

Dear VCC

I am honored to nominate a special team of volunteer names from the Church of Christ for a group recognition award. I would like these three key individuals who helped me facilitate their first



Coastal Clean-up event last September to be recognized. Irma Magallanes, Juanita Ayala and Jimi Chua were instrumental working with The Friends of Los Alamitos Watershed in gathering the 350 volunteers from their two local Church of Christ congregations to participate in our Coastal Cleanup event. These three individuals willingly met with me several times to preplan the event for their congregation. Also, they met many times with their church committee groups to gather volunteers back at their Mountain View congregation or the San Jose congregation in preparation for this daunting major watershed cleanup event. I feel these three individuals stand out and deserve recognition for the commitment they made to individually convince each family/ church member to participate in our important Coastal Cleanup event.

Another reason the group should be recognized is for the time they spent to prearrange and organize their members into various safety and support groups. I feel this extra effort made our Los Alamitos Cleanup event very safe and a success. Specifically, they arranged a group of their members into a medical first aid staff, a kitchen set up and cooking crew, a food serving staff, a car pool team for transportation, a special team to give free T-shirts away for each volunteer, a radio communications network group, an organized bike patrol, and had several photographers to record the event.

Next, these three individuals need recognition for their volunteer effort and time it took to organize hundreds of workers to collect the unsightly trash and manually bring it up to the collection cleanup sites scattered along eight miles of the Los Alamitos Creek Road, Hicks Road and Guadalupe Road. For example, they arranged to get their young children of the church into the spirit of cleaning up the creek by involving them in a special supervised youth group. They gave an estimated 30 children, who were between two to eight year olds, the experience of volunteering to find all the small debris, paper trash, and cigarette butts

around Bulmore Park, the New Almaden Community Club and the Hacienda parking lots.

These three organizers also need to be recognized because of their education goal of teaching others to become stewards of the environment/watershed. I observed this goal met when I heard children's tiny voices scream in delight when gathering trash. I saw enthusiastic children run ahead of the group and stop every ten steps for a new discovery. These children were eager to share by encouraging others see, touch, and investigate their first time watershed treasures. Most importantly they became new watershed stewards who wanted to learn how to protect their environment .



During lunch, I heard many comments from the congregation volunteers, who were amazed at the amount of collected trash bags piled along the road. They recognized the value of keeping a clean watershed and realized what their individual efforts had contributed . It was then that I felt these three organizers and volunteers truly had a proud sense of accomplishment and took ownership of a job well done. Just like the children they too, became new stewards of the watershed.

Specifically, the three individuals need to be recognized for the following accomplishments:

Most important

- ✘ The volunteer had a family fun experience
- ✘ They were able to have their group participate at one site.
- ✘ They provided: Transportation ,Food , Supervision, Medical, and Logistics

Trash and debris by manual labor from :

- ✘ Bulmore Park along Los Alamitos Road and Creek to Almaden Reservoir
- ✘ Both sides of Almaden Reservoir
- ✘ Los Alamitos Road to the top of Hicks Road
- ✘ Both sides Guadalupe Reservoir
- ✘ The top of Hicks Road to the Guadalupe Dam

Due to preplanning and the successful event activities the event was a success. Their enthusiastic efforts to made this cleanup project a fun family experience is impressive and sets an example for others follow. As a result, their large group of

volunteers made a difference in watershed environment by removing a large amount of trash from the stream bank.

### **Los Alamitos Site Coastal Cleanup Final Report**

- ✘ Coastal Cleanup Day 2010
- ✘ September 25, 2010
- ✘ Los Alamitos Site at Almaden Quicksilver Park
- ✘ Distance Cleaned : 8 ½ miles
- ✘ Number of Volunteers 350
- ✘ Pounds of Trash: 1200 lbs
- ✘ Pounds of Recyclables 3000 lbs

#### **Cost Savings to the Santa Clara Parks Department**

- ✘ The total volunteer hours donated: 1400 hrs
- ✘ The total amount of donated work: \$28,000.00
- ✘ No injuries
- ✘ No accidents



The greatest reward came at the end day was when all three surprised me and took the next step and asked, “Our group had so much fun today, can we come back next year? - We'll even bring more volunteers!” This when I realized why it is important to recognize these first time Coastal Cleanup volunteer organizers at the VCC Volunteer Recognition dinner to demonstrate their efforts as an example of what it takes to be a watershed steward.

So as president of FOLAW I am proud to submit the following names to be recognized at the VCC Volunteer Recognition Dinner in 2011:

#### **Juanita Ayala**

2763 Dublin  
San Jose, Ca. 95127  
[jjpaydo-08@yahoo.com](mailto:jjpaydo-08@yahoo.com)  
408 234 2910  
Church of Christ  
San Jose Congregation

#### **Jimi Chua**

408 828 9651  
Church of Christ  
"Iglefia Niccristo"  
180 California Avenue  
Mountian View Congregation

#### **Irma Magallanes**

[irmamagallanes@gmail.com](mailto:irmamagallanes@gmail.com)  
1831 402 3845  
Church of Christ  
Regional Staff

Sincerely,  
Michael Boulland  
President of the Friends of Los Alamitos Watershed