

# 2017 YOUNG CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

## Nominee: Allison Loo

Nominator: Erin Harper



### *In the Nominator's words:*

It is an honor to nominate Ally Loo for Dublin's Young Citizen of the Year.

Ally demonstrates extraordinary resilience, compassion, effort, positivity, and cooperation. She goes above and beyond to excel when others may have given up entirely. When Ally was seven, she came to CALICO as a victim of child abuse (Ally has given permission to discuss this, and openly talks about her experience). While at CALICO, she received a stuffed animal. Years later, she contacted CALICO and eloquently expressed how much that stuffed animal meant to her. She was determined to ensure that other children who came to CALICO would receive the same comfort. As a result, she founded the PATCH Club at Dublin High School to collect stuffed animals for CALICO. During their 2017 holiday drive, they collected over 600 new or slightly used stuffed animals! This will last CALICO almost an entire year alone. Even more, in 2017, Ally has had the PATCH Club come in to CALICO to help address fundraising letters, and volunteer at our annual benefit, all during what is an otherwise busy senior year of high school. Despite her young age, she is our most consistent and productive volunteer, and has made a true impact both at CALICO and with the young children who come to our office and get to take one of her animals with them.

In founding the PATCH Club and making it so effective in 2017, Ally showed a special quality in finding the good in what was otherwise an extremely painful situation for her. Such action reveals an incredible resilience, sense of caring, and a unique ability to find the silver lining in even the most adverse of experiences. It also shows incredible empathy for others, especially at a time in life when many teens are focused on their own pursuits. While Ally is always respectful, punctual, honest, and positive, she also has natural quality of leadership. It is evident in watching PATCH members interact with Ally that they look to her as a leader, and that she is able to inspire compassion and action in her peers. I have worked with children for nearly a decade at CALICO and have rarely met a child or adolescent as impressive in strength of character, motivation to make a positive difference in the world, and capable of putting those ideas into action. Dublin is lucky to have her as a citizen. She is a truly remarkable young woman who has overcome great odds to become a positive figure making a difference for others in her community.

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### **Nominee: Allison Loo**

Nominator: Kelly Beck



#### *In the Nominator's words:*

Allison Loo is a Dublin High senior and founder of the PATCH Club at DHS (PATCH= Plushies Aimed To Comfort Hearts). She is an active member on campus despite some of her personal struggles, especially within the last two years. She embodies ALL of our Integrity in Action characteristics, and emulates them not only in the way she treats others on a day-to-day basis, but also by the courses she selects

to take in school and in dedicating her life to extra-curriculars that serve a much larger community than just ours at DHS.

Although Ally has made a huge impact in 2017, her story begins far before this past year. When Ally was seven years old, she was a victim of child abuse and sexual assault. After that incident, she was taken to CALICO, a child abuse center in San Leandro. One thing CALICO does to provide comfort to children who are brought there is give each child a comfort item, such as a stuffed animal. Under Ally's presidency this year, the DHS PATCH Club raised over \$600 and collected close to 600 dolls or stuffed animals (double last year's number). all to be donated to the CALICO Center. Ally has done all of this while suffering from medical issues herself, missing school in chunks, and still earning a 4.0 in her first semester of her senior year, giving her a 4.27 cumulative GPA. The impact she has had on our school and the community of the Bay Area has gone far beyond the animals and money she has raised for donation. She has opened the eyes of students and staff at Dublin High to a much larger issue, domestic and child abuse, and has given a voice to many who, in the past, could not or would not speak out for support they so desperately need. On top of dedicating her life to giving back to those who not only helped her but are still helping children going through these horrific experiences, she has shown dedication to giving back to people in other ways.

In the spring semester of 2017, Ally enrolled and excelled in her ROP Medical Interventions course. In the fall semester of her senior year, she received top marks in her ROP Nursing course, clearly showing dedication to a life of serving others in and out of school. I could not think of a more relevant and impactful project and focus than helping children of the Bay Area who have been hurt in this way. Ally Loo is one of the most remarkable young women I have ever come across, especially considering what she has been through - kind to everyone, hardworking, honest, giving, and respectful. Please strongly consider her for the high honor of Young Citizen of the Year.