



*CAROL STROY BOES* graduated first in her high school class, became a flight attendant to see the world, moved to California, and got married. Still flying, she earned her B.A. and Master's degree in Urban Planning. Continuing as a full time flight attendant and managing a household with two stepsons, she completed law school and passed the Bar in three years. In addition to her law practice in real estate and business law, her community activities in the city of San Mateo have included Board memberships on the Human Investment Project, Leadership San Mateo, the Rotary Club, the Chamber of Commerce and the Housing Advisory and Appeals Board. She also served on the San Mateo Planning Commission, was chair of the "County Bar Association Real Estate Section and is on the Community Advisory Committee for the Breast Center at Mills Peninsula and the County Charter Review Committee. In 1985 she received the Golden Gears Award from the Peninsula Industrial and Business Association.

*NAN HAWKINS BOSTICK* has been described as the "stem Winder" of the pro-choice movement in California, especially among Republicans in California. While chairing the Children by Choice (San Mateo) and Bay Area Pro-Choice Coalitions, she created the "Choice is As American as Apple Pie" singing telegram and organized apple pie presentations to legislators in Sacramento every January 22, anniversary of the Roe v. Wade decision, from 1979 to 1982. She served as the State Coordinator of California Republicans for Choice, was Public Affairs Director for Planned Parenthood of San Mateo, twice chaired the County National Women's Political Caucus, and in 1992 won election to the Republican County Central Committee. From 1970-1978 she led a rock-and-roll band and gained fame as a songwriter and performer for feminist rallies, benefits and children's programs. She was also known in the 70's for computerizing data banks for the organizations she supported, long before others even had computers. Being a single mom, she began working from home in 1976 as proprietor of NGB & Associates, Educational Media Specialists, through which she has created award-winning textbooks, games and computer-based language arts materials for special education and inner-city elementary students.

*CELESTE MAIA CRON*'s entrepreneurial success for 25 years as head of a local printing and graphics firm led to her appointment as the first woman to head the state of California printing office, where she has started an in-house women's support group to deal with job discrimination, spousal/partner abuse, drug/alcohol abuse and other family related problems. In San Mateo County, she has been past president of the Private Industry Council; founding member and treasurer of the Friends of the Advisory Council on Women; two-term past president of Soroptimists International of Burlingame/San Mateo; steering committee member and chair of Soroptimists/AARP financial management workshops attended by hundreds of women. Her many awards include the 1991 Anne Brubaker Memorial Award for Outstanding Contributions to Soroptimist International, Burlingame/San Mateo; the 1991 Volunteer Recognition Award by the Volunteer Center; the Palo Alto Junior League Award for her work in education; three PTA Honorary Service Awards; the Key Award from the March of Dimes; and the National Association of Printers and Lithographers Award for Exceptional Employee Relationships.

*RIYA KARIM HAJI*, although only 24 years old, has an outstanding professional and volunteer record in helping others. While at Stanford, she founded SOAR (Students Offering Alternative Realities), a comprehensive after school program for high school youth from East Palo Alto and Menlo Park. She supervised the program which included tutoring, academic support, an employment program, a newspaper and preparation for SAT and ACT exams. She served as a facilitator for a weekly substance abuse group at San Quentin Prison, volunteered with the County Aids Program, and was a substance abuse counselor for Links to Positive People -Center for Community Change in East Palo Alto. She helped found a free medical clinic in her hometown of Byran, Texas, when she was only 20 and initiated a Midnight Basketball League for young people while she was in college. Her most recent achievement is the founding of Free At Last Community and Rehabilitation Services, a drug and alcohol recovery program, which in its first year served more than 3,000 clients in East Palo Alto. She presently serves as its Executive Director.

*HELEN HAUSMAN*, at a time when academically trained women were something of a novelty, not only put herself through college, but did so after she was married. In San Mateo County, she served in PTA activities for 25 years, receiving numerous awards. She was elected four times to the Sequoia Union High School District Board, serving through the critical desegregation period. She is presently serving her second term on the San Mateo County Community College District Board. She has served as Board President and she is currently Vice President-Clerk. Following a trip to China with the American Red Cross, she chaired a Bay Area-wide Symposium on the Geneva Conventions and Humanitarian Law. She is presently chair of the San Mateo County American Red Cross Board of Directors. The Junior League appointed her as a Community Advisor to serve as a spokesperson for gender equity issues with American Association of University Women, and has been a volunteer with the Children's Hospital at Stanford, the California Curriculum Alliance and Californians for Drug Free Youth.

