

COX KIDS FOUNDATION AWARDS RECORD
\$77,500 IN SCHOLARSHIPS TO “COX HEROES”

(SAN DIEGO) August 2004 — Recent high school graduate Jasette Fong was a star student at **Eastlake High School in Chula Vista**. A “Who’s Who Among American High School Students,” Jasette is a lifetime member of the California Scholarship Federation, received the Minority Leadership Award from the U.S. Achievement Academy, and was voted to the Homecoming Court. Jasette is also a teenage mother, having given birth to a daughter one month before her 17th birthday. Throughout her pregnancy, Jasette maintained her near-perfect G.P.A., and missed only two weeks of school after giving birth. Being a young mother “is not what defines me,” says Jasette, who would like to become a doctor or pediatrician.

Jasette is one of 15 students, including four adults, chosen by the Cox Kids Foundation as a 2004 “Cox Heroes” scholarship recipient for their commitment to education in the face of adversity. This year, the Cox Kids Foundation awarded a record \$77,500 in scholarships. Scholarships were awarded in the amounts of \$10,000, \$5,000 and \$2,500.

Established in 1999 as the philanthropic arm of Cox Communications, the Cox Kids Foundation, a fund of The San Diego Foundation, awards scholarships to students, grants to schools, and partners with organizations such as Children’s Hospital and Make-A-Wish Foundation to improve the lives of children. Funded by employee contributions that are matched 100% by Cox Communications, the Cox Kids Foundation, to date, has awarded \$240,000 in scholarships to “Cox Heroes.”

The 2004 Cox Heroes scholarship recipients are:

Four-Year (\$10,000) Recipients:

Muktar Kuri—Hoover High School, San Diego

After 12 years of living in war-torn Ethiopia, Muktar immigrated with his family to San Diego in 2000. With the opportunity to study in a classroom whose curriculum was

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not determined by the reigning political regime, Muktar has become a successful student and eager volunteer. He has tutored fellow students, and worked for the American Red Cross, Alliance for African Assistance, and a local disabled veterans network. Muktar is also a member of an inner-city youth club and mid-fielder for a local soccer team. He has especially taken an interest in computers, and will study computer science, which he says would not have been possible in his native country.

Elaine Limpiado—San Marcos High School

(Name, photo only)

Marco Murillo—The Preuss School, UCSD

Ranked within the Top 10 students in his class, Marco served as class president for two years, and was selected to participate in several leadership and scholastic summer programs including the Rotary Youth Leadership Academy and the UCSD Academic Connections Residential Program. During high school, he commuted to school every day via bus and trolley from his home in San Ysidro. With dreams of obtaining a law degree to represent underprivileged and underrepresented individuals, Marco will major in political science.

Esperanza Pineda – Orange Glen High School, Escondido

When she was 11 years old, Esperanza Pineda came with her family to the United States, speaking no English, to be reunited with her father. A few years later, her parents divorced, creating economic hardship for the family, and Esperanza's home where she lived with her mother and sisters was burned to the ground, destroying all their possessions. Esperanza has remained resilient through her family's hardships, and has been highly successful in her studies, sports and extra-curricular activities. She will enter college in the fall to study nursing.

Nazret Weldeghiorgis—School of Creative and Performing Arts, San Diego

When Nazret's family couldn't afford to send her on tour with her school's top performing choir, she recruited her sisters to help sell candy to raise the money. Not only did Nazret raise the money, but she earned enough to pay her touring expenses for two years. In the top one percent of her class, Nazret has served as treasurer of her school's Choral Club and the California Scholarship Federation. She also served as an after-school tutor, and does volunteer work through her church. The daughter of Eritrea immigrants, Nazret lives with her widowed mother and younger brother and sister. Her entrepreneurial spirit has led Nazret to major in business.

