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Hayward Area Recreation and Park District FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

H.A.R.D. Board of Directors Celebrate Invaluable Volunteers

Volunteer of the Year Laura Stull and Rising Star Angela Patch Recognized

Hayward, CA (April 22, 2016) — The Hayward Area Recreation and Park District (H.A.R.D.) Board of Director's and Staff were pleased to recognize and show their sincere appreciation during National Volunteer Week for the District's committed volunteers at the 2016 Annual Volunteer Recognition event held at the Hayward Area Senior Center on Wednesday, April 13, 2016.

All of the District's volunteers were acknowledged for their contributions to the various programs and departments. They are instrumental in enhancing the District's ability to offer the best possible parks, facilities and recreation programs to the community. There are currently 800 registered volunteers and those recognized cumulatively donated an amazing 51,000 hours in 2015.

The 2015 Volunteer of the Year Recipient was presented to Ms. Laura Stull. Ms. Stull has been volunteering for the Hayward Area Recreation and Park District since 1985. Ms. Stull has a long history of volunteer service and has volunteered for an amazing number of District-wide special events. Her first special event was the Hayward Half Marathon in 1985. She went on to volunteer for Battle of the Bands, the UnHaunted House, Teen Idol, the Annual Kenneth Aitken Community Center Flea Market and Sorensdale Recreation Center dances. Ms. Stull also volunteers with the Special Needs Program at the Sorensdale Recreation Center on a regular basis. Her job duties include helping organize the Treasure Chest Thrift Store, pouring molds and helping students paint projects in the ceramics classes which are submitted to the Alameda County Fair.

The 2015 Rising Star Volunteer of the Year Recipient was presented to Ms. Angela Patch. Ms. Patch, is a student at Brenkwitz High School in Hayward. She volunteered at the Matt Jimenez Community Center Summer Camp Program. She was a shy young lady during staff training but once she started working with the youth, she really stepped out of her shell and shined. During the summer Angela worked with young summer campers known as the Sonics. She assisted the Recreation Staff with teaching the kids how to play various sports and with large group activities. She also assisted with arts and crafts activities, computer lab, teen center and much more. Ms. Patch proved to be a great leader by having a positive and energetic demeanor while being very open and engaging with the kids. Angela is was such an asset to the program that she is currently involved with the MJCC After School Program. Ms. Patch's eagerness to learn and ability to work with youth in all components of the after school program are truly appreciated.

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The Volunteer of the Year and Rising Star Volunteer were selected from the District's monthly recognized volunteers for 2015 which consisted of: Dee Miller, Nature Program; Virginia Graban, Senior Adult Program; Rene Clair, Art Program; Nani Lozier, Senior Adult Program; James Wilson, Nature Program; Rosemarie Cooper, Nature Program; Joshua & Sebastian Fuenzalida, Aquatics Program; Bill Teffy, Camps Program; Hendra Tungall, Sports – Tennis Program; and Sophia Espinoza, Volunteer Hayward.

For information about the District's Volunteer Program, please call (510) 670-7280, email volunteer@haywardrec.org or visit HaywardRec.org/volunteer

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Creating Community through People, Parks and Programs since 1944