

*Welcome to the*

# UNITY AWARDS

**Presented by:**

**The Faces of Change — The Youth Advisory Board  
of PACER's National Bullying Prevention Center**



**PACER's**  
**National Bullying Prevention Center**®  
Create a World Without Bullying | [PACER.org/bullying](https://PACER.org/bullying)

# UNITY AWARDS



**PACER CENTER**   
CHAMPIONS FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES®

Founded in 1977, PACER Center was created by parents of children and youth with disabilities to help other parents and families facing similar challenges. Today, PACER Center expands opportunities and enhances the quality of life for children and young adults with disabilities and their families. PACER is staffed primarily by parents of children with disabilities.

 **PACER's  
National Bullying Prevention Center**®  
Together We Can Create a World Without Bullying

Founded in 2006, PACER's National Bullying Prevention Center actively leads social change to prevent childhood bullying, so that all youth are safe and supported in their schools, communities and online. PACER provides innovative resources for students, parents, educators, and others, and recognizes bullying as a serious community issue that impacts education, physical and emotional health, and the safety and well-being of students.

PACER's National Bullying Prevention Center is a program of:

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## **~ A message from PACER’s National Bullying Prevention Center ~**

*This year, due to COVID-19 concerns, our Unity Day celebration will take place virtually. While it may look different from years past as we are not holding the usual in-person ceremony, we are excited to share the incredible achievements of our Unity Award recipients.*

*This is a powerful opportunity to recognize those who are creating change in their schools and communities but don’t always get the recognition they deserve. We are honored to celebrate the efforts of those who are helping to make the world a kinder, more inclusive, and more accepting place.*

*We hope that this virtual celebration inspires you and reminds us all of the impact our actions can make. This year’s Unity Award recipients have each created a ripple effect in their communities—thanks to their focus and commitment to act with kindness, acceptance, and inclusion. When you consider all these actions collectively, it makes a truly powerful impact!*

***Congratulations again to each of the 2020 Unity Award recipients.  
Together, we can create a world without bullying!***

# PACER's National Bullying Prevention Center

PACER's National Bullying Prevention Center actively leads social change to prevent childhood bullying, so that all youth are safe and supported in their schools, communities and online. PACER provides innovative resources for students, parents, educators, and others, and recognizes bullying as a serious community issue that impacts education, physical and emotional health, and the safety and well-being of students.

## **PACER staff:**

Paula Goldberg, PACER's Executive Director

Julie Hertzog, Director of PACER's National Bullying Prevention Center

Bailey Huston, Coordinator of PACER's National Bullying Prevention Center

Danna Mirviss, Associate at PACER's National Bullying Prevention Center

Judy French, Coordinator of PACER's National Bullying Prevention Center, Los Angeles office

Tara Ricasa, Puppet Program Coordinator, PACER's National Bullying Prevention Center, Los Angeles office

## Youth Advisory Board Vision Statement

*The Faces of Change* believes that our generation has a responsibility to lead and interact with kindness, acceptance and inclusion. Our goal is to promote bullying prevention and inspire students to support one another. We are leaders who care and we will use our voices to show that student involvement can create positive change, resulting in stronger relationships, safer schools, and more supportive communities.



# Together Against Bullying



## Rylee Ruegger

“After experiencing bullying, Rylee Ruegger started her own campaign, The Be Nice Program. She brings The Be Nice Program to schools and community organizations, sharing her story and advocating for bullying awareness and empathy. She uses the tools that helped her through her own struggles with bullying: the resources she found on PACER’s National Bullying Prevention Center website. She also uses the Remind app to send out inspirational messages once a week. In these messages, she offers positive quotes and shares her mission, #LetsBeNice.