Two-Year (\$5,000) Recipient:

Jasette Fong—Eastlake High School, Chula Vista

A "Who's Who Among American High School Students," Jasette Fong served as Commissioner of Service for both the Associate Student Body and her senior class. She was president of the Mercury Service Club, and a member of the Asian International Association and Earth Service Corps. She has attended youth

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leadership conferences, mentored elementary students, and was nominated by her peers for the Homecoming Court. Jasette is also a single mother raising her one-year-old daughter, Jessalyn. She would like to become a doctor or pediatrician, and will study pre-med.

One-Year (\$2,500) Recipients:

Francis Go—Sweetwater High School, National City

Francis has served as president of Peers United to Reach the Environment, treasurer of the Science Club, vice president of the Key Club and volunteered as a youth organizer for the Environmental Health Coalition. He will study bioengineering, and hopes to use his degree to become a research scientist and focus on environmental issues. Francis lives with his parents and two siblings. His mother, an airport screener, was laid off following Sept. 11.

Enrique Meza—Hoover High School, San Diego

In the two-and-a-half years that Enrique Meza has been in the United States, he has not only learned a second language, English, but completed a course at San Diego State University. Enrique participated in the Youth 4rce, a program through Hoover High School's parent center, and was a member of his school's cross-country and soccer teams. He dreams of becoming a doctor to help others in his community and raise the quality of life for his own family.

Nancy Sandoval—The Preuss School, UCSD

As a little girl, Nancy would carry around a doctor's kit, ready to take care of anyone who was sick. Growing up in a family of 10, Nancy remembers being ill as a child and having only tea to make her feel better because the family couldn't afford to take her to a doctor. She hopes to become a pediatrician and help children whose families cannot afford medical care. As a volunteer at Scripps Hospital, Nancy worked on the nursing floor, and interned in the physical therapy department.

John Santos—El Camino High School

A friendly, outgoing person who inspires others to pursue their dreams, John says receiving scholarship money is a privilege that will help him realize his own dreams of becoming a director or producer of video games and animated movies. The first in his family to go to college, John will attend the Art Institute of California San Diego.

Jack Westphall—Santana High School, Santee

Jack wants to help change the world, and he wants to have fun doing it. The first in his family to attend college, Jack will study business administration. Seeing advertising as an art form, whether selling a product or a cause, Jack hopes to enter the advertising industry and create positive commercials that will touch people and change perspectives. A talented athlete, Jack participated in football, soccer, and track and field. He also served as a volunteer with his church's youth group, and as a math tutor to elementary school students.

Adult Re-Entry (\$2,500) Recipients:

Angela Poston—El Cajon

Growing up as a foster child, Angela was ushered from home to home, as many as 11 times in one year. She struggled with her grades and eventually lost her motivation to finish high school. With the birth of her child, Angela found herself inspired to return to school. A full-time certified nursing assistant and caretaker, Angela is a volunteer for Head Start and a full-time student at Grossmont College. She is a biology major, and hopes to become a physician.

Jason Rather—San Diego

A single father diagnosed with diabetes, Jason holds down two jobs in order to care for his son, his disabled mother and his mentally challenged brother. In spite of his hardships, Jason has maintained an overall 3.8 G.P.A. and made the Dean's Honor List at San Diego City College, where his focus is corporate law.

Delia Ray—San Diego

Growing up in a single-parent family, Delia's focus was on raising her younger siblings rather than her studies. Today, as the single parent of a three-year-old, Delia is determined to graduate from college and be an example for her son, as well as children in her Southeast San Diego community. As a former site supervisor for the Jackie Robinson YMCA's PRYDE program, where she implemented after-school activities for elementary students, Delia understands how important it is to be a good role model. A student at Mesa College, she is a business major with hopes of managing or owning her own restaurant.

Terri Scannell—San Marcos

Five years ago, when a 14-year-old neighbor had to be removed from his home due to domestic violence, Terri and her husband stepped in to become the boy's foster parents. Now a young man and college student, Terri's foster child and his social worker have inspired her to return to school and become a social worker. A pastor in San Marcos and mother of four, Terri currently attends Palomar College.

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