

Meet our 2025 Scholars!

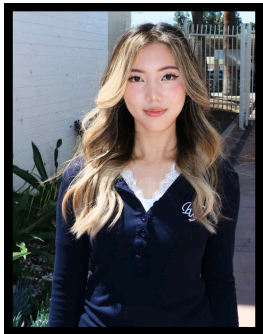
\$2,000 given to each student

Yoselin Catalan- Godinez Fundamental High School

Ed Trotter Honorarium

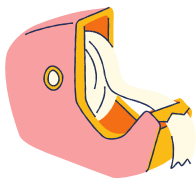


Yoselin personally experienced the impact of compassion in the face of cultural and linguistic barriers as a volunteer at UCI as a Spanish-speaking receptionist. As a result, she founded “Medicina Latina” which is an initiative to bring more bilingual and first-generation students to seek out opportunities in the healthcare field. She researches medical opportunities across the U.S. and shares resources and advice to underrepresented students and future leaders. In addition to her work with “Medicina Latina,” Yoselin volunteers with Feed the Homeless which helped her own family with food and resources during the pandemic, Key Club, the Bower’s Museum, and “Sullivan en Accion” which is a community-based organization benefiting the residents of Sullivan Street with projects such as beautification with the support of Lou Correa. Her future goal is to attend medical school to become a pediatrician.



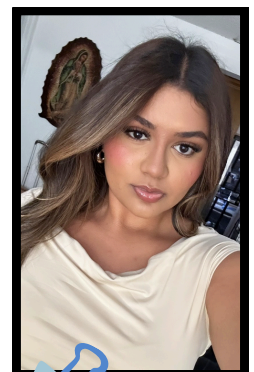
Helen Zhang- Santa Ana High School

Helen is the founder and president of the Science Provision Engineering Collective. Wanting to give her peers more hands-on learning experience, she has collaborated with the US military’s STARBASE initiative to introduce a year long rocketry program where professional engineers visit the school weekly to teach students, bridging the gap between theory and practice. She also designed a six-week interactive STEM curriculum for K-5 students from underserved communities and she is currently working with SAUSD deputy superintendent and district leaders to expand the initiative to a district-wide scale. She also serves as a researcher for the New York Academy of Sciences and is a participant of the Notre Dame Summer Scholars Program as well as the Cornell Engineering Diversity Program. Helen plans to pursue a BA in engineering.



Valerie Gonzalez – Segerstrom High School

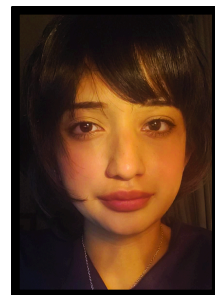
Valerie co-founded a non-profit club and organization called EdActs Global with the mission to engage students in community service projects to improve the school grounds and serve the broader community. She garners donations from Home Depot, Target, and Lowes for project supplies for the beautification of her campus, as well as toy drives and supplies for local homeless shelters. In addition, Valerie is in ASB leadership at her school, works as an intern at Jim Thorpe Elementary School, volunteers at St. John the Baptist, and served as captain of the Varsity Girls Volleyball team. Her goal is to major in Liberal Studies to become an elementary school teacher, with a long-term goal of earning a PhD in education.





Angela Ostio-Morales – Middle College High School

Angela inadvertently became an English tutor to Ukrainian students through an online class she was taking. She especially connected with one young Ukrainian student who taught her about Ukrainian culture and language. When the war started suddenly in 2022, many of her fellow students such as her close friend disappeared and stopped attending the class. In an effort to reconnect with them, Angela has creatively adapted to tutor them using various platforms like Zoom, Instagram, and Discord despite the unstable situation and a 10-hour time difference. In addition, Angela assists her Mother in work, is a Nicholas Academic Center Member, participates in Girls Who Code, Co-president of the Film Club, and participates with Girls Inc. She hopes to earn her Masters in Cybersecurity and Data Science.



