

2017 Family Grant Recipients

ADAM AMANUEL

Son of Adhanom Amanuel
LA Region – Vermont Seniors

TOMICIA BLUNT

Daughter of Sheila Marie Taylor
SF Region – Chestnut Linden Court



Adam Amanuel

Adam attributes his work ethic and determination to his family. He graduated from St. Bernard High School in 2016. During his senior year of high school, he was captain of the basketball team and ASB Vice President. As team captain, he led his team to the CIF state championship and was selected Most Valuable Basketball Player in CIF Division 5. Not only a star athlete, Adam is a published poet. In 2016, his poem, 18 Years Of Family And Basketball, was featured in Cultural Weekly. Adam explains, "Writing is a new love I have found...this idea of expressing yourself through words that can also affect others to see life in a new light inspires me deeply." Adam is now attending Santa

Monica Community College, majoring in Biology/ Pre-Med. Adam plans on transferring to Loyola Marymount University and then on to medical school to pursue a career as a Pharmacist. Adam continues to volunteer with his former basketball team as an assistant coach. His love for his family, church, and community keeps him focused on pursuing his education so that he can continue to give back to those that have inspired him....as Adam would say..."it is in his blood."



Tomicia Blunt

Tomicia will be attending the University of Puget Sound as a Posse Scholar where she received a full tuition scholarship. She is the first person in her family to pursue a four-year university. Her focus will be on journalism and communications with the hopes of one day being editor-in-chief of Teen Vogue or Harpers Bazaar. She is currently the co-editor-in-chief of her school newspaper as well as the President of the Black Student Union. She volunteers with Breakthrough San Francisco where she used to be a student. She takes her love of creative writing and poetry to teach 7th and 8th grade girls where they focus on the dissection of identity. Tomicia says that working with these girls helped

solidify her dedication to becoming a journalist so she can develop content for girls like her to find themselves and shape their futures.

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VELIDA HODZIC

Daughter of Sacir Hodzic
SF Region – Villages at Treasure Island

AYANTU MUME

Daughter of Fatuma Hassan
SAC Region – Shasta Hotel



Velida Hodzic

Velida and her family have lived on Treasure Island for fifteen years. Velida is currently studying to obtain her Bachelors Degree in Nursing with a minor in Classical Studies at the University of San Francisco. She has been inspired to work in the medical field ever since she was a young child. She is very interested in the patient care aspect and hopes to obtain her Masters Degree to become a Nurse Practitioner which will allow her to spend more time with patients. Velida spent three years volunteering her time at the Blood Centers of America. Her ultimate goal with a Nursing career is to be able to extend kind selflessness every day, because it is endlessly needed.



Ayanttu Mume

Ayanttu is an outstanding student with a 4.22 GPA and is currently attending Monterey Trail High School and will be graduating this year. She was born in Santa Clara, CA and was raised in Sacramento. Being the middle child of five siblings, born to immigrant parents whom she's very proud of, she was taught at a very young age what it takes to become successful and to never to give up. Most of her time has been dedicated towards her future and desire of becoming a pediatrician. Ayanttu has been very active in her high school. She's was on the softball team, cheer, as well as clubs such as Link Crew, National Honor Society, Leadership, and the California Scholarship Federation. As her senior year comes to an end, she has decided to attend the University of California Davis this fall. Ayanttu's goal is to major in microbiology with aspirations of attending medical school and becoming a physician. On her free time, she likes to listen to music, watch Netflix, and have fun with her friends and family.

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TAYLOR POUNCY

Daughter of Toney Pouncy
LA Region – Laurel Crest

ALLISON TAMAYO

Daughter of Jose Tamayo
SF Region – Villages at Treasure Island



Taylor Pouncy

Taylor grew up in South Los Angeles before moving to the Lancaster area. It was her childhood experiences that became influential in developing her passion for addressing mental health issues in urban communities. Taylor is now a Psychology Major at CSU Bakersfield, and will enter into the Master's program this fall. She plans on receiving her Doctorate degree and one-day opening her own Clinical Psychology practice. Taylor wants to use her education and career to erase the stigma associated with mental illness and to educate others of the effects of mental illness on urban communities. She credits her father with keeping her on the "right track" and pushing her to pursue her dreams.



Allison Tamayo

Allison believes growth emerges when we embrace discomfort and fear. Although she is terrified of going to college and leaving home, she was accepted into the prestigious Boston University Early Decision. She attends Aspire Cal Prep in Richmond, CA; every classroom is named after a college, as a reminder as to what the goal is for all students, acceptance into a four-year college. Allison has great pride in becoming the President and founder of the American Red Cross branch at her school. Many have heard about Richmond, CA due to the constant plague of crime in the news. She wishes the media would publicize positivity and the joy that the Milo Foundation provides to families throughout her community in which she has volunteered over 400 hours. The Milo Foundation rescues thousands of cats and dogs each year and places them in loving homes. Her parents did not go to college but they know how important it is for her to have this opportunity. Allison, understands that college means being able to pursue the life that you want – for yourself, for your family, for your community.



THE
JOHN STEWART
COMPANY

2017 Family Grant Recipients

ELENA TENAZAS

Daughter of Gerardo Tenazas

LA Region – Kern Villa



Elena Tenazas

Elena knew she wanted to be a nurse since she was 8 years old. Growing up seeing her mom work as a CNA, Elena knew that one day she would grow up to help others, just like her mom. Elena's dad taught her how to be disciplined, to always try her best, and the importance of education. Her parents have been important role models that have kept her focused on her dreams. Elena is now a freshman, studying Nutritional Science at Cal State Los Angeles. She plans on transferring to the Nursing program to one day be a Labor and Delivery Nurse. Elena explains that growing up as an only child, she always wanted to be around other children and being a Labor and Delivery Nurse gives her an opportunity to be around a lot of children. Elena volunteers at

Beverly Hospital. Her volunteer work has been extremely rewarding and has offered her a glimpse of what it will be like to follow her passion to be a nurse.