*DR. ELIZABETH JACKSON MACAULAY* has celebrated 50 years as a practicing pediatrician, 39 of them in the same office, a converted home in South San Francisco. In 1936, she was one of only three women to graduate from Long Island College of Medicine, receiving three of the five awards for her class including "Best in all areas of Medicine." She also raised seven children who recall that she always managed to be a den mother as well as a doctor, and each week took one child out alone for a special treat. Her nominator recalls that she made her small patients feel very grown up and that she was like a friend or a favorite aunt who always had time to explain. She made house calls, seeming like an angel in a white coat, and when a family who had no insurance couldn't pay, she considered pro bono care "an investment in the family." One family repaid her by giving her the recipe for a special spaghetti sauce that had been in the family for years. When she began her practice of medicine, she did not wear masculine clothes as most women colleagues did, saying, "I like being a woman, and I like being a doctor." Her philosophy of life which she shared with everyone: "If you want to do something, just go ahead and do it."

*ORTENSIA LOPEZ*, the second of 11 children born to parents from Mexico, was the first to graduate from college and has never forgotten her roots. She has two B.A. degrees, in psychology and in Chicano studies, an M.A. in Urban Social Planning and is pursuing a Ph.D. in psychology. Meanwhile, she has been Chief Executive Officer at the North Peninsula Neighborhood Services Center since 1977. She is currently on leave from that post to serve as Executive Director of Bay Area Latino Non-Profit Association (BALNA) which promotes and develops Latino leadership among service providers in the Latino community. She has been co-founder of the Hispanic Concilio of San Mateo County, the Latino issues forum and Sur San Francisco Unidos. She has served on countless boards and commissions, including the State and local Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, the Chicana/Latina Foundation (formerly known as the Chicana Foundation of Northern Califor-

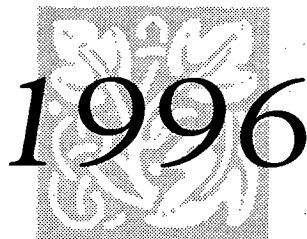
nia), the AIDS Advisory Task Force, Seton Hospital, the YWCA, the Civil Service Commission, Legal Aid Society, San Francisco Bay Girl Scouts, the United Way, and the Parole Commission. She has received the Bank of America Hispanic Heroes and Heroines Award, the United Way of the Bay Area Volunteer of the Year award, and the Hispanic Yellow Pages Community Recognition award among many others.

*PEGI MORTON YOUNG* was still young when she gave birth to a little boy with severe cerebral palsy. While still adjusting to this new and difficult mothering role, she was diagnosed as having an "arterio-venous malformation," (in layman's terms, a malformation of blood vessels—a congenital birth defect) and needing brain surgery. She weathered these difficult years, remaining cheerful and giving to those around her. Believing that "Just because they don't talk, doesn't mean they don't think," in 1986, she became one of three co-founders of the Bridge School, an innovative educational program for children with severe speech and physical impairments which encourages and enables its students to access curriculum through the use of Augmentative and Alternative Communication. The Bridge School was certified by the California State Department of Education as a non-public school, receiving praise for its outstanding program. She served as unpaid director of the school for six years and remains active as President of its Board of Directors. She is involved in many community projects, including the school activities of her son and daughter and, as her nominator says, "She is always the first to volunteer for a project that needs to be done."

#### 1995 YOUNG WOMEN OF EXCELLENCE

*LISA MARJORIE COAR* has excelled at Burlingame High School in academics, athletics, student government and community service. She has a 4.0 grade average, is on the tennis team and is the student body liaison to the Burlingame Human Relations Commission and the district student representative to the San Mateo Union High School Board of Trustees. She is active in the Black Student Union and during International Week, she organized "Culture in the Classroom," bringing together cultural clubs to conduct a workshop to promote appreciation of cultural diversity on campus. She volunteers with latchkey children at Turnbull Center and as a food server for the homeless and has been a volunteer for the YMCA's annual sustaining campaign and in the reelection campaign of Congresswoman Anna Eshoo. She was Girl's State Delegate, a National Achievement semi-finalist, and received both the Edward Teller Award for Academic Excellence and the Xerox Humanities and Social Science Award.

*CAROLYN NOOR*, a senior at Aragon High School, has served on the City of San Mateo's Citizen's Review Committee since its inception a year ago. This committee, composed of ten San Mateo leaders, including representatives from business, homeowners and human resource communities, gathers residents' concerns through public hearings, surveys and testimony, examines the impacts of social services and residential care facilities, and makes problem-solving recommendations to the City Council. At Aragon, she founded and for three years has co-chaired the King Center Thanksgiving food drive. For two years she has been the Cultural/Community Commissioner, recently arranging for a multi-cultural mural at the school. She tutors grade school students once a week and has been a counselor at the San Mateo outdoor education program. She is involved in environmental issues and works with the Youth for Understanding and the YMCA world camp programs, promoting international awareness. She has received numerous academic awards, including recognition as outstanding student in both English and Social Studies.