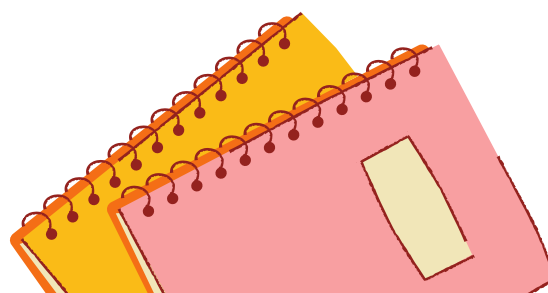
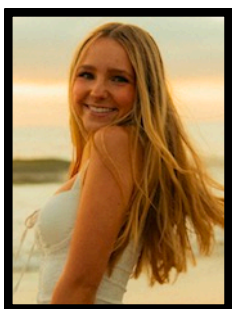
Crystal Sanchez – Santa Ana High School

Knowing first-hand the difficulties facing monolingual Spanish speaking students in Santa Ana, Crystal founded “Aprender Con Yo / Learn With Me.” Realizing the benefits of learning English in her home country, Crystal developed personalized virtual tutoring to over 30 students from Oaxaca Mexico, her Mother’s home state. Crystal has been working hard for the past three years on this passion project with the goal to equip students with language skills to prepare them for academic success before they enter the education system here in the United States. Crystal is President of Santa Ana Active Streets advocating for safer transportation policies, she is president of the Big Brothers and Sisters, serves as a team lead at her school’s library, and is vice-president of the Key Club. She has been accepted to UC Berkley and plans to major in business.



Anna Craig – Orange County School of the Arts

Anna co-founded the Eco-Activists Club at OSCA, partnering with the local nature preserve to restore green spaces and natural habitats in the area. She has volunteered over 100 hours at the OC Animal Shelter, organizing shelter adoption events and fostering. In addition, Anna serves at Forest Home campground in Forest Falls as a childcare assistant and educates children on equestrianism and horse care. She is a member of the Thespian Honors Society and is a part of the Acting Conservatory at OSCA. She aims to major in Journalism or Communications.



Paola Sanchez- Middle College High School

Paola has invested her last four years in mentoring the same elementary school student through the Big Brothers and Big Sisters program. Her passion has been to embody the mentor she felt she needed as a child. As the eldest child in an immigrant household, she had to navigate many responsibilities on her own. The depth of relationship she has built with her mentee has been the fuel for much of her newly found confidence and leadership. She founded the Key Club at her school, spearheading a project to collect and distribute over 300 books while the Santa Ana library was under construction. Her future plans are to pursue a degree in Economics.



Arely Gutierrez – Orange County School of the Arts

Arely founded Tutoring4Kids, a club with a mission to pair high school students with local elementary students to provide after school tutoring. Tutors use their bilingualism to support native speakers and over the last three years, the club has welcomed many new members and established partnerships with other clubs on campus. Arely is also a participant of the Wooden Floor community dance studio and co-president of the Spanish Honors Society. Arely plans to major in Business Administration.

Jocelyn Carrillo – Godinez Fundamental High School

Jocelyn, motivated by her own journey in mental health, started a new initiative on her campus called The Conscious Living Club which is committed to advocating for the mental health of teens. Students are educated in various coping skills and have a safe place to express themselves through art, painting, clay, and journaling. Her club has welcomed over 110 participants and continues to expand. In addition, she volunteers as AltaMed at a facility for seniors, chaperones kids with Up to US, and is a member with Rising Writers. Jocelyn wants to study Psychology or Neuroscience at a four-year university with the goal of working in the medical field researching POTS and dysautonomia disorders.



Ella Tran – Orange County School of the Arts

Joseph Bangor Memorial Scholarship



Ella is co-founder and co-president of Community Canvas, a mural painting club aimed to revitalize spaces in Santa Ana. Through this initiative, she has hosted workshops in collaboration with KidWorks, Boys and Girls Club, and OCSA. She is also a part of the Dragon Kim Fellowship where she is a part of their mentorship program, raising funds and material donations for her amazing mural projects. She hosted a mural unveiling event with Hands Together, with over 150 community members in attendance, bringing pride to our shared city spaces.



