



JANUARY  
2024



Federal Tax ID 83-1562165



### REQUIRED MEMBER MEETING

THURSDAY  
JANUARY 11TH

6:45 PM—8:00 PM

CNHS LECTURE HALL



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### A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Happy New Year TTC Family!

A new year is always exciting as a fresh start and hopes of good things to come! For TTC that means new ways to make a difference in our community!

As we renew our commitment with current partnerships throughout Fresno County we are thrilled to make new connections and grow our portfolio of amazing programs!

Looking back on 2023 our board is overwhelmed by what our teens accomplished. It is their hard work and dedication that make TTC such a respected service organization. Our members go above and beyond at every event making an impact in so many lives. Watching compassion grow in each member's hearts, learning to be selfless, and being present in a generation of selfies and cell phones is awesome to experience. We hope our members, parents, donors, and partners share in this joy and know that this group of young adults is unique and will continue to do great things far beyond their TTC years!

On behalf of the entire TTC board we wish all of you a Happy and Healthy New Year! Here's to a fabulous 2024!

Jenny Ganson, President



Newsletter Editor: Dorothy Torosian

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**HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY**



## January Birthdays

Elizabeth Keller—January 3rd  
Emily Smith—January 6th  
Lauren Campodonico—January 11th  
James Hallier— January 11th  
Vinny Costanzo—January 18th  
Ava MonPere—January 22nd  
Morgan Ramsey—January 23rd  
Ava Silva—January 24th  
Gabi Guentz—January 31st

**Please note that if you are a Senior this year, you MUST complete your required (30) hours by April 30th in order to participate in our Senior Recognition Event.**

If you **MUST** miss a meeting, you are required to text Mrs. Torosian and let her know prior to the meeting. (916-8600). If you just don't show up you will have (1) extra hour of volunteering to complete. If you miss more than (2) meetings your membership will be evaluated.



**SERVE OTHERS**

## January Speaker

We are inviting all parents to attend the very important teen meeting on **Thursday, January 11th at 6:45 pm**. Our guest speaker, Flindt Andersen, is the founder of P.A.I.N. (Parent and Addicts in Need). He spoke to our teens and parents in the fall of 2022 and we had full house. As you are aware, drug use is everywhere in our schools—there are no boundaries for race, color or socioeconomic status. We want to educate all of our teens about the negative effects of drug use.

**Mr. Andersen will be handing out NARCAN, the opioid overdose reversal agent, but only if a parent or guardian is in attendance at the meeting.**

We urge you to please attend this very informative meeting with your teen this Thursday, at the CNHS lecture hall. If you and your teen attend the meeting, your teen will get (1) volunteer hour.

Thank you and we look forward to seeing you and your teen at this meeting.  
Teens That Care Advisors

## Volunteer Hours

We are now over halfway through the year (June – November) and the teens should have **at least half of their hours completed (15/30) by now**. We realize that many teens participated in sports this fall and may not have completed half of their hours. **They have all been sent a text with their up to date completed hours.** Please ask your teen how they are doing and if they have low hours, please encourage them to sign up. They all know that they can reach out to Mrs. Torosian if they are having difficulty signing up. Many programs fill fast! We want ALL of our members to be successful in completing their hours. They have until the end of May 2024 to complete them, BUT because May is busy with end of school commitments, we may offer only a couple of programs in May.

## Important Notes

As you are probably aware, when volunteer opportunities are posted, teens are signing up very fast. Many times programs are full within minutes. Although we are very happy that our members are excited to sign up to volunteer, often times many members do not see the link that is text to them in time to sign up. We realize that this is frustrating to some members, who are not able to sign up for what they want.

If you have 0-10 hours, and are having trouble signing up, please text Mrs. Torosian (916-8600) with several choices and she will try and get you a space. Some opportunities allow us to add 1-2 extra spaces, many are restricted with the original number posted.