*JANE BAKER's* role as chair of the Metropolitan Transportation Commission of the San Francisco Bay Area followed more than twenty years on the San Mateo City Council, six of those as mayor. Other public offices include: chair of the San Mateo County Transportation Authority; National League of Cities Advisory Council and Board of Directors; board member and state president and chair of the Intergovernmental Relations Committee of the League of California Cities; State Job Training Coordinating Council; City/County Task Force on Transportation; Comprehensive Education and Training; vice chair of the Council of Mayors of San Mateo County; North San Mateo Council of Cities chair; Association of Bay Area Governments. She is also a founding member and past director of the California Elected Women for Research and Education; the American Association of University Women; the League of Women voters; the Women's Association of the First Presbyterian Church; the Coyote Point Museum Auxiliary; and the Commonwealth Club.

*ROBERTA JAN BESSETTE*, former Chief Executive Officer for the San Mateo County Visiting Nurse Association (VNA) and Hospice, has been involved in public health services for more than thirty years. As Visiting Nurse Director in San Mateo County since 1988, she has worked to support equal access to home health care for everyone, regardless of race, religion, place of residence or ability to pay. She promotes cultural diversity in hiring and has expanded the VNA home care program to areas where other agencies do not serve, including rural and high crime areas. She started and fosters the home pediatric and psychiatric programs in VNA, filling an important gap in services. Her nominator speaks of her "big heart" for everyone in the community, especially for her staff. She has also served as a member of the Other Services Committee of the Health Plan Committee of San Mateo, the United Way County Leadership Board, the Foster City Friends of the Library, and she was named the April 1991 employee of the month by the Visiting Nurse Association.

*MARJORIE "MIDGE" BOLTON* served as executive director of the Volunteer Center from 1968 to 1978. During that time she obtained a federal grant to begin a volunteer program for mental health patients leaving institutional care at a time when community resources had not been established to help this client base. The pilot Transitional Volunteer Program was so successful that it has been funded for two decades. From 1983 to 1993 she was a member of the board of the Peninsula Community Foundation, serving as a leader during a period of staggering growth from \$17 million in assets to \$54 million. She was one of the founders of Mission Hospice, was board president from 1982-1984, and served as chair or member of important committees, including Long Range Planning for thirteen years. She has also served several terms with the Mills College board of Trustees and Alumnae Association; the Allocations Committee of the San Mateo County unit of the United Way of the Bay Area; the County Charter Revision and Long Term Care Committee; the Peninsula YMCA; the Burlingame Library Foundation Board; and the KCSM Community Advisory Board.

*DORIAN MOTEN BROWN* was nominated by three people, including her daughter, who says, "My mother is a special person because she is like a 'Super Mom.' She always saves the day for everybody." Dorian is a trainer in conflict resolution and director of a community mediation program in East Palo Alto. She opened an in-house alternative program for kids suspended from elementary school, and began programs of gang mediations in East Palo Alto, Palo Alto and presently in San Mateo. She is also a mentor for parolees from the California Youth Authority, a group home counselor, a trainer of adults and girls in negotiation, and executive producer of youth television for Emerald City Magazine. Honors include: the World of Well Being Award from the

Santa Clara Girl Scouts; the Positive Image Award from the East Palo Alto Teen Home; the Community Leader Fellowship Award for violence prevention from the California Wellness Foundation; the Larry Sleizer Memorial Award for professional mediators; congressional recognition for community service from Congresswoman Anna Eshoo; and certificates of recognition from East Palo Alto.

*GIOCONDA EGAN*, herself profoundly deaf, founded the San Mateo County Branch of Deaf Counseling Advocacy Referral Agency, known as DCARA (pronounced D-Cara as two words) in 1978 and served as its executive director until 1982. She is a trained paralegal and introduced sign language to the courts and community colleges so that those with hearing impairment are not neglected when seeking assistance. Through her persistence, a class specifically designed for the hearing impaired is now offered at one of the colleges. She was instrumental in developing the Disability Services Program which presently operates through county government. She ran the program alone from 1985 to 1991 when the program was expanded, and she still serves as a disabilities advocate. She worked with Congresswoman, then supervisor, Anna Eschoo to develop the County Disabilities Task Force, serving on it for years and working toward its merger with the Developmental Disabilities Coordinating Council to establish the San Mateo County Commission on Disabilities.

*SHARON BRYCE HOFSTEDT*, a registered nurse for twenty-five years, is a tireless volunteer in support of women, children and families in our county. She chairs the Community Outreach Committee of the Board of Directors for Stanford University Hospital, which serves as a primary care facility, teaching hospital and medical research institute for San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties. She was one of the first patient relations volunteers to work in the emergency room and has spent 2,000 hours to build this program which now serves patients and their families five days and three evenings each week. She is assisting in the development of a similar program at Lucile Salter Packard Children's Hospital. As a board member and current president of the Board of Directors of the Women's Recovery Association, a nonprofit organization providing chemical dependency services for women, Ms. Hofstedt has expanded its services to include the recent "Perinatal Residential Program," allowing children to live with mothers who are receiving treatment. She also volunteers in the homeless aid program at Samaritan House in San Mateo and serves on the County Winter Shelter Task Force. In 1991 she was honored as Outstanding Volunteer Advocate by the Junior League of Palo Alto.