Using screen-printing equipment in her classroom, Rylee designed and created Unity Day shirts that she sold to raise money for PACER. Rylee’s latest endeavor is ‘branding’ her program. She designed a logo for The Be Nice Program and has launched merchandise

including t-shirts, pop-sockets, and stickers that she uses not only to raise awareness, but also to raise funds for her next big goal: the #LetsBeNice Bus. She wants to take the bus to schools to engage students in bullying awareness activities, as well as invite them to sign the bus.

Rylee’s goal is to make sure every child knows that they can help prevent bullying. When she created The Be Nice Program over three years ago, Rylee thought very little of herself. Since that time, she has learned that she IS good enough to advocate for herself and for other students who have experienced bullying. She shows students that everyone has a story and that you can use that story to go out and change the world.”

*—Nominated by Andrea O. Pitts, community member, and Rylee’s peers*

# United for Kindness



## Marley Middle School Kindness Club

“This is the inaugural year of the Marley Kindness Club and they started making an impact immediately. The club started with a little over 20 students in grade 6 – 8 and have grown to 95 members and counting. They started the year by designing a monthly Kindness tracker with different “look fors” (e.g., to look for compliments, look for kindness, look for inclusion, etc.). Teachers stamp the card for every time they see a student complete a kind act. Once the student fills the card, they turn it into the Kindness Club members at the table outside the cafeteria for a caught being kind sticker and an entry into the monthly raffle.



These students are our new student ambassadors and they shadow new students on their first day of school. They also made 1000 orange friendship bracelets to give out to every student and staff member on Unity Day. They joined the Trex Recycling Program and have ran a Be Kind to your environment campaign all year by collecting plastic film to be recycled. They also participated in the Red Ribbon Week initiative with an anti-drug Be Kind to your body campaign. They also worked together to apply for Kids Kindness Grants and earned \$600 to create duffel bags for kids going into foster care, hospital boxes (The Jared Box Project), and a week-long teacher appreciation plan. They also

made blankets for Project Linus, assisted with various raffles, and they are currently making autism awareness bracelets to give out to everyone in April and researching trivia questions to do a fact/question about autism for each day of the week.

Their energy and enthusiasm for all things kind is infectious. One student claimed he is “addicted to kindness.” We made matching “Addicted to Kindness” shirts for this student and an assistant principal that they wore during Kindness Spirit week for twin day. And, last but not least, they led the charge in inspiring their peers to be the first school to reach 1000 acts of kindness in our county-wide middle school Kindness Cup challenge and won! These kids are amazing!!”

—Nominated by Kristin Webster, educator

# United for Acceptance



## Grace Coleman

“I would like to nominate Grace Coleman. Five years ago, while cheering on a competitive team, Grace couldn’t help but think how nice it would be for her city, Savannah, to have a special needs team for differently-abled athletes. She and her sister went to her team’s owner, told them their plan, and began to solicit children from around the community. They eventually created a team for children with Down syndrome, autism spectrum disorder, cerebral palsy, and other physical and mental disabilities. There was no disability that Grace (and her fellow coaches recruited to help) excluded. More than 25 athletes have gone through the program so far. Grace and her coaching team organize cheer camps in the summer, coach them every week, and help them through the 4-5 competitions that the team competes in every year. She puts around 40-50 hours a year into this program she loves.

It’s wonderful for all of us (parents and friends) to watch. I’m not sure who is more excited at the competitions,

these athletes or their parents. There are always lots of joyful and grateful tears and the team always gets a standing ovation from the audience. It’s amazing what Grace’s dream has become and what an impact it has had on the athletes and on the community. To share a note from Meredith Schuster, a parent of one of the athletes, to the coaches: ‘So thankful for these beautiful and talented, loving friends. Coach Grace, Coach Mya, and Clair’s (cheer) buddy made sure that Clair had a successful experience and got to indulge in all of the competition fun with peer (not mom) support. My heart runneth other! Thank you to the girls and to their loving parents who have raised them to be such amazing and compassionate leaders who make this experience possible. It’s a great day to be a Shark!’

