

Season for giving is ongoing effort at Emmaus Lutheran School

Every year, the fifth-grade class at Emmaus Lutheran School hears a story called the *Children's Rainforest* read to them by teacher Gerry Fellwock. The story is about a second-grade class in Sweden that decides to raise money to purchase land occupied by a rain forest in Costa Rica. The fundraising goes all the way to the King of Sweden's participation. Following the story, Ms. Fellwock asks the children if there is a way to make a difference and help other people. They are instructed to talk about it with their parents and then come back with ideas of organizations that they could help. In four previous years, St. Jude's Children's Hospital was the recipient of their efforts.

In fall of 2015, the class of 13 voted to raise money for Habitat for Humanity. But this wasn't supposed to be about their parents giving the money. The students were to go and figure out how they could raise the money personally. Ms. Fellwock suggested Dollars for Chores, since chores are always a learning experience for 10-year-olds. Her guidelines were "whatever you can do will be wonderful." When they were finished, they had raised \$1,006.10, which astounded the representative of Habitat. The seven girls and six boys also included two international students on I-20 visas. Three girls who attend a church other than Emmaus Lutheran did a bake sale at their church

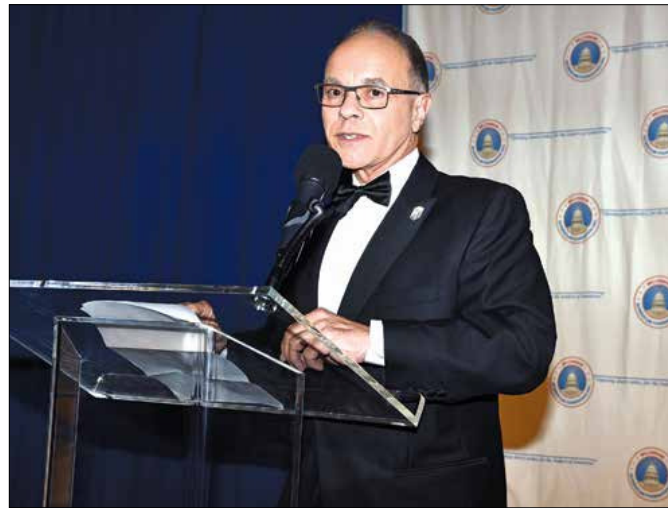
and the freewill offering raised more than \$300. Girls from Emmaus also did a bake sale and raised almost \$200, while several of the boys had a pizza sale and one mother baked brownies and sold them at work. All the projects were student-driven and created.

Earlier in the year, another student discovered a program on the Internet called Soles for Souls. She organized a school-wide drive, and more than 200 pairs of shoes were donated to the program and sent to children in lesser developed countries who have no shoes.

In 2014, Emmaus School had the distinction of collecting more toys for the Alhambra Fire Department's Sparks of Love than any other organization in the city. That same toy drive culminated on Dec. 13, but results are not yet in.

During December, each class put together a Christmas basket for local firefighters.

On Jan. 14, the whole school will participate in the second annual program of cleaning up a park in Alhambra. Later on in the year there will be a major effort to support Kids Around the World, where the students, families, and church will attempt to raise \$4,000 to purchase bulk food and package and ship it to needy families. The spirit of giving back is one of the values taught at Emmaus in all grades.



Cal State LA President William A. Covino accepts the 2015 Ambassador of Education Award from Millennium Momentum Foundation at the foundation's 12th Annual Opening Doors Awards ceremony at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion in Los Angeles.

Cal State LA awarded 2015 Ambassador of Education Award

Cal State LA has received the 2015 Ambassador of Education Award from Millennium Momentum Foundation, a non-profit dedicated to increasing diversity in public service-related fields.

Cal State LA President William A. Covino accepted the award at the foundation's 12th Annual Opening Doors Awards ceremony at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion in Los Angeles.

"We will continue to be ambassadors for a transformative education, with academic excellence and service at its core," Mr. Covino said during his acceptance speech at the Nov. 13 event.

The Ambassador of Education Award is presented to an institution or individual in higher education who has demonstrated a significant commitment to creating and sustaining avenues of civic engagement and community reinvestment among a new generation.

The Millennium Momentum Foundation also awarded its Best & Brightest scholarships to three outstanding Cal State LA seniors: Pranati Pilluta, a biochemistry

major; Briselda Tejeda, a social work major; and Lysander Valenzuela, a liberal studies major.

The Best & Brightest Scholarship Program seeks to identify students that exemplify exceptional academic merit, leadership potential, commitment to reinvest in their local communities, and financial need. The scholarship winners also have an opportunity to participate in the foundation's Leadership Development Institute, which integrates peer-professional mentoring and leadership development training.

Cal State LA is a university dedicated to engagement, service, and the public good. The University serves more than 27,000 students and 240,000 distinguished alumni, who are as diverse as the city it serves. Located in the heart of Los Angeles, Cal State LA has long been recognized as an engine of economic and social mobility.

Cal State LA has been named by *Washington Monthly* as one of the top 10 master's universities in the nation for its contribution to the public good.

Alhambra Rotary, Rotary of San Gabriel Valley New Generation to award teacher Mini-Grants

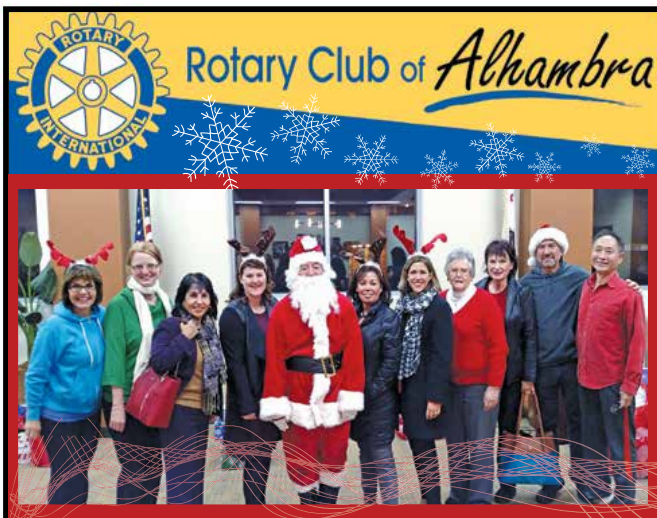
Applications for the Rotary Club of Alhambra and Rotary Club of San Gabriel Valley New Generation Teachers' Mini-Grant Program have been distributed to teachers at every school in the Alhambra School District.

The Mini-Grant Program, started in 1991, awards a limited number of grants to teachers in the Alhambra School District from \$50 to \$200 for the purpose of imple-

menting. The grants will be presented to the individual teachers at a school board meeting in February.

"This program is in its 24th year," said Chairman Dr. David Snyder. "The Rotary Club of Alhambra has donated more than \$189,000 to this worthwhile service project."

Other sponsors of the Mini-Grant Program are The Alhambra Teachers'



Once again The Rotary Club of Alhambra and The Ratkovich Company teamed up to bring some Holiday Magic to 50 local families. The annual Adopt-A-Family program partners these two organizations with the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office's Victim-Witness Assistance Program and the Alhambra Unified School District's Gateway To Success Program to help bring the magic of Christmas to children in need during the holidays. Thanks to the generous support of the Ratkovich Company, Rotarians and their partners shopped for gifts for over 145 children, wrapped them and distributed them to their adopted families on December 15, 2015. Families were also provided with holiday food baskets.

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Joe Pavon
President 2015-2016