*VIVIAN L. KRAL* has recently been named President-Elect of California Women Lawyers, the largest Women's Bar Association in the world. Her election marks the first time this honor has come to San Mateo County and is the culmination of many efforts on behalf of women, children and families. She previously received the California Women Lawyers President's Award for passion and commitment to the organization's goals of promoting the advancement of women in the legal profession and in society. She is also the vice president of Planned Parenthood Association of San Mateo County, president of the county chapter of the National Women's Political Caucus, and a member of the County Bar Association Board of Directors. She is a practicing attorney in the county, a lecturer and speaker on legal ethics and family law, and teaches oral advocacy at the Hastings College of Oral Advocacy.

*MARIA LUCIDI* has worked in education for nearly forty years as a teacher, a coach of forensics and debate, a department chair, an instructional skills supervisor, a district coordinator of GATE (the Gifted and Talented Program), and as head of many committees on the school, district and county levels. With a few former students she began PAIDEIA, San Mateo High School District's literary/art magazine which has just completed its ninth issue and has been recognized by the National Council of Teachers of English. She began the Speaker's Bureau, through which she coaches students in speech and involves them in speech competitions. Also, she has done volunteer work in many community activities, including the Red Cross, the American Heart and Cystic Fibrosis Associations. Ms. Lucidi's awards include; a National Endowment for the Humanities

Fellowship in 1992; recognition as San Mateo County Teacher of the Year in 1980; three San Mateo County Kent awards for three unique learning programs; and Teacher of the Year awards at both Capuchino and Aragon High Schools.

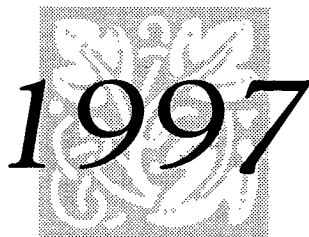
*P*EGGY *S*TERN *P*ROPP, who seven years ago was a busy professional with a heavy travel schedule, regretted she had so little time to volunteer for community service. Realizing there were many people like herself, she gave up a successful marketing career to found Community Impact, a nonprofit organization to make volunteering flexible, easy and fun. With her two co-founders she collaborated with other Bay Area nonprofits to create several one-day projects for volunteers — and then offered those opportunities through a newsletter. More than 62,000 hours of community service have been delivered so far, and she has developed a series of innovative projects with cooperation and funding from Bay Area foundations and corporations. However, Ms. Propp's nominator says, "The wild successes of her creative programs have only encouraged her to continue finding new ways for individuals and groups to build community through volunteer service...she's already working on something new. Her cup is not just half full...it's brimming over." In 1995 she was selected by Congressman Tom Campbell, then state senator, as Woman of the Year for his district.

*F*LORENCE *R*HODADS has more than two decades of community service to her credit, including more than twelve years on the San Mateo City Council, with three terms as mayor. She also served on the Public Safety Committee of the League of California Cities, the Association of Bay Area Governments Executive Board, and was chair of the San Mateo County Council of Mayors, the County Criminal Justice Council, and the San Mateo Parks and Recreation Commission. Ms. Rhoads also served on the following committees; San Mateo County Park Bond Committee; League of California Cities Leisure Services Committee; and the San Mateo City Committee for Joint Use of Facilities with the School District. Other affiliations include; the American Association of University Women; West San Mateo Homeowners' Association; League of Women voters; San Mateo Arboretum Society; Board of Directors of the Altar Guild of the Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration; National Association of Parliamentarians; and the San Mateo Arthritis Project.

#### 1996 YOUNG WOMEN OF EXCELLENCE

*J*ACQUELINE *C*OOKE, from the day she entered Burlingame High School, has been involved in student government, athletics and music. Her nominator writes that despite some major personal and family obstacles, she has developed outstanding leadership skills and maintained a consistent honor roll academic standing. She is one of two seniors representing Burlingame High in a community coalition known as "Burlingame Together," an intergenerational project linking students with senior citizen partners. Ms. Cooke is also a leader in "Freshman Gathering," a program designed to help ninth graders bridge the transition from middle to high school. She is presently student body president and was recently voted the Senior Who Contributed the Most. Her volunteer activities, too numerous to list here, range from fund raising for AIDS research to collecting teddy bears to bring joy to a young child.