The team is called Super Sharks and it is enjoying its fifth year in operation—five years of inclusion and celebration—thanks to the dream of two sisters who truly enjoy making a difference.”

—Nominated by Anne Guidera, community member

# United for Inclusion

## Unity, Inc. from The Roosevelt High School Choir Department

“The Roosevelt High School Choir Department in Sioux Falls, SD is home to 12 choirs with a total of 650 student participants. The pride of the 2019-20 season has been the inauguration of the first ever all-abilities show choir, Unity, Inc.! When the two directors came together and created the first inclusive show choir, Unity, Inc., they not only gave Roosevelt students with special needs a place to sing, dance, socialize, and compete like anyone else in the choir department, they also gave their families the opportunity to experience having a child in the activity and being a proud parent/fan like all the other parents!

In addition, the students who have volunteered to sing and dance in the choir as “buddies” are the heartbeat of the group’s success! These students enthusiastically and authentically share their talents, their hearts, their friendship, and their belief that an inclusive world is possible. In sharing Unity, Inc. with the world and promoting inclusion in these ways, the students inspire others. The department has been contacted by multiple directors in the region asking advice on how to start similar programs in their schools! Unity, Inc. promotes the belief that all students deserve the opportunity to perform, sing, dance, form friendships, and be applauded!”

–Nominated by Robyn Starks Holcomb, educator



# The Faces of Change Award, MN



## Principal Ryan Gibbs

“Principal Gibbs meets every student as they enter the school and he meets the buses every morning. When the weather permits, he also does the “Loring Lightrail” where all the buses and students meet a quarter of a mile from the school and they walk together every Friday morning to talk about their week and make new friends, pushing wheelchairs and holding hands when needed so all students are included. All students are taught to meet their highest expectations individually, whether they receive special education services or are in general education. Principal Gibbs is committed to ensuring that each of his students is given the opportunities they need to achieve their goals.”

*–Nominated by Bonnie Jean Smith, community member*

# The Faces of Change Award, MN



## Katie Kupris

“Katie is a thoughtful, caring, and compassionate person in all she does. She goes out of her way to include others at school, making people feel welcome and accepted. Though she has experienced her share of bullying, teasing, and feeling isolated, she is quick to point out that she’s fortunate: being differently abled has its challenges but she is unique and knows she can be helpful and supportive of others because of her unique experiences. Katie is the first to volunteer to help with a project. Examples include making signs for Disability Day at the Capitol and researching an inspirational MN African American for her project

at African American Parent Involvement Day. Katie takes the initiative when she sees a need. She welcomes new students and reaches out to others when she senses they’re feeling down. This year, she spearheaded a “Kindness Campaign,” by writing and posting positive-message post-it’s around school. She does these things because she wants others to know they are important and special in their own way. In observing Katie, it’s apparent that her conversations with, as well as her comments to, peers are supportive and encouraging; she wants her peers to be themselves and to value and respect each other.

Katie’s genuine consideration for others was best highlighted this past November: she decided to perform “20 Random Acts of Kindness” to celebrate her 20th birthday. Katie didn’t tell anyone at school about this, just smiled anytime people talked about a peer discovering something special: an envelope with soda money taped to the pop machine with a note that read, “Enjoy a soda on me”; an encouraging and/or inspirational note on someone’s desk or on the lunch table; a \$5 bill in a random lunch bag with the note that read, “Treat yourself to something nice at the school store.” Student recipients of these random acts of kindness were so appreciative and excited. Students throughout the building were not only talking about these thoughtful acts, they were also inspired to be more kind to each other. When it was discovered by staff that Katie was our ‘Kindness Elf,’ she told the teachers that she always does something on her birthday to make the world a better place. This, she said, is her “birthday gift to myself.”

