

1st District Recipient: New Beginnings Counseling Center

New Beginnings provides community outreach programs and personal counseling for those who need help and support. They offer services based on the real issues people face everyday.

At New Beginnings Counseling Center the dedicated, experienced interns and outreach staff meet with people on a personal and confidential basis. They work with people of all ages who are going through life's transitions, relationship struggles and personal challenges. They help others find direction and hope for themselves and their families. Outreach Programs include Life Skills Training, Youth Outreach, Homeless Outreach/ Safe Parking, and Job Placement. New Beginnings' work not only encompasses advancement and advocacy for psychological services but they have greatly contributed to our district through their homeless Safe Parking Program, Life Skills program, and the work with high school teen groups. They have and continue to positively impact many women in our community.

2nd District Recipient: St. Vincent's of Santa Barbara

St. Vincent's is Santa Barbara's oldest, continuous local service agency. With a long tradition of responding to the changing needs of the community, St. Vincent's seeks to break the cycle of poverty, violence, and abuse for the most vulnerable and needy of Santa Barbara County. Operating on a core value system of respect, quality, simplicity, advocacy, and creativity, St. Vincent's lives out its mission through: PATHS Program of Affordable Transitional Housing and Services, Casa Alegria Children's Center, and expanded services to the Affordable Housing Program for low-income families and seniors 62 and over. St. Vincent's specifically works with women and children in time of crisis by providing shelter and life skills training to those leaving abusive homes. St. Vincent's has been able to change the lives of many women and children in the Santa Barbara Community.

3rd District Recipient: Support Our Troops Project

This project provides each deployed platoon a box with enough treats and notes of encouragement from home, for each member of that platoon, for each month during their tour of duty. Platoons vary in size from 20-50, depending upon their duties, and are deployed for approximately six months. This project also collects items such as phone cards, postage, beef jerky, moisturizer, clothing items, feminine products, and specifically sends goody bags to women overseas. The project began through the Republican Women's Federated of Santa Ynez Valley and grew throughout the community.

4th District Recipient: Young Educated Latina Leaders (YELL) Mujer Conference

Over 400 young Latinas benefited recently through an extraordinary community effort powered by private local Latina professionals. Sponsored by local businesses and coordinated and hosted by Allan Hancock College. The Young Educated Latina Leaders (YELL) Mujer college motivational conference was a model effort on behalf of Latino teens. The purpose of the conference was to encourage and motivate adolescent Latinas to recognize the importance of higher education in building a future and a career. Role models provided testimony about the importance of hard work and taking advantage of educational opportunities to advance individual potential and overcome obstacles to success in reaching goals.

5th District Recipient: Girl Scouts of California's Central Coast

The primary purpose is to create fun, educational and innovative programs for girls that allow them the opportunity to explore their natural abilities and interests as they navigate the sometimes choppy waters of growing up. Over the past year, the Santa Maria-Orcutt Service Unit have participated in many community service events. To name just a few, they made and purchased a variety of Valentine's Cards to send to troops overseas so they can have cards to send to their families back home, they held a Girl Scout 95th Birthday Celebration at the Mervyn's Shopping Center for the whole community, they participated in Operation Gratitude which girl scout troops sold cookies and offered the opportunity for the public to send cookies and postcards to troops overseas. Also, Troop #579 was honored with the Gold Award (highest honor in Girl Scouts that can be earned) for the completion the renovation of the Santa Maria's Good Samaritan Shelter's family room and children's area. The girls searched for the donations and did the renovations themselves w/ assistance from their families.