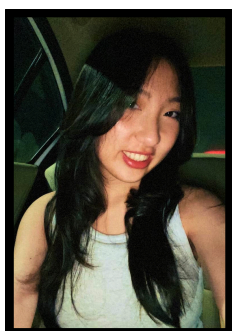
Fernando Ortega – Santa Ana High School



Fernando has volunteered over 203 hours at the Discovery Cube and enjoys watching children light up with wonder, particularly in the aquarium exhibit. He has grown into a confident leader, conquering his public speaking fears and mentoring new volunteers. At school he participates in the Engineering Club, the Recycling Club, and the Beautification Club. He wants to pursue a future as an Environmental Engineer.



Abigail Vu – Middle College High School

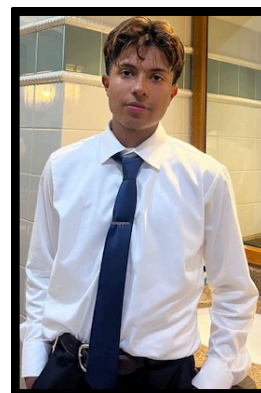
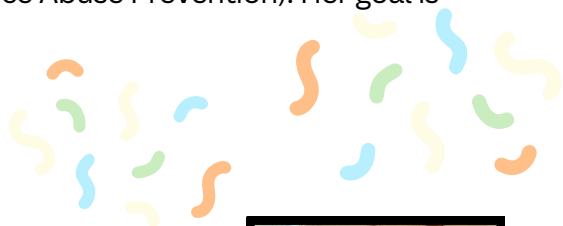


Over the course of over 150 hours, Abigail has found that her volunteer work at Fountain Valley Hospital has led her to pursue a career in nursing. Her meaningful interactions with patients has shown her the value of attentive and compassionate care. Abigail is involved in the Santa Ana College Medical Assistant and Pre-Nursing Program, as well as the Falk First Responders Academy. In addition, she volunteers with Big Brothers and Sisters and is a part of the Youth Advisory Council ESALY (Substance Abuse Prevention). Her goal is to specialize as a NICU Nurse.

Emmanuel Cabrera – Santa Ana Valley High School

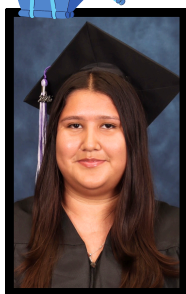
Athey Family Honorarium

During the summer of 2024, Emmanuel and his friends worked with a resource center in Santa Ana supporting single mothers facing financial struggles and healthcare barriers. The center, founded through a mentoring program with the Dragon Kim Fellowship program, has become a safe place for single mothers to share their experiences and a hub for resources such as WIC, SNAP, CalFresh and Medi-Cal. Emmanuel is a part of the Nicolas Academic Center, SAC Upward Bound, AISS, Early Academic Outreach Program, ASB, and volunteers with My Mom's Wishlist. His career goals include Project Management, building a foundation in financial analysis, budgeting, and strategic planning.



Kimberly Tovar – Middle College High School

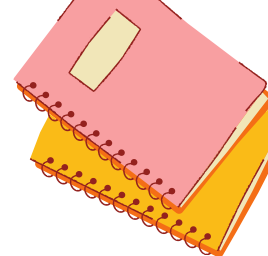
Susan Hart Honorarium



Kimberly is vice president of the Ladies First Club, dedicated to ending domestic violence and promoting gender equality. She organized a school-wide household items drive for Laura's House domestic violence shelter and assisted with Domestic Violence Awareness Week activities. She has volunteered over 200 hours at the Southwest Community Center as a Program Aide helping with youth services and meal preparation. She also works with Be the Change, Wish Come True, and the Nicholas Academic Center for first-generation students in need of tutoring, mentorship, and college and career readiness. Kimberly plans to attend a four-year university to study Nursing and participate in study abroad programs to do research and gain hands-on experience in different hospital settings.