—Nominated by Mary Fran Schwartz, educator

# The Faces of Change Award, MN



## Bemidji High School Unified

“Bemidji High School is leading the Unified Movement in Northern Minnesota, advancing inclusion in their school and community through Unified Physical Education courses as well as through unified sports, events, activities, and awareness campaigns. Bemidji High School has been a Unified Champion School through Special Olympics Minnesota since 2018. Before that they were an early adopter of unified sports, and today they participate in five different sports throughout the school year giving students of all abilities an

opportunity to compete together on the same team. This past winter, a team of BHS students participated in the first annual Unified State High School Basketball tournament at Orono High School, taking home 3rd place in the top division. The students spent two days traveling, socializing, and playing basketball together. Pictures of teammates, arms around each other’s shoulders and faces grinning wide, speak volumes to the power of the unified movement, and the power of this generation of young people to lead us toward a more just and inclusive society, both on and off the court. While BHS certainly strives for inclusion within their school, they also work hard to include the larger community around them, bringing together students from other schools and members of the community to participate in unified activities, like the Unified Winter Formal and Unified Yard Games. Additionally, through Young Athletes, the BHS Unified PE class hosts elementary students with and without intellectual and developmental disabilities to share in fun activities that build gross motor skills for all. They host events for older kids, too, through Unified Juniors, an inclusive program to build sport-specific skills. They also regularly invite Special Olympics athletes from the community to visit their Unified PE class as guest speakers and to intern at the school. Additionally, they collaborate with Bemidji State University to engage college students in their programming and build awareness on the power of inclusion. BSU now has its own club to foster inclusion on campus, which was started by a BHS graduate. All of this work has led to a sea change within the school. Inclusive classes and events have given students space to develop meaningful friendships that extend outside the classroom, into the hallways and lunchroom, and beyond the walls of BHS. New ideas for inclusion have sprung up in other departments throughout the school, and BHS continues to expand opportunities for inclusion for their students and their community.”

–Nominated by Shannon Murray, Special Olympics Minnesota Schools Program Associate

# The Faces of Change Award, MN

## Jodi Betsinger, Kristine Vankempen, and Samantha Schackman



“Jodi Betsinger, Kristine Adams Vankempen, and Samantha Schackman are child life specialists in the Cancer and Blood Disorders program at Children’s MN. They use therapeutically developmental and educational activities to help children understand and cope with medical care experiences. Their supportive techniques make complex medical procedures less stressful. The work they do appears magical to those observing. A child’s needle poke can be done during a playful distraction. A young patient not only builds agency and comfort in doing the procedures, the positive experience also helps reduce parental stress (imagine seeing your child with cancer doing a procedure with playful ease!). Our child life team also cares deeply about the siblings, including them in the

experience. A new cancer diagnosis in the family means major changes for everyone. Jodi, Kristy, and Sam’s work in the hospital and clinic is amazing, but the reason I’m nominating these women for this award is that they take their work one step further. They not only help the patient, parents, and siblings, they also teach their classmates how to be inclusive! Jodi, Kristy, and Sam offer to go to schools with children with cancer and bleeding disorders to talk with the child’s classmates. For example, an elementary school aged child with leukemia is worried about how she will be treated when she goes back to class with hair loss and having missed many days of school. With support from Jodi, Kristy, or Sam, the child is able to explain the treatment, explain that cancer isn’t contagious, and answer questions about how friends can be supportive. Our child life team helps the patient share that she feels better when she is treated as her typical self! The classroom visit helps the child feel included and helps classmates learn how to be better friends. The child can then get beyond their diagnosis and back to what matters most: being a kid! In a world with COVID, the school re-entry visit looks different but Jodi, Kristy, and Sam recognize that even with distant learning, patients worry that peers might treat their child differently. Our child life team continues to offer connections to schools and peers, and helps our patients share their story with friends. Now more than ever, feeling included and connected matters. Thanks to these three for making the world more inclusive for families and communities impacted by cancer and blood disorders!”