*M*ARY *R*EGAN *S*IMONSON, a senior at Sacred Heart Preparatory School, has contributed more than 900 community service hours since 1992 to Ronald McDonald House for terminally ill children and their parents, plus another 186 volunteer hours at a variety of places, including Stanford Children's Hospital. Presently at Ronald McDonald House, she recruits, trains and manages a teen volunteer program serving 200 children. In addition, she maintains a 3.86 grade point average, is editor of the yearbook and a member of the student council. Ms. Simonson also is a nationally competitive vaulter in gymnastics on horseback and a teacher in this area of athletics as well. The father of one of her students, whose mother recently died of cancer, says of Mary, "Her devotion and friendship cannot be adequately expressed in words. Her love and caring have made a tremendous difference in the life of a little girl who has lost her mother."



*LYNDA BURTON* has been an attorney at the Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County since 1981, representing extremely low income clients in a variety of areas, including family law, domestic violence, landlord/tenant and consumer protection. She has been a major participant in the programs of the County Task Force on Violence Against Women, the Family Law Center and serves as a legal resource for the Center for Domestic Violence Prevention and Sor Juana, which serves Latina victims of domestic violence. As a volunteer, she has monitored Operation Rescue attacks on Planned Parenthood sites and served on teams monitoring elections and researching abuses of human rights in Latin America. She has participated in numerous human rights conferences, including the Fourth World Conference on women in Beijing and helps to translate their outcomes to citizens in San Mateo County. Her nominator says: "Lynda receives neither great financial rewards nor public credit, but she continues to do what is important to her: making sure that our society's legal systems work for the poor and the disadvantaged."

*FRANCISCA DE CASTRO GUEVARRA*, born in San Francisco and a daughter of Filipino immigrants, has made volunteerism her vocation and avocation for the past 28 years. Fran left a career in banking in 1969 to join the Volunteer Center where she has been a driving force in broadening the focus of services to underserved parts of the county and especially in recruiting people of color as volunteers. In 1990 she conducted the Bay Area's first Volunteer Center conference on cultural diversity and volunteerism. This conference served as the prototype for similar programs in San Francisco, Oakland and Los Altos, conducted by the Strive for Five volunteer campaign. Since 1980 she has worked to expand youth services and volunteer programs, resulting in the current Volunteer Center Youth Board. During the same decade, she has worked to expand volunteerism in the private sector and in 1996, she conducted a management training session for representatives of 18 European countries at the 1996 Volunteurope Conference in Rome. She was also an Olympic torchbearer.

*LILLIAN HECKER FREED* has been a champion of the working class and a political activist since she was 16 years old. During an era when women were socially and financially discouraged from working outside the home, she worked and developed a career that spanned four decades. In the 1950s, she broke the barriers to become her company's first woman Departmental Supervisor. She retained a leadership position in that company for thirty years, mentoring and encouraging other women. In a lifetime of political activism, she marched in active support of peace during the Vietnam War, led a successful strike and organized a union in New York, and sat on picket lines in San Francisco's Auto Row until racial discrimination in hiring was ended. At age 80, her current volunteer activities include work with the San Mateo Central Labor Council, the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, the Contra Costa Hills Conservation Club and the California Alpine Club (both conservation and hiking clubs), the Peace Action Association, and the Tamalpais Conservation Club. She is President of the Federation of Retired Union Members and says that she will continue to march for social justice and equality as long as she is able.

*JOANNE RON GILBERT* is an educator who specializes in "at risk" students. According to her nominator, she "has received no formal awards, but is recognized by those who know her as someone who has transformed lives." Transferred from Detroit to San Mateo County in 1984,

newly divorced, with a teenaged son—her job was soon eliminated. She worked out a homesharing plan to provide her son with a secure environment, returned to school to earn a teaching credential, got a full time teaching job, and developed a private tutoring practice. She also managed to volunteer as a landlord-tenant dispute mediator, to coordinate events for the Jazz for the Homeless program, and to work in local political campaigns. As a member of the county Human Relations Commission, she developed the first and only County Hate Crimes conference. In 1992, finally able to buy her own condo and seeing her son in law school, she was diagnosed with thyroid cancer. During her battle with this disease, which left her voiceless and unable to work for three months, she maintained correspondence with her students, providing them with support and counsel. Back at work since February, 1995, she is also taking classes in alternative dispute resolution and educational therapy.

*MARYANN MEDINA*, one of the few Latina women working for the San Francisco Post Office in 1966, recognized the importance of giving a helping hand. She became the first woman President of the Latin American Postal workers (LAPE) to promote Latino postal employee advancement opportunities, to offer support to newly hired Latinos and to train many others to qualify for US Postal Service employment. While working full time, she earned her AA in 1981 and her BS in Public Administration in 1985. In 1989 she was elected Western Region Coordinator of the APWU Post Office Women for Equal Rights. Her experience as a single mom led her to help organize her union's Childcare Committee; she worked with it for ten years to get a 24-hour child care facility for postal workers. She overcame her shyness by joining Toastmasters International and becoming a public speaker. Despite increasing problems with her eyesight, she attended the 1995 UN Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing. She makes frequent presentations about her Beijing trip. As a Soroptomist, she helps others by her work as a facilitator in the Women's Financial Information Program.