Casey Guardado – Segerstrom High School

As co-founder of EdActs Global, Casey works with her peers on community service projects that inspire compassion and break barriers. Partnering with local brands like BOMBAS has opened doors to expand to other areas such as New Mexico and Honduras. This summer, 6 people from their club are planning a trip to Utila, Honduras to aid an overcrowded K-12 school and bring education in areas like optometry and architecture. Casey is a member of the Nicholas Academic Center, the Simon Scholars Program, competes in Track and Field, assists the Athletic Council, and is co-captain of the Girls Volleyball Team.



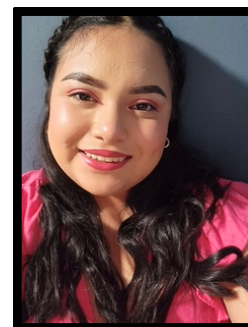
Miguel Rodriguez – Santa Ana College

Alice Sinclair Honorary

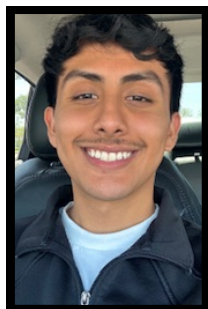
Miguel is the President of Project Rise, a student-led club that supports individuals who have been incarcerated, helping them navigate the complex educational system and engaging in advocacy for policies and laws that give more opportunities for education. Miguel also volunteers in the Career Center at SAC and has devoted over 100 hours to community service activities at Calvary Church, Huntington Beach. He is also a student worker at the Rising Scholars Office where he utilizes his organizational and administrative skills.

Stephanie Minera – Santa Ana Valley High School

Stephanie serves with the Big Brothers and Sisters program where she has learned the importance of consistent presence and support. She has volunteered in this capacity for over 111 hours. She is also a member of the American Sign Language Club at her school, the Culinary Competition Team, AVID, and H.E.R. Space. She plans to attend culinary school.



Christopher Alexis Gonzales – Santa Ana College



Christopher's most impactful experience has been his work as an intern with the leading economic specialist with the City of Santa Ana. This gave him hands-on experience in various departments within the City and a unique perspective on how economics policies shape growth. Christopher is also a leader with Alpha Gamma Sigma, an honor's society focused on service and academics. His commitment to community service has earned him the nationally recognized US President's Volunteer Service Award. His future goal is to transfer to a 4-year University to study business or economics.



Nadia Jaramillo – Santa Ana High School

Nadia turned her family’s painful experience with eviction into a positive pathway for advocacy and education. She became involved in “Esperanza Union,” an organization that helps displaced individuals. After attending these meetings with her family, she decided to let her voice be heard on a state-wide level on lobby day, giving her perspective on the eviction and its effect on her family. In addition, she is involved in Chamber Orchestra, Chamber Choir, People’s History of Orange County, SAHS Theatre, and Santa Ana Active Streets. Nadia’s dream is to become a high school counselor and earn a degree in Sociology.



The Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society (SAHPS), founded in 1974 and based in Santa Ana, California, is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to preserving and celebrating the history of the Santa Ana community. Its primary activities include operating the Dr. Willella Howe-Waffle House and Medical Museum, hosting themed open houses, conducting downtown walking tours, and presenting living history programs, often with actors portraying historical figures.

OCCTAC (Orange County Children’s Therapeutic Arts Center)

This program provides artistic training in the fields of Music, Visual Arts, Dance, Musical Theatre, and Technology to at-risk youth, children and individuals with special needs in the community.

OCCTAC offers a high quality, comprehensive and multicultural curriculum that prioritizes empowering children and youth of limited resources, from diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds. A wide variety of classes are available: piano, guitar, ukulele, harp, singing, violin, hip-hop dance, ballet, jazz, painting, drawing, graphic arts, and illustration.