**Everyone has the same opportunity to sign up at the same time. No one is given any advance chance to sign up before it goes live.**

Teens, it is your responsibility to contact Mrs. Torosian if you are having difficulty finding an opportunity that has no room to sign up; it is not your parents. We will continue to offer many programs each month, so do not worry that you will not complete your 30 hours. We realize that many of you want to achieve the PVSA, which requires more volunteer hours. We will try our best to accommodate everyone, but you might not get the exact program you want each month. We want everyone to be successful in achieving their goals this year.



**A very deserving family receives their bags of Christmas presents at “Making Spirits Brighter” in December.**

## FUN FACTS AND FIGURES

- **36/98 members** have completed their required hours and we are over half way through the year! Many of these teens are planning on receiving the PVSA award!
- Total Hours volunteered this year: **3160 hours**
- Highest # hours:
  - Madeline Peterka (109)
  - \*Samreen Chahal (107)
  - \*Selah El Issa (101.5)
  - \*Alex Diaz (101.5)
  - \*Kendall Desmond (87.5)
  - \*Alek Kirkorian (82.5)
  - Kathy Nguyen (82)
  - \*Cora Niles (71.5)
  - \*Bella Herting (68)
  - Ethan Le (64.5)
  - Elizabeth Keller (62.5)
  - \*Sahana Patel (57)
  - Stacy Cota-Rubio (53.5)
  - \*Summer Alquinzon (53)
  - Ava MonPere (47.5)
  - Jason Samaniego (46)
  - \*Chloe Hamett (45.5)
  - Michelle Nguyen (44.5)
  - \*Ryan Jensen (43)
  - \*Jayden Giosa (41.5)
  - Aleena Munshi (41)
  - Vinny Costanzo (39)
  - Ella Fiber (39)
  - \*Miya Maltos (38)
  - Juliana Mueller (38)
  - \*Parya Attar (37.5)
  - Antonella Preciado (36.5)
  - \*Ava Silva (35)
  - Jiya Uttam (35)
  - \*Aidan Serrato (33.5)
  - \*Marco Hernandez (32.5)
  - \*Kylie Morrison (32.5)
  - \*Elena Campos (30.5)
  - Kierstin Easley (30.5)
  - \*Taylor Shapiro (30.5)
  - \*Vicky Ly (30)



\*New Member



**These teens went “Above and Beyond” when volunteering in the community.**

**Their dedication, compassion and commitment to making a difference was truly inspiring.**

**Making Spirits Brighter:** Kathy Nguyen & Michelle Nguyen

**Fresno Mission Dinner:** Alex Diaz, Nathan Gonos & Madeline Peterka

**Fresno Mission Toy Shop:** Alek Kirkorian & Cora Niles

**Zoo Lights with Rescue The Children:** Parya Attar

**Big Red Church:** Sahana Patel

**Wreaths Across America:** Vinny Costanzo

**Macy’s Shopping Day:** Morgan Ramsey

**Please mark you calendars for the following IN PERSON meeting dates at Clovis North High School Lecture Hall August 2023 through May 2024**

6:45—8:00 pm

- Thursday, January 11th
- Thursday, February 1st
- Thursday, March 7th \*\*Place to be announced
- Thursday, April 4th
- Sunday, April 28th—Final meeting with Awards
- Saturday, May 18th — Senior Recognition Event

**TEENS THAT CARE PERSONAL  
VOLUNTEERING STORIES**

My experience at the **Webster Elementary Winter Wonderland** was pleasurable. It was great being able to make art and ornaments with all the kids. I loved seeing how happy the kids were about making ornaments and how proud they were of what they made! The kids were so sweet, some even made an ornament for their parents or TTC members. Not only were the kids having fun but the parents as well. I loved how everyone was in the holiday spirit as well as having a good time. It was such a great event and I definitely hope to volunteer there again!

**Aubrey Pacheco, Junior**

Volunteering at **Wreaths Across America** was a very memorable event. We attended a very somber ceremony talking about all the veterans who have passed, and then we laid hundreds of wreaths across the gravestones. After that, we helped clean up and put everything away. I will definitely volunteer at this annual event again.

**Alex Diaz, Sophomore**

Volunteering at the **Pinedale Community Center North Pole** was an amazing experience. It was so fun playing games with the kids and running the cake walk. It was also fun seeing kids we knew from past Saturday Sports at the event. All of the kids were having a blast and enjoying the Christmas spirit!

