

TEENS BRIGHT FUTURE GUARANTEED

Hospice of the Valley is honored to award six of our extraordinary teen volunteers \$500 college scholarships.

The recipients and their high schools are: Rachel Baumann (Chaparral), Kara Jacka (Mountain Ridge), Hope Ramirez (Barry Goldwater), Giovana Vega (Carl Hayden), Hannah Vargas (Chandler) and Whitney Walker (Tempe Preparatory Academy).



Teen Scholarship Recipients 2007. Left to right: Rachel Baumann, Whitney Walker, Hannah Vargas, Kara Jacka, Giovana Vega (not pictured Hope Ramirez).

The scholarship is awarded to current teen volunteers who are seniors in high school and have completed a minimum of 50 hours of service.

The teens have made unforgettable differences in their patients' lives. Rachel has shared her musical talent with 98-year-old Ruby, playing the poignant *Meditation from Thais*, on her violin. She also has read classics to Ruby like *Gone with the Wind*.

Hannah learned about communication: "I learned that I was a very good listener, and I learned the difference between sympathy and empathy."

Many young people might shy away from visiting people facing life-limiting illnesses. But these teens overcame that, tapping into the richness of people's lives. Kara says she learned more about history in four months from her patient Rudy than in four years of history classes at school.

The young women also were given opportunities for self-development, like Whitney, who spoke to HOV's Board of Directors.

Giovana hopes to pursue a degree in social work and to eventually join Hospice of the Valley as a social worker. "Every time I leave the hospital, I leave with a smile on my face, knowing that on that day I made a difference in someone's life," she said.

Hope dreams of becoming a surgeon and "Doctors Without Borders."

Hospice of the Valley wishes our scholarship winners continued success and bright futures.

--Annabelle Sanchez, public relations assistant