The HIVE Youth Program

The HIVE Youth Program is a daily after-school program in the Willard Neighborhood for students from K-12th. It aims to uplift children by teaching positive values and supporting foundational learning.

In 2014, a previous charitable organization opened a Child’s Resource Center in Santa Ana for struggling families. In the spring of 2019, after five years of dedicated service, the Center closed. Three of its volunteers saw the importance of keeping the close-knit group of kids together. They approached St. Peter Lutheran Church, located in the same Santa Ana neighborhood (Willard) to discuss ways to help the children. A partnership was formed and after successfully completing a summer pilot program in 2019, the HIVE Youth Program was launched on January 6, 2020

The Center OC

The OC Center, based in Santa Ana, California, is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit founded in 1971, making it one of the oldest LGBTQ centers in the U.S. Its mission is to advocate for and provide services to the Orange County lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and questioning communities, ensuring their well-being and positive identity. Programs include youth and young adult support, mental health services, HIV testing, transgender health, immigration resources, and community advocacy.

Olive Crest – Survivors of Human Trafficking Initiative

Olive Crest, a Santa Ana-based nonprofit, has a solid reputation for its work with at-risk children and families. Since 1973, it has served over 200,000 kids, focusing on foster care, adoption, and family preservation. Its mission centers on preventing child abuse and providing safe homes, counseling, and education, which aligns with its broader human services goals.

Kidworks

KidWorks, based in Santa Ana, is a nonprofit founded in 1993 with a mission to restore at-risk neighborhoods through education, character formation, and personal development. It serves over 1,000 children, youth, and parents weekly through programs like preschool, after-school tutoring, college readiness, and community engagement, operating four community centers in central Santa Ana (Dan Donahue Center, Townsend, Bishop Manor, and Cedar Evergreen).

CSUF Grand Central Arts Center in Santa Ana

The Cal State University, Fullerton Grand Central Art Center (GCAC) is a unique nonprofit entity operating as a partnership between California State University, Fullerton (CSUF) and the City of Santa Ana. GCAC, established in 1999, is dedicated to the exploration and promotion of contemporary art and visual culture through collaborations among artists, students, and the Santa Ana community. Located at 125 N. Broadway in Santa Ana's Artists Village, it serves as a hub for artistic innovation, offering galleries, a theater, artist-in-residence programs, and live/work spaces for CSUF graduate students in visual and performing arts. Its mission emphasizes socially engaged art, fostering creative dialogue locally, nationally, and internationally. Notable programs include exhibitions, workshops, and community events like First Saturday Art Walks, which draw diverse audiences. The center has incubated initiatives like Santa Ana Sites and Community Engagement, enhancing its role in cultural and social interaction.

The Dragon Kim Foundation

Founded in 2015 in memory of Dragon Kim, an OCSA high school student who died in a tragic accident, the foundation empowers high school students to create community impact projects through its Dragon Challenge fellowship. The program provides mentorship, leadership training, and seed funding (up to \$5,000 per project) to help students launch initiatives like art workshops, STEM camps, or mental health advocacy. Operating primarily in Orange County, California, and Arizona, it targets youth aged 14–18, fostering skills in project management and social entrepreneurship. The foundation also offers summer fellowships and plans to expand nationally, with a focus on underserved communities.



About the Floral Park Scholarship Fund

Over the years, Floral Park Neighborhood Association has given tens of thousands of dollars worth of scholarships to local Santa Ana high school and Santa Ana College students. Each student selected has volunteered their time, skills, muscle, and heart to helping others in the community. We have been very fortunate to be able to fund these awards through money generated by last year's Home Tour ticket sales, our very popular Wine and Beer Garden, our Opening Night Gala Celebration event, and the generosity of private donors.

About our Charitable Giving

Floral Park gives generously every year to the local partners who are working for the good of our community. All of our charities are nominated by Floral Park residents and must render services specifically in Santa Ana.

If you are a Floral Park resident and you are interested in volunteering to help make these wonderful giving opportunities happen, consider joining the Sponsorship Committee.

Please contact giving@floralpark.com