*–Nominated by the Cancer and Blood Disorder’s Social Work Team at Children’s MN*

# The Faces of Change Award, MN



## The Bandana Project at Mounds View High School

“The Bandana Project is a peer-driven mental health awareness and suicide prevention program providing resources for those struggling with mental health issues. They want their peers to know that they are not alone with their mental health issue or crisis and they are available to assist them in getting them the help they need. Training is provided to students and they have a visible

lime green bandana attached to their backpacks. This indicates that they are a safe individual to approach with mental health-related issues, that they know where resources are, and that they hold a few resource cards with outlets to get help and support in times of crisis, such as School Support, County Children’s Crisis Line, NAMI-MN, and National Crisis Lines. At Mounds View High School, The Bandana Project launched a year ago and has had a large positive response from students who want to be part of the solution for those struggling with mental health issues. If someone sees a lime green bandana on the backpack of a stranger, it is a sign of stigma-free, quiet solidarity. They will know that they are not alone in their struggle.”

—Nominated by Layna Peltier, community member

# The Faces of Change Award, MN



## Erica Ganske

“Erica is an incredible person. Erica takes care of everyone and makes sure no one is ever excluded. Ever since I have known her, she has always been one of the kindest, most loving people I know. The past few years have not been easy for Erica. A few years ago, her dad was diagnosed with a form of leukemia and had to undergo chemotherapy and a bone marrow transplant. Luckily, he came out of it and is in remission, but it was a very scary time. Shortly after this happened, her mom came down with a

different form of leukemia. It was an unimaginable thing to happen to a family—both parents diagnosed with this horrible disease. Yet through it all, Erica has not only persevered, she has continued to be her kind and loving self. When she could have been wallowing in sadness, she was always checking in on others and asking how they were doing. It has been truly remarkable. Sadly, Erica’s mom passed away this fall after a nearly two-year battle with cancer. Although Erica was heartbroken, she was still putting other people’s struggles and feelings before herself. I remember at her mom’s funeral as I hugged her, the first thing she said was, ‘Hey, how did your swim meet you go last night?’ A girl, who had just lost her mother was asking me how I was and how my life was going. I was shocked at how someone could still think of others and how they are doing when her life was falling apart. It wasn’t just me that she showed this kindness to; she showed it to everyone. Even when she came back to school, she would put others before herself. And that’s what kindness is all about, putting others before yourself even when your world is falling apart. I can’t imagine a more kind and deserving individual to win this award. Erica is one of the best of the best and I am proud to call her a friend and classmate.”

—Nominated by Ava Ernst, student

# The Faces of Change Award — LA

## The Mentors and Protectors at Alliance Burton Tech High School

“MAPs (The Mentors & Protectors) of Alliance Burton Tech HS is the bullying awareness and prevention advisory at our school. These students have worked tirelessly, especially this year, to help their peers know they have a safe space to go when they are being bullied. It’s been amazing to watch this advisory grow in the past four years and become a respected group. They reach out to those in need and try to make sure students are not lonely. Students are now coming to MAPs to report cyber and in-person bullying. MAPs is preparing a Bully Bootcamp for the middle school feeder schools that will begin this spring. With this “bootcamp,” the incoming ninth graders will already know they have a place at our school to help them feel included and safe. MAPs also planned Unity Day back in October 2019, and it was the biggest and most successful one so far with over 50 booths of student groups, community outreach programs, vendors, and musical performances with over 1,000 people in attendance! This group keeps growing stronger each year with the goal to reach out to students in need and make sure they know MAPs has got their back! Their motto is, ‘Cuz we actually care,’ and they really do!”