*BONNIE MILLER*, a board member for Fair Oaks Community Center, saw a need to provide more food for impoverished people all year long. She roped a number of board members into several fund-raising campaigns over three years, including letter writing and seven flea markets resulting in over \$6,000 for food. In 1991, when children at Taft School were playing "toro" with discarded hypodermic needles found on the playground, Bonnie, as a neighborhood association co-chair, was instrumental in organizing her community to make Taft School a Drug Free Zone. She was one of the founding members of a coalition which developed the Taft/Healthy Start Family Center in 1995. As a small business owner, she has been a key player in the Women's Financial Information Program Coalition, a seven-week course designed to take the fear out of finances for women. This program has served over 600 women, ranging in age from 17 to 91. She has raised seven children, a multi-ethnic group including step and foster children, many of whom call her "mom." Bonnie has received the "Unsung Hero" award from the Redwood City Interservice Club and the Sequoia Award for Outstanding Volunteerism.

*CAROLYN NOBLES* has energetically served the needs of others in her family, neighborhood and community for many years. While rearing two daughters, she continued to pursue her education, receiving her social services degree in 1970. Most recently, in her community of Redwood City, she organized an effort to raise over \$120,000 from foundations, individuals, businesses and service clubs to develop and build a playground to benefit the North Fair Oaks Community. She was a founding member of the Probe Auxiliary which, through its Children's Fund Boutique, raised \$1,000,000 to benefit children's programs in Redwood City. She was a founding member of Redwood City's Citizens Against Racism, a multi-racial group formed after the death of Martin Luther King. This group still sponsors scholarships for minority students attending Canada College. She was a founding member of Friends of Redwood City, organized in 1982 for the purpose of preserving Redwood City's Bair Island wetlands. She has been honored by the Sierra Club, Soroptomists



International, the Volunteer Center, the Junior League the California State Assembly, the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors and the Save San Francisco Bay Association.

*M*ARGARET *T*AYLOR, as Director of the San Mateo County Health Services Agency, is responsible for a \$192 million budget, 1,500 employees, and 200 contractors. She was the first woman appointed department head in county government. Yet her nominator points out that she goes far beyond her official position in serving her community. For example, she has worked hard to identify the specific health needs of women, initiating prenatal care programs and creating conferences on breast cancer and increasing breast cancer education and screening for women of color. Together with the San Mateo Rotary Club mentorship project, she set up an employment program for young women and minority students in Health Services. She has developed many partnerships with community organizations to enhance care for their constituents. Her work with the Hispanic Concilio resulted in the award of the prestigious Robert Wood Johnson Foundation grant that consolidates funds to assist the Concilio to expand health education, prevention and intervention to over 3,000 clients a year.

#### 1997 YOUNG WOMEN OF EXCELLENCE

*E*UGENIA *C*HEN is described by her nominator as the "quintessential student," who has taken the most rigorous academic program at Mills High School and is still number one in her class of 327 and a National Merit semi-finalist. Offered the opportunity to attend the very selective Accelerated High School Student Program at UC Berkeley this year, she turned it down to serve her elected term as Student Body President. Also an accomplished flautist and pianist, she was chosen most valuable player in tennis and badminton. Increasingly involved in her community, she has been chosen National Youth Ambassador for the Organization of Chinese Americans and will travel across the country, representing Chinese American Youth. She highly impressed the pediatric surgery team during an internship at the Lucille Salter Packard Children's Hospital at Stanford and was elected Supreme Court Justice at last summer's Girls' State. She is doing an internship with County Supervisor Mary Griffin and has worked with the Commission on the Status of Women in its 'No on 209' campaign. Her nominator says "Whatever Eugenia does, she does well. She is as dependable on the courts as she is in the classroom."

*J*ESSICA *F*RANK has received a wide variety of written comments from teachers, including the following: "You bring intelligence, passion and creativity to everything . . . Your Rodin paper is worth publication . . . I appreciate how much you push yourself . . . how you try something you have never done or follow a line of thought as far as it will take you." Jessica is a recipient of the National Council of Teachers of English Writing Award. She has volunteered as a teacher's aide with emotionally disturbed 3rd and 4th graders, tutored a runaway youth who speaks English as a second language, and is a member of MORE, Moving on Racial Equality. As a Social Action Contact for Pacific Central District's Young Religious Unitarian Universalists, she is responsible for creating projects combining community service and social justice for this 400-member youth organization spanning northern California. So far, her group has helped renovate an elementary school in a low-income area in San Francisco, organized and conducted a workshop on homelessness, planned an Amnesty International letter-writing campaign dealing with Youth Against Violence, and marched in the NOW "Fight the Right" rally in San Francisco. She spent last summer on the Navajo reservation, learning from the people and tutoring at the adult education center.