**Michelle Nguyen, Junior**

I had an amazing time volunteering at the **Fresno Mission Toy Giveaway!** The Fresno Mission is one of my favorite places to volunteer and the giveaway did not disappoint. While other TTC members helped our guests pick the perfect gifts, I worked to wrap them. One dad told us that he was able to get exactly what his kids asked for. Seeing how much we truly helped our guests made my day. I loved being able to bond with friends while also creating a magical Christmas for the families in need. This was by far my favorite event at the Mission, and I am excited to volunteer again soon!

**Ava Silva, Freshman**

Going to the **RTC Zoo Lights** was truly an amazing experience! It was my first time volunteering at the Zoo lights. I enjoyed hanging out with the kids from Rescue the Children and seeing the amazing display our local zoo put on for us during the holidays. I am truly grateful that I can be a part of such an amazing volunteer group. My group at the zoo was very interactive with the kids. My favorite part was seeing the smiles on our kids faces when they saw something cool happen. I enjoyed sharing the experience and the magic of the holiday season with the kids and families. The RTC Zoo Lights is a great way to interact with our community and a great way to have fun and show support. It was truly fun and special to experience.

**Shelby Ensalaco, Sophomore**

Volunteering at the **Webster Winter Wonderland** was so much fun! We made ornaments with the kids and their families and we wore reindeer hats that the kids loved. It felt really good to see the kids smile during the holidays!

**Kendall Desmond, Sophomore**

## TEENS THAT CARE PERSONAL VOLUNTEERING STORIES

Volunteering at the **Big Red Church Food Distribution** was so fun and enjoyable. I loved being able to help the community and see how happy and grateful people were when they were able to receive food. I also loved getting to spend time and talk with other volunteers. It was a great experience.

**Sahana Patel, Sophomore**

Volunteering with **Rescue the Children at the Holiday Zoo Lights** is one of my favorite Teens That Care opportunities. We got to walk around the park after dark with the RTC women and their kids seeing all the holiday lights they had up. The best part was getting to talk to the women we were attending the event with. They were all so nice and friendly to me and the other teens at the event. Hanging out with the kids was also super fun. They were so energetic and it was so rewarding to be with them and their moms during this fun event.

**Anna Poochigian, Sophomore**

The **Mission Dinner** was a great volunteer opportunity. As with every volunteer event with the Fresno Mission, the staff and volunteers were extremely polite and patient. It was very inspiring to witness the strides towards growth and responsibility the men in the Academy were taking and it was an honor to be able to assist the homeless population in our community. The Fresno Mission volunteer opportunities continue to be a favorite of mine.

**Italia Perez, Junior**

Volunteering at the **Fresno Mission Toy Giveaway** was amazing! I absolutely enjoyed being able to interact with members of the Mission and help them find toys for their children's Christmas. The people we serve at the Mission are always so appreciative and volunteering there is so rewarding. I can't wait to participate at this event next year!

**Selah El Issa, Sophomore**

Volunteering at **Wreaths Across America** was an enjoyable and heartwarming experience. During the event, both TTC and the entire community came together to place wreaths on the graves of the soldiers and verbally acknowledge the name of each veteran with respect. This act of saying their names and decorating their resting places with wreaths serves as a powerful way to commemorate and pay tribute to those brave individuals. Witnessing the unity and remembrance displayed by the community was incredibly moving.

**Ella Fiber, Junior**

Before Christmas I helped with the **Toy Drive for the Fresno Mission**. We sorted the donated toys so the parents could come and pick out something for their child. We helped parents find a gift and get it wrapped. It was rewarding to see the parents so happy and to know that I helped make that happen.