—Nominated by PACER’s Youth Advisory Board, LA



# The Faces of Change Award — LA



## Zachery Ramos

“Zachery has mentored youth through his organization, educating them on the importance of volunteering and how much it matters that everyone does their part to help make their communities cleaner and safer for everyone. He has helped children going through bullying by working with them one-on-one to make sure they know someone cares about their situation, while teaching them to find their own voice. Zachery created the Central Valley Traveling Library to spread his love for literacy and kindness across the state of California, all over the Valley. He has helped get kids out of their shells and active in their communities through the love of books and has given out over 10,000 books since creating it his senior year of high school back in 2017. He has also raised money for numerous charities, disease research, and disaster-aid relief to help families affected by the fires here in California and the hurricane in Texas (even going as far as having aid personally delivered to Texas to make sure it reached the families in need). He has demonstrated acts of kindness that I haven’t seen anyone else in our county do.”

*—Nominated by José Flores, community member*

# The Faces of Change Award — LA



## **THRIVE Conejo**

“This is a group founded to promote inclusive education for students with disabilities in the Conejo Valley Unified School District. The founders of this group are parents of exceptional learners and they work tirelessly—through community events, attending school board meetings, sponsoring events, and more—to get the word out that #AllMeansAll.”

*—Nominated by PACER’s Youth Advisory Board, LA*

# Youth Advisory Board – Minneapolis

## AVA

**What is the weirdest or most unique food you've eaten during quarantine?** There is a new restaurant in our area called Oliver's and they have THE most delicious burgers. My favorite is the peanut butter & jelly burger which has peanut butter, blueberry jam, bacon, and pepper jack cheese. You can even order it with a fried egg on top which is pretty tasty! It sounds weird but it is my fave!

**What are your hobbies? Or are there any new hobbies you've picked up while at home?** I have been singing and taking guitar lessons for the past 8 years. Recently, I started doing a lot of songwriting which I have been working hard on during quarantine. I have about 20 songs so far but I want to narrow down the top 3-5 and record a demo. I would describe my sound as Taylor Swift meets Kacey Musgraves. In addition, I am a competitive swimmer who enjoys downhill skiing and being on my high school dance team. I am also a Star Wars fanatic!

**What is one act of kindness you have done or have witnessed during quarantine?** During quarantine, my grandfather had a heart attack and recovered in transitional care. We were sending him lots of cards and dropping off care packages but I started to think about other people in his transitional care unit who might not have that same thing being done for them. I had a bunch of leftover craft materials laying around, so I decided to make cute "heart" cards for the other residents staying there. I hope it brightened their day!



## EMMA

**What is the weirdest or most unique food you've eaten during quarantine?** The weirdest thing I have eaten in quarantine is gummy worms with sour cream and onion chips.

**What are your hobbies? Or are there any new hobbies you've picked up while at home?** My hobbies include painting, sleeping, and watching outer banks on Netflix.

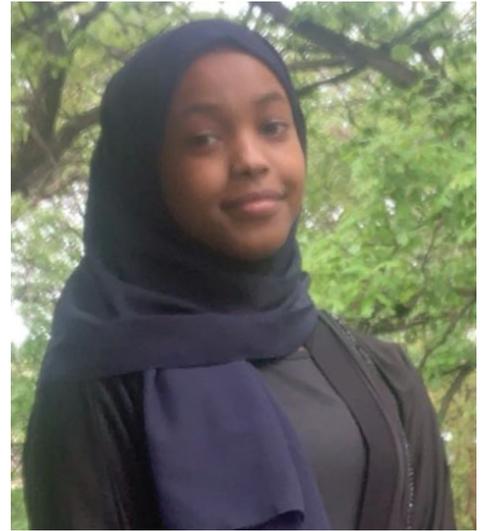
**What is one act of kindness you have done or have witnessed during quarantine?** During quarantine I have payed for the people behind me at Starbucks and complimented people in my neighborhood on how cute their dogs are.

## HANAN

**What is the weirdest or most unique food you've eaten during quarantine?** The weirdest food I've eaten during quarantine is definitely Sambusa rolls, where I used the basics of making sambusa, added cheese, and turned them into rolls rather than triangles.

**What are your hobbies? Or are there any new hobbies you've picked up while at home?** Also during quarantine I filled my free time with a new hobby of painting.