# 1998

*MILDRED ANN "MILLIE" BESSIRE* has influenced countless lives, but her dedication to children is what makes her so special. She has spent over 50 years in Girl Scouting. More than 20 of those years she actively led a two-week long Girl Scout Day Camp and set it up as an on-going program in which she currently serves as Day Camp Administrator. Millie has also been very active in PTA for more than 30 years, serving as President at the local and council levels. In both areas she continues to hold positions of leadership and responsibility for which she has earned awards too numerous to mention. One example is the PTA Honorary Service Award at local, council and district levels. She also received the Women Helping Women Award from the Soroptomists in 1997. Millie has also developed the expertise of other volunteers through her efforts in training and recruiting adult volunteers, including her grown daughters who are now active in the Girl Scouting Program. She also takes time to actively support political candidates. Millie explains that her primary focus in Girl Scouting is "for the girls"; in PTA it is "for the children"; and her political support is "for the children and future generations."

*GLORIA BROWN*, born, raised and educated in San Mateo County, has given back to her community with energy and determination. She has served on many boards and is currently on the Mills-Peninsula Health Services Board of Directors. Among other awards, she was recognized in the 1996 Mid-Peninsula Annual Report as a hero who has made a difference. In 1995 Gloria organized the first Awareness Sunday Program for African-American Women in San Mateo County in response to data indicating that African-American women have one of the lowest survival rates of breast cancer in the US. In 1996 she organized an African-American Community Health Advisory Committee through the Mills-Peninsula Health Services. Its goal is to identify and address health issues that affect the African-American Community. Gloria also helped design an environmental education program for middle school students to address the academic, emotional and social needs of students needing an alternative environment for learning. The highly successful program, now in its fifth year, was done in partnership with the Cabrillo School District and a local funder. A third major focus called HOMERUN, is an extensive educational program for recovering mothers and their children. Gloria is a wife and mother of two college graduates.

*MARCELLA "MARCY" CISNEROS* had her dream come true when Sor Juana Ines, offering services for abused women, opened its doors in 1993. Both the office and hot line were in Marcy's home until 1994. The agency has served over 5,000 women in San Mateo County answering crisis calls and providing counseling. Marcy started her work with family violence victims as a volunteer for the San Mateo Battered Women's Services, then served as Director of Program Services and Outreach Education from 1990 to 1993. In 1995 Marcy was hired by the District Attorney's Office as one of the first Domestic Violence Victim Advocates. With her bilingual and bicultural abilities, Marcy has provided a much needed service to a previously underserved population. In addition to her current position with the DA, she continues to educate the private sector about domestic violence as well as serving in a number of other volunteer capacities. She is an Advisory Board Member of the Psychology Department for the College of Notre Dame and a co-chair of the County Task Force on Violent Crimes Against Women, to name just two. Marcy has received a number of awards for her initiating spirit and commitment to combat domestic violence while "treating people in crisis and distress with compassion, courage, dignity and wisdom".

*LINDA LOPEZ* had three important role models from whom she learned volunteer service to her community: her mother, Rose Lopez, who was involved with St. Anthony's Church and Garfield School, and her sisters, Rebecca and Rosemary, who were involved with the schools and the Chicano Civil Rights Movement. Linda's desire to help others is evidenced by her years of employment in a variety of community organizations and her extensive list of volunteer activities. As current president of the Board of La Raza Centro Legal she continues to lead the first year contract negotiations to successfully unionize employees with Service Employees International Union. She was a Founding Member of the North Fair Oaks Economic Development Organization, which evolved into the current Community Council. The Council, now 11 years old, assists the residents of North Fair Oaks in having a voice before the County Board of Supervisors on their special needs and issues. Linda was also instrumental in establishing the Fair Oaks Clinic over 24 years ago which is still in operation today. Using her bilingual and community outreach skills, she is able to bridge the gap and work in many different arenas with professionals, elected officials, and a variety of members of the community. She performs all of these activities as a single mom raising three sons.

*MARIAN MANN* explains to potential volunteers "If you give your time to help others, you will be happier than you ever thought possible". Clearly she believes this to be true as she is involved in the school systems, merchants associations as well as a wide variety of community volunteer groups. Marian co-founded and chaired the national award winning anti-graffiti program in Daly City. (Al Teglia was her co-founder.) The program is listed in the National Index for Success as the model program for the country. She has helped form and lead the Gateway Festival for the last six years, celebrating the richness of the diverse ethnic community. Marian also helped create an annual Funday for mentally challenged young people from Bay Area facilities. Over 250 clients from Poplar Center, RCH, and others participate each year. She offers emotional and practical support to youth needing guidance and help in doing community service to fulfill their probation. She enables these "at risk" youth to become productive members of the community. On top of all this and more, she owns her own business, has raised six natural and adopted children and four stray puppies.

