

# PTA Spotlight Award

The **SPOTLIGHT AWARD** recognizes the achievements of local units and councils in familiar and new categories. Applicants may apply in multiple categories, including; Leadership Development, Student Support and Achievement, Environment, Family Involvement, Membership and Outreach, Collaboration, and Advocacy.

## UNIT AWARDS

### MEMBERSHIP AND OUTREACH

#### William F. Prisk PTA Long Beach Council PTA, Thirty-Third District

The PTA realized the need to reach out to underrepresented groups at their school, new parents (kindergarten and transferred students) and special education families. For the new families, PTA members developed the "W.I.N.G.S." program, which stands for "we include newcomers and give support." To reach out to their special needs families, they established a goal to successfully accommodate their needs, and to include them as they developed their school-wide programs.

### FAMILY INVOLVEMENT

#### Charles F. Kettering Elementary PTA Long Beach Council PTA, Thirty-Third District

In an effort to promote literacy and a love of reading, three themed events called "Kettering Library Nights" are sponsored by the PTA during the school year. These nights feature activities produced by students and parents, such as; storytelling, sing-a-longs, comic artists and character actors. It is a great way for families and teachers to spend time together reading and learning about great books.

### STUDENT SUPPORT AND ACHIEVEMENT

#### Las Flores Elementary PTA Capistrano Unified Council of PTSAs, Fourth District

The majority of anti-bullying programs target middle and senior high school. Las Flores PTA wanted to create programs that would help prevent and address bullying for a younger age group. The PTA developed an anti-bullying campaign designed specifically for Las Flores Elementary school students K-fifth grade. They collaborated with the principal, teachers and playground supervisors to create their campaign. Through the multifaceted programs, parents and students became aware of the many ways someone can be bullied and empowered kids to speak up and get help.

### COLLABORATION

#### Charles Helmers Elementary PTA Santa Clarita Valley Council PTA, Thirty-Fourth District

To ensure students are exposed to various arts and culture, the PTA, in collaboration with Canyons Performing Arts Center and the Los Angeles Music Center's Education Department, developed a music and arts program called C.H.O.R.D.S. (Culture-Helmets-Origin-Rhythm-Discover-Sing). Each grade level has its own artist in residence, and students attend up to 10 workshops with their class and teacher.

#### San Juan Hills High School PTSA Capistrano Unified Council of PTSAs, Fourth District

The PTA and the English Learner Advisory Committee felt that the ethnic and economic division continues to pose challenges for high school students, parents and staff. These two groups took these issues head-on by joining forces to try to begin to solve them. Together, they created communal goals to close the achievement gap by advocating for, educating and sharing with English Language Learners' families. The efforts of their collaboration will enhance and support learning for all students.

### ADVOCACY

#### Parkmont Elementary PTA Fremont Council PTA, Peralta District

Emergency preparedness is extremely important to those living near an earthquake fault. The PTA created the Parkmont Emergency Preparedness (PEP) committee to revitalize the emergency program at its school. In addition to procuring the needed earthquake supplies, parents were encouraged to take Community Emergency Response Training (CERT). With their expertise in the subject, they are now giving presentations on emergency preparedness to the other 40 schools within the district.

### ENVIRONMENTAL

#### Henry W. Longfellow Elementary PTA Long Beach Council PTA, Thirty-Third District

The Longfellow Green Team began "Friday Recycling" to recycle aluminum, ink cartridges and plastic bottles as a revenue stream. They expanded the program to include other ways that "trash" could be recycled. The Green Team now runs a number of concurrent and complementary programs including, lunchtime recycle (juice pouches and chip bags), cafeteria food donations, Walk to School Wednesdays and a Uniform Swap.

### LEADERSHIP

#### Laguna Hills High School Saddleback Council PTA, Fourth District

The "I Can Make a Difference Conference" provides leadership development for students who demonstrate interest and ability. Teachers are asked to help choose students who have demonstrated leadership interest and ability but may not have yet served in a leadership capacity.

## COUNCIL AWARDS

### FAMILY INVOLVEMENT

#### Capistrano Unified Council of PTSAs, Fourth District

To support its district's anti-bullying efforts and to further emphasize the importance positive behavior, the council designated anti-bullying as its 2009-2010 parent education focus. As resource manual was created to provide their PTA units and principals with turnkey resources and materials.

### STUDENT SUPPORT AND ACHIEVEMENT

#### Burbank Council PTA, First District

The *College Foundation Forum* was created by the Burbank Council PTA, after seeing a need to inform parents about their child's path to college. Parents of middle and early high school students are invited to attend. The forum focuses on how overwhelming the college decision can be for both parent and student. It better prepares students for the choices they will face in high school in relation to planning their long term education goals.

### COLLABORATION

#### Lake Elsinore Council PTSA, Twenty-Third District

Lake Elsinore Council PTSA collaborated with the Instructional Support Services Department of the Lake Elsinore Unified School District to hold a summit called "Celebrate Our Schools Week." The goal of this summit was to present the importance of a parent's role in education, to teach parents and caregivers how to become involved in their schools, and to explore the importance of building and maintaining healthy relationships with their children.

### LEADERSHIP

#### Saddleback Valley Council of PTSAs, Fourth District

The Saddleback Valley Council of PTSAs recognized the need for trainings at the local level. It created a multifaceted leadership development program that lasts the entire term. It addressed factors distinct to the council; geographic location, limited resources and the number of units in the council. In addition to topical workshops, a monthly President's Roundtable is held prior to the council meeting.

### ADVOCACY

#### Lake Elsinore Council PTSA, Twenty-Third District

Lake Elsinore PTSA Council feels advocating for health issues is one of its responsibilities. The council worked with the school district's health department to ensure all parents are aware of the new California State requirements that students in grades seven and 12 receive the TDap booster shot.