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ALHAMBRA GOLF COURSE
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Ramona Convent student Alessandra Soto recently celebrated the completion of her Girl Scout Gold Award project at a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the Ramona Convent campus farm. From left are Principal Mary E. Mansell; Francois Laborie, director of Campus Ministry; Alessandra; and Sister Kathleen Callaway, president.

Ramona Convent sophomore receives Girl Scout Gold Award

Ramona Convent student Alessandra Soto recently celebrated the completion of her Girl Scout Gold Award project at a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the Ramona Convent campus farm. With the help of her fellow Girl Scouts, her parents, and the Ramona community, Ali spent several months revitalizing the farm. She led efforts to repair the greenhouse, re-build planting areas, install new irrigation, build benches from recycled wood, and plant a variety of citrus trees.

Every time I step onto the farm and see the amazing work Ali and our students have accomplished, I'm always reminded of the scripture passage from Ecclesiastes which reminds us that there is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens ... a time to plant and a time to uproot."

"Ali was a tremendous help in the garden through her very well organized efforts and her call for Ramona Convent volunteers," said Francois Laborie, Ramona Convent director of Campus Ministry and theology teacher. "Her vision for the farm has moved the farm project forward with not only rehabilitated structures and new plantings but she has also demonstrated to potential stakeholders that the Ramona Convent community has made a firm commitment to reestablishing a farming heritage left to us by our founding Holy Names Sisters. Potentially, this farm could feed and nourish so many members of our local community and continue to make Ramona Convent a beacon of hope.

On the same weekend that Alessandra completed her project, Ramona families, in a collaborative effort of all members of the Ramona community, planted roses, lantana, and succulents, refreshing the entrance to the Roseheath garden on the other side of campus.

Ramona is a welcoming Catholic college-prep high school for girls in grades nine through 12. Ramona graduates face the future with an extraordinary education, a global vision fueled by Catholic values, an independent spirit, confident leadership skills, the support of their Ramona sisters, and the strength of a legacy of more than 125 years of excellence.

Ramona Convent Secondary School is located at 1701 W. Ramona Road, Alhambra. For more information, phone 626-282-4151, or visit www.ramonaconvent.org.



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Free income tax filing assistance available at Cal State LA for qualified individuals

The Cal State LA Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program is offering free income tax preparation services to qualified Alhambra residents on Saturdays through April 15.

The program is available to those who generally earn \$54,000 or less, people with disabilities, the elderly, and limited English-speaking taxpayers who need assistance in preparing and filing their own tax returns. In addition, there will be free services on financial literacy and asset building, as well as microcredit and business planning.

The Cal State LA VITA site is located at the University's Salazar Hall building, third floor, room 343, and will be open from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Saturday

mornings. Appointments are not necessary.

Public parking is available in Structure B. Permits may be purchased from dispensers located in the structure. For a campus map and directions, visit <http://www.calstatela.edu/univ/maps/index.php>.

Since 1998, the Internal Revenue Service and Cal State LA faculty have trained Cal State LA accounting students to provide income tax preparation services. Cal State LA VITA partners include the California State Board of Equalization, State Farm, and H&R Block.

For more details on VITA services offered at Cal State LA, phone 626-820-3925. For the checklist on what to bring, visit <https://www.irs.gov/Individuals/Checklist-for-Free-Tax-Return-Preparation>.