**What is one act of kindness you have done or have witnessed during quarantine?** One act of kindness that I witnessed during quarantine is all the hard work and patience that teachers put into their online teaching, to see their students succeed.



## KENDALL

**What is the weirdest or most unique food you've eaten during quarantine?** The weirdest food I've eaten during quarantine is shrimp covered in a rice coating.

**What are your hobbies? Or are there any new hobbies you've picked up while at home?** My hobby is playing tennis.

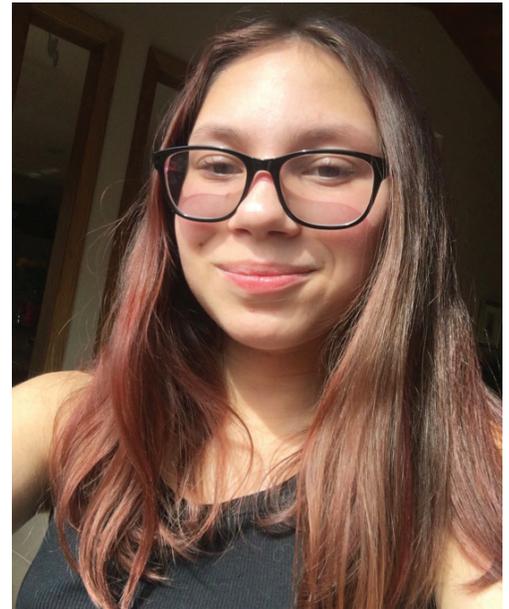
**What is one act of kindness you have done or have witnessed during quarantine?** One act of kindness I have done during quarantine is bringing groceries to my grandparents.

## LEAH

**What is the weirdest or most unique food you've eaten during quarantine?** I made and ate meringues.

**What are your hobbies? Or are there any new hobbies you've picked up while at home?** I started to learn to skateboard and I do tik tok dances.

**What is one act of kindness you have done or have witnessed during quarantine?** I cleaned a relative's house.



## MADDY

**What is the weirdest or most unique food you've eaten during quarantine?** Alligator.

**What are your hobbies? Or are there any new hobbies you've picked up while at home?** I've picked up a new hobby, counting the popcorns on my ceiling, I'm up to 2,358 little popcorns.

**What is one act of kindness you have done or have witnessed during quarantine?** One of the local restaurants gave me and my sister a free drink when we came to pick up our food.

## OLIVIA

**What is the weirdest or most unique food you've eaten during quarantine?** During quarantine the weirdest food I have eaten would definitely be Gluten Free chicken nuggets with Gluten Free Mac and cheese (together).

**What are your hobbies? Or are there any new hobbies you've picked up while at home?** My hobbies haven't changed during quarantine but, I have definitely been focusing on my mental and physical health more than anything! I love to sing, dance, act, be a competitive all-star cheerleader, read, go hiking, and studying fashion.

**What is one act of kindness you have done or have witnessed during quarantine?** One thing that really stood out to me is that even with everything that is going on, someone across from me at self check out at the grocery store complemented my outfit. It may be a small thing but, it made my day (and of course I complemented her back!).



## SABEEH

**What is the weirdest or most unique food you've eaten during quarantine?** I would have to say the weirdest food I have tried has been sourdough bread.

**What are your hobbies? Or are there any new hobbies you've picked up while at home?** A hobby I have picked up is that I have started baking.

**What is one act of kindness you have done or have witnessed during quarantine?** I have seen a lot of people signing up to volunteer to help the elderly with groceries, and plan to sign up in the summer as well.



## ZOE

**What is the weirdest or most unique food you've eaten during quarantine?** My weirdest food I have eaten since quarantine is squid shaped pasta, it was fun to eat!

**What are your hobbies? Or are there any new hobbies you've picked up while at home?** I enjoy roller blading, reading, scootering, rock hounding, swim, ski and mountain biking. My biggest hobby is finding all possible adventures.

