

## **Bay Area teens recognized for good works**

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Three Bay Area teenagers are among 15 nationwide being honored for helping people and the environment.

Lynnea Shuck, of Fremont, Sonali Ranaweera, of San Jose, and Corinne Hinds, of Walnut Creek, each received \$5,000 as winners of the Gloria Barron Prize for Young Heroes.

Shuck, 18, started a Junior Refuge Ranger program at the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge. The program connects young people with nature and promotes environmental stewardship.

Shuck plans to expand the Junior Refuge Ranger program to all 560 national wildlife refuges. She wrote an instruction manual, created a how-to kit, and worked with Fish and Wildlife staff to present a webinar.

Refuges in California, Nevada, New Mexico, Virginia, Maryland, Idaho and Colorado are starting up her program.

Sonali, 14, funded 44 cleft lip surgeries with \$40,000 she raised by redeeming recyclable cans and bottles. She also has helped pay for dental care for more than 1,000 children in Sri Lanka and has provided school supplies, clothing, and school lunches for hundreds of children.

Sonali launched her project when she was 11 and her parents gave her \$100 to make a difference in someone's life. "You can make a difference in the lives of others and help our Earth without needing to have a lot of money or power," she said.

Corinne, 15, started Warm Winters, which collects jackets, gloves, and hats from the unclaimed lost and found at ski resorts and distributes them to the homeless. Her nonprofit has delivered 10,000 items of warm clothing to 6,500 homeless people. She has created a partnership with the National Ski Areas Association, and her group is working with 17 ski resorts in eight states.

The teen started her program when she learned that a ski resort was going to discard the unclaimed clothing. She asked if she could instead give it to the homeless in her town.

"I've learned that simple ideas can make a huge difference," she said.

Author T.A. Barron founded the Gloria Barron Prize for Young Heroes in 2001 and named the prize after his mother.