**Cora Niles, Junior**



## TEENS THAT CARE PERSONAL VOLUNTEERING STORIES

The **Macy's Shopping Event** was a very fun and enjoyable event that I would recommend to all. The kids/teens were great and I loved getting to help a few of them pick out clothes that they loved, as well as getting to know them on a personal level. It genuinely felt like I was out shopping with a couple of my friends and although I am not a shopper myself, it was a great event that I would attend again. **Morgan Ramsey, Junior**

I was lucky enough to be able to have the opportunity to volunteer at the **Fresno Mission Gingerbread House party**. Collectively, TTC was able to be creative and help all of the families build gingerbread houses for the holidays at the new City Center. My favorite memory from this event would have to be when two different family groups decide to build a gingerbread mansion, collectively collaborating ideas and in turn making it a piece of artwork. I had so much fun!  
**Bella Herting, Sophomore**

Volunteering at the **Rescue The Children Zoo Lights** was such a fun experience. TTC members accompanied children as we roamed the zoo and took in the beautiful holiday lights. Granting the children fun experiences like this help brighten their holidays and bring a little joy to their lives.  
**Jake Corson, Senior**

Being able to volunteer at the **Big Red Church** is such a great opportunity. We get to help pass out food to those who need it and it is such a great experience. All the people there are so grateful to have us helping them and I love being able to. Having food on our table is something a lot of us definitely take for granted so being able to help those who don't always have that is something I would do anytime I can.  
**Elizabeth Keller, Sophomore**

**The Gingerbread party** was one of my favorite events I have volunteered at with TTC. I had never volunteered at the new City Center before and it blew my socks off! The facility was so nice and getting to volunteer directly with the families warmed my heart.  
**James Hallier, Junior**

Volunteering at the **Fresno Mission** was a great event and one I would definitely do again. We had the opportunity to serve dinner to men in the Academy and learn about the Mission's programs. It was great to see the impact that serving a meal can have on a person's life. Overall, the other volunteers and I really enjoyed being able to serve dinner to so many families that would have gone hungry without the Mission providing meals.  
**Nathan Gonos, Junior**

## TEENS THAT CARE PERSONAL VOLUNTEERING STORIES

The **Making Spirits Bright** party was a really fun and exciting event. We got to hand out gifts, serve food and make ornaments with the children and their families. Having the opportunity to celebrate Christmas and spread the Christmas spirit with other families brought me so much joy. Just to see the kids faces light up because they got the gift they had been wanting was an amazing sight to see. I will definitely be attending the MSB event again next year.

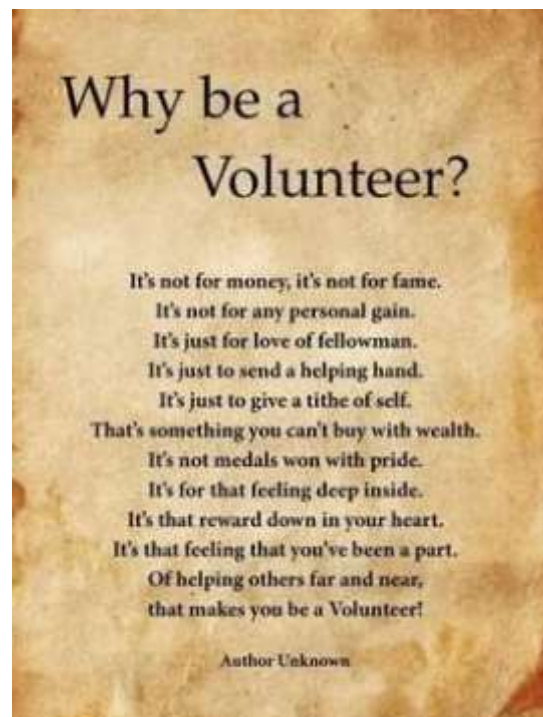
**Elena Campos, Sophomore**

The **Polar Express** event was one of my favorite holiday events! We really got to connect with the kids. There were so many fun and festive activities I got to help with, and I am so grateful for the opportunity to put smiles on so many faces!

**Lauren Campodonico, Junior**

Volunteering at **Making Spirits Bright** was a fortunate experience, and very eye-opening. I was able to help the children make festive crafts and pass out food while connecting with the families. The event was filled with underprivileged children who were able to open gifts from their wish list on Christmas. Many of the kids told me they almost never received gifts for the holidays. The event gave dozens of children presents from Santa and attached a positive memory to the holiday.