**What is one act of kindness you have done or have witnessed during quarantine?** I have made my sister's bed for her. I have witnessed people writing happy birthday with chalk.

**Thanks to our additional Youth Advisory Board Member Ellie.**

# Youth Advisory Board – Los Angeles

## AUGIE

**Why is bullying prevention important to you?** Bullying prevention is important to me because I believe that no one deserves to get bullied, and those who bully just need to be taught the right way to behave. Students bully for many different reasons, and we, as bullying preventers, have to eliminate those reasons so there are less bullies as time goes on.

**Two things you want people to know about you?** I love to create and I love to help.



## CHLOE

**Why is bullying prevention important to you?** Bullying prevention, to me, is creating an equal and free-of-judgment environment, wherever we go. It is teaching children that while we should recognize what makes someone different, to respect their differences and love them for who they are.

**What would a world without bullying look like?** A world without bullying would be a friendly hello while walking down the street, or a simple compliment while walking in the halls at school. It would feel happy.

**Favorite quote?** “Accept the things you cannot change, have the courage to change the things you can, and the wisdom to know the difference.”

## MAI

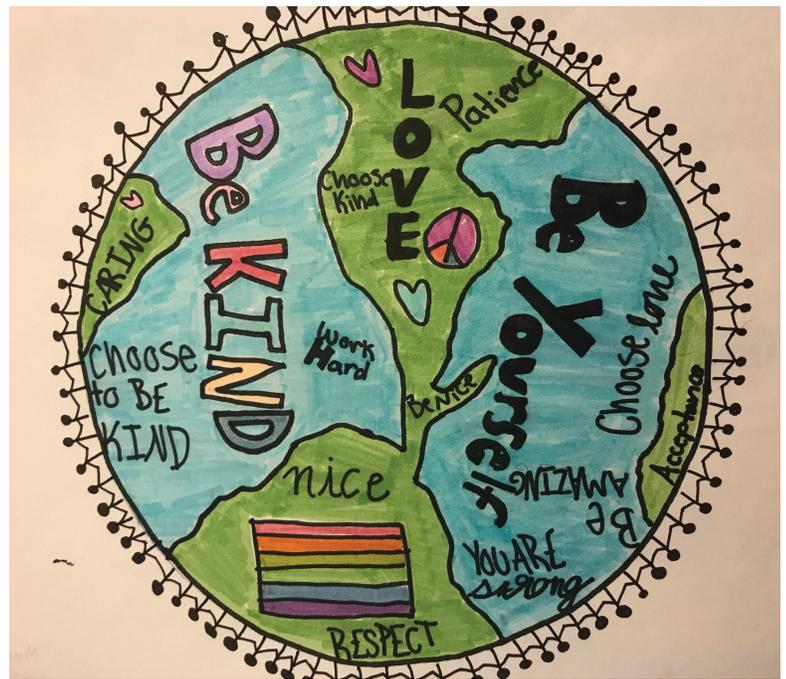
**Why is bullying prevention important to you?** Every year I look forward to spend time with Kindergartners and first graders over summer camp. The energy and the friendship of the kids is uplifting, simple and innocent. They don't see race, religion or ethnicity. I love how friendships are formed based on common interest and connections. I hope that this could be carried on through middle school, upper school and life. Kids should not experience anxiety, depression or loneliness. I believe we can help create a world without bullying, by promoting unity, kindness, diversity and inclusion.

**Two things you want people to know about you?** One of my interests is writing, I find it very insightful and relaxing. I especially enjoy writing short stories.

**Favorite quote?** "Always stay humble and kind."



Some final thoughts on kindness and bullying prevention...



ARE You kind?  
 Yes  No

Do You include others?  
 Yes  No

Do You bully others?  
 Yes  NO

If You have Yes, Yes, NO  
 Great!  
 If not try to work  
 on. It!

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# UNITY AWARDS



**Drawing by Zariah, a third grade student from New Jersey**



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