



KINDNESS AWARDS

Every year we recognize the kind people of our community with a Kindness Award.

"LOCAL KINDNESS HERO" AWARD

Camron Hauer

On June 30th, about 6pm, this kind and courageous lifeguard spotted a couple in trouble while taking wedding photos in Middleman's Beach. The couple went out to the rocks for photos in full wedding attire not expecting to be swept away by massive waves. Camron immediately jumped into hazardous ocean conditions. He reached the groom first, wrapped him in a rescue tube knowing he didn't have time to get him to the shore because he spotted the bride floating face down. After securing the groom in a tube, he went to rescue the bride and pulled them both back to shore, keeping their heads above water. His selfless critical decision saved two lives that day and we honor him as our 2020 Local Kindness Hero.

"COURAGE TO BE KIND" AWARDS

Dan Safkow

Our 2019 Local Kindness Hero for going above and beyond kind to help our event turnout magical, this year he not only built our incredibly beautiful Kindness Wall, but also helped with our technical live-streaming on our social media sites and so much more. We truly appreciate your vision, creativity and spirit of volunteerism.

Maya Simpson

Our Youth Ambassador and leading our KASS Club (Kind And Safe Schools) at Sage Hill High School, Maya continues to amaze us with Kindness activities and influential social media posts to keep everyone's attention on Kindness. Also, at 2020 Patriot's Day Parade, she not only brought us volunteers from the club but also decorated her convertible VW bug as the Love Bug and made it ours for the day.

Courtney Kolodin

Moved here from Michigan, Courtney, 15, started LBHS in March but after only 3 days school closed due to Covid. Courtney immediately in those 3 days befriended Lily (classmate born blind) she to this day continues to be with her, visiting her at her house, keeping her company, entertained and being her very best friend. She is there helping her and being a great source of comfort. Lily's family says they all love her and see her as part of their family. She is a true blessing to them all.

Jessica DeStefano

Taking care of Library Garden for 6-7 years and the Fairy Garden for about four years. She's on the friends of the library board for 2-3 years. Before that she was working with Don Black to help the homeless. She had been helping the homeless before she moved to California too. She has exhibited at the Sawdust Festival and at the Festival of Arts. She created the figurine "Tillie": The Homeless Frog and had them cast and sold nationally, donating the proceeds to homeless programs.

Heidi Miller

A super kind member of the community, while art festivals and many small businesses are closed in town due to Covid, Heidi has offered the front of her store to artists and small businesses in town to be able to sell their merchandise. She also advertised every Pop Up Shop event on social media, encouraging all to support local artists. She is also a Kidney donor and has been making beautiful handmade art with repurposed jewelry to support the cause "Donate Life" for years. She has also been busy making quality masks since the beginning of Covid and by July sold over 1500 masks and donated another 200.

Alessandro Pirozzi

Chef Alessandro Pirozzi Feeds the soul of our community. During a turbulent year of pandemic and the closure of businesses Alessandro sacrificed to continued to provide for his employees and their families; and he reached out to so many others to provide support. Because of his kindness and generosity, our community and people's lives were made better. In addition to his support for our Fire and Police, and continual respect for fallen Officer Jon Coutchie, a few of the groups he has helped this year include: Laguna Food Pantry, Laguna Presbyterian, Firefighter Cancer, Waymakers OC, SchoolPower, Laguna Beach Education Foundation, Southern California Hospice Foundation, City of Laguna Beach (Artistic Parklet Tent donation for the Musicians)

Katelyn Kolberg

When Covid hit, this Laguna Beach High School junior got busy making masks, building a website, writing informative articles and joining forces with another 60 OC teenagers to provide relief to those impacted by the coronavirus as part of the COVID-19 Relief Passion Project. By the end of May, the project has made and distributed over 500 hand-sewn face masks to nurses, hospital staffers, self-isolating seniors, and families. The students have also made and distributed over 100 face shields to local clinics, Long Beach Fire Department, emergency room staffers, doctors, and families.



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"COOL TO BE KIND" AWARDS

The following already famous and fabulous artists and performers are recognized for their kind contribution to help us celebrate World Kindness Day!

Jason Feddy

Our 2018 recipient of Kindness Award, Jason performed in front of the City Hall on the signing of the Declaration ceremony for the City of Laguna Beach to join World Kindness USA on Nov. 13, 2018. This is his 2nd performance to help us celebrate World Kindness Day and we are beyond grateful.

Yeggi Watts

Artist, musician, mom, humanitarian and Child Advocate! She not only created a beautiful original painting for the new 2020 Kindness Wall, she is also helping us celebrate World Kindness Day by performing in front of her painting on Friday Nov. 13 2020.

Ave August

Ava received the 2019 "Cool To Be Kind" award for performing at our 2019 Day of Kindness. She also rode the Love Bug on Patriot's Day Parade and sang "I See Your True Colors" as Ability Awareness Project board members volunteers marched around her. We can't get enough of her incredible voice and kind heart that is expressed in her every song.

Maya Grace and Colin Boyd

Maya was only 12 when she performed a duet with Junko Cheng for Ability Awareness Project at the 2018 Patriot's Day Parade, as a daughter expressing her pain of getting bullied and her consoling mother; an original song written by Shadi Pourkashef, founder/executive director of AAP that won first place that year. This is Maya's 2nd performance to help celebrate World Kindness Day and we are so grateful for Colin Boyd to join in this year.

Lily Gabora

Lily is blind and can't see how beautiful she really is. But she focuses on her abilities not on what she can't do. She taught herself how to play piano and along with her angelic voice, she creates magic! We are so grateful she's agreed to join us this year.