*IRENE PAPAN* has dedicated ten years and countless hours clothing over 6,000 children in San Mateo County. She is the founder of John's Closet, established in 1988 in memory of her son John. John's Closet, a non-profit foundation, is an all volunteer program with no overhead that provides new clothes to children. Irene feels that the new clothes "level the playing field" and enable children to be full participants in the academic experience by helping to promote confidence and self-esteem. John's Closet is run by 30 dedicated volunteers, has no telephone bills and no rent payments. With her husband, Lou, she established a Memorial Scholarship Fund that awards scholarships to special education programs and late-blooming high school seniors. Irene has been recognized by the City Councils of Daly City, Pacifica and South San Francisco for her tireless efforts on behalf of children and she was featured on the Channel 7 program, "Sunday On Seven" which recognizes outstanding volunteers in the community. Her efforts signify the true spirit of commitment to our country's greatest resource—our children.

*BERNADETTE PLOTNIKOFF* was born in Honolulu, Hawaii and has worked with and for children since she graduated from college. She started her career as a teacher at Carlmont High School in 1953. Throughout her professional and volunteer years, Bernadette has focused on the needs and treatment of children by educating, lecturing and advising on the issues of child abuse and neglect. Through her work on various commissions and task forces of the San Mateo Board of Supervisors, she has helped to make San Mateo County a leader in the handling of children's issues. Bernadette has designed and co-designed several significant programs to benefit children and their families. One such program is the Male Adolescent Awareness Program to help sexually abused boys overcome the trauma associated with abuse, a population chronically overlooked. Through her

skillful use of mass media, she has brought information to more than 50,000 persons each year concerning the effects of child abuse, how to protect children from it, and what steps to take if it has occurred. Her creativity, net-working skills and informed optimism assure continued growth of her projects and plans.

*BONNIE WELLS* spent the first five years of her life in an orphanage after being abandoned by her birth mother. This period of emotional and material deprivation seared into her mind so powerfully that she has spent the rest of her life professionally and personally helping others in need. For her work with city and county government, United Way of the Bay Area, Seton Medical Center and more, Bonnie has received many awards. The two most recent ones presented in 1997 were Outstanding Pacifica Chamber of Commerce Director and United Way of the Bay Area Volunteer Merit Award. In 1995 Bonnie established the North San Mateo County Leadership Forum, providing upcoming community leaders background on how their communities and the county operate. She also served on the Child Care Coordinating Council of SMC, Inc. from 1986-1995, serving as President from 1990-1992. Without a college degree, Bonnie has earned every step as she climbed the corporate ladder. A woman of extraordinary determination and heart, she is a role model to women to let nothing keep them from reaching their fullest potential while looking out for others along the way.

#### 1998 YOUNG WOMEN OF EXCELLENCE

*SARA AVIEL* has been described as a multi-talented, brilliant, exceptional student and highly principled citizen. She has won awards for excellence in academics, debate, civic work, music and attitude. Her participation as an attorney on the Hillsdale Mock Trial Team helped them win the county championship in 1995, 1996 and 1997 and to place second in California last spring. She has been a leader in Junior State of America for three years and a reporter for the school newspaper, writing about such issues as the place of religion in public schools. Sara, also a musician, plays the piano and has played the viola with the El Camino Youth Symphony. She finds a way to bring community service into all of her interests, by spending numerous hours volunteering for the Junior State of America, and spending a month in Costa Rica last summer where she communicated in Spanish while working in the rain forest and in a poor village. Sara has managed to earn a 3.9 grade point average and became a National Merit Semifinalist while tutoring others in math and Spanish. Her academic, musical, and extra-curricular activities demonstrate her superior abilities and enthusiasm. Sara is an inspiring role model for the young women of San Mateo County.

*ANNIE CHAU* was born in Hong Kong in 1981 and immigrated to the US seven years ago, in 1991. Her ability to adjust, contribute to her community with totality and achieve such success academically is remarkable. Annie was Class Treasurer and Circulation Editor for San Mateo High School's *Hi*; is on the Math Team, is Vice President of International Club, is in the Marching Band, in the Interact Club and in Amnesty International. Her volunteer work, which she does out of a genuine interest in and commitment to her community, is performed in a humble, quiet way which does not seek recognition. For the past few years she has shared her time with and provided hands-on support to children through a variety of roles: as a reading tutor, an art instructor, a friendly companion, and an activity assistant. Annie represents the youth of the county through her work with the SMC Youth Commission and the Foster City Youth Advisory Council. She has been recognized and rewarded numerous times for her academic achievements in science, math, Latin and Spanish along with her volunteer work and last year received the Congressional Youth Excellence Award of the 12th Congressional District of California. Annie has accomplished all of this, plays the piano and tennis, and has achieved a 4.0 grade point average. She is truly an outstanding young woman and role model.