. Community members mingle.

MEET INTERN-JOHN

CULTIVATING COMMUNITY AND CONNECTION AT BELLE HAVEN ACTION

This summer, the Belle Haven Action (BHA) team struck gold. We are thrilled to formally introduce our community to John, BHA's 2026 Summer Environmental Justice Fellow.

John brings an incredible wealth of knowledge and passion to our team. A recent standout at Stanford University, he majored in Political Science, minored in Psychology, and earned Honors in the Ethics in Society Honors Thesis Program. His dedication to public service was recently recognized with the prestigious 2026 Stanford Alumni Association Award of Excellence. Impressively, he



BHA Team member Sean and, summer intern, John were the Grillmasters for the end of the summer Backyard Barbecue.

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he has also served as a 2025 Public Interest Law Fellow with Vital Immigrant Defense and Advocacy Services (VIDAS).

Despite his packed schedule, John has been a powerhouse for BHA, bringing boundless energy and a serious green thumb to our community.

Spearheading the Community Garden Initiative

If you've noticed the BHA home garden flourishing lately, you have John to thank. As the lead on our Community Garden Initiative, John is an early riser, often up at the crack of dawn to check on the soil and tend to the plants. In the span of less than two months, his hard work has yielded a massive, beautiful harvest: carrots, fresh greens, basil, marigolds, squash, beets, tomatoes, green beans, bush beans, and corn.

A True Team Player (and Handyman!)

John's efficiency and focus are unmatched as he effortlessly juggles multiple projects. Beyond the garden, he has been a cornerstone of our operations, lending his analytical skills to Development, Maintenance, and Grant Research alongside Ms. Pam and BHE. He is also a champion at our local farmers market, helps residents with produce bags, and compiles analysis reports. From reliably handling office maintenance to safely managing the BHA mobile, John consistently goes above and beyond to support our team in every capacity.

Stepping Up and Boxing Out

Getting to know John personally has been a joy for the BHA team. Social, warm, and

deeply family-oriented (he loves visiting his family up in Oregon), John connects with everyone he meets. He's always ready to chat about movies or share what he's currently listening to on his audiobooks.

He is also a man of action. John completely crushed the BHA summer step challenge, logging in over a staggering 500,000 steps! When he isn't walking, hiking his favorite spots (like Lands End in SF, Henry Cowell Redwoods, or Briones Regional Park), or cooking up a great meal, you might find him in the boxing gym. He's an avid boxer and has even generously offered to teach the BHA team a few moves.

John is a phenomenal person to work with, and we are incredibly grateful for the dedication, early mornings, and vibrant energy he has brought to Belle Haven Action this summer. Please join us in thanking John for his amazing work! 🙌



John shows off the fruits of his labor with a close up of a fresh beet.