**Amelia Kinton, Sophomore**



## PRESIDENTIAL VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD

PVSA recognizes United States citizens and lawfully admitted, permanent residents of the United States who have achieved the required number of hours of service over a 12-month time period. This is a highly sought-after award and reflects highly on college applications.

Hours are measured over a 12-month period and awards are designated based on cumulative hours. The awards are offered in multiple levels and are designed to recognize each milestone of your service achievement. Levels include

**Bronze, Silver, Gold.**

### **Hours by Award:**

#### Teens (11–15)

Bronze 50 – 74

Silver 75 – 99

Gold 100 +

#### Young Adults (16-25)

Bronze 100 – 174

Silver 175 – 249

Gold 250



**\*The age you are as of June 1<sup>st</sup> of the year you are volunteering is the age used**

**Those members that received this prestigious award for 2022-2023 are as follows:**

**Costanzo, Vincent**

**Cota Rubio, Stacy**

**Dritz, Emilia**

**Easley, Courtney**

**Easley, Kierstin**

**Estes, Isabelle**

**Gonos, Nathan**

**Johnson, Caprice**

**Juarez, Corey**

**Keller, Elizabeth**

**Kinton, Ian**

**Le, Ethan**

**MonPere, Ava**

**Munshi, Aleena**

**Nguyen, Kathy**

**Nguyen, Michelle**

**Nguyen, Vivian**

**Perez, Italia**

**Peterka, Madeline**

**Poochigian, Anna**

**Preciado, Antonella**

**Rodriguez, Juliana**

**Shapiro, Brooklyn**

**Uttam, Jiya**

**Vallabh, Shreya**

**Yeager, Gabrielle**

# "MAKING SPIRITS BRIGHTER"



**DECEMBER TEEN HOLIDAY PARTY  
WITH MAGICIAN BRADY LEE**



**UGLY SWEATER CONTEST WINNERS!**



**DECEMBER ROCKSTARS!**



**“Wreaths Across America”**  
Over 1000 wreaths were placed on the graves of veterans on this very special day in December.



Participating in the solemn yet profoundly meaningful ceremony of placing wreaths on veterans graves was a deeply moving experience. Holding a wreath in my hand, adorned with the symbols of remembrance, I carefully placed it on a veterans resting place. In that moment, there was a palpable connection to history, and a shared commitment to ensuring that the memories of these heroes live on. Honoring fallen veterans through this simple yet powerful act provided a sense of purpose and a deep understanding of the importance of preserving their legacy. I am extremely appreciative to have been a part of something so special.

**Marco Hernandez, Sophomore**

Fresno PAL "Polar Express" event  
Facepainting, gifts, food and a ride  
down Christmas Tree Lane!



I had such a fun time at the Polar Express program. Getting to see all the kids get so many gifts and the pure joy they had on their faces, was so heartwarming. I was able to do arts and crafts with them and saw how creative and excited they were about their projects. It truly was an event I will never forget and can't wait to do it again next year. **Ava Musson, Junior**

**Fresno Mission Dinner**  
We serve the homeless and also the members of the Academy.





**Fresno Mission Toy Shop**  
Our teens set up the Toy Shop and then helped the moms and dads shop for gifts for their kids and wrapped them!



# Webster Elementary "Winter Wonderland"





# Pinedale Community Center North Pole

A fun afternoon with food, games,  
entertainment and a visit from Santa!



# Big Red Church Food Distribution



We took 100 kids and moms from "Rescue The Children" for a fun night at the Fresno Zoo Holiday Lights.



# Fresno Mission City Center Gingerbread House Party



## “Level the Playing Field”

This is a nonprofit started by one of our own TTC members Matin Tais. Matin has been playing soccer since he was 6 years old. He started this organization that would raise funds and provide scholarships to young athletes that have the skills to play competitive soccer but need financial assistance.

# Level the Playing Field

FRESNO 





Teens That Care partnered with Macy's, PAL, and Fresno PD, to bring a Shopping Day to 30 very deserving kids.





## WE THANK OUR DONORS!

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