

# *Community Service Association Newsletter*

Published by the Community Service Association (CSA) of San Diego Unified School District

**September 2014**

## **Message from the CSA Board of Directors**

Welcome back to a new school year! This month we spotlight an organization which supports arts education in local schools. We hope that you enjoy reading about the great works made possible by your donations. As always, thank you, CSA members, for giving from your heart.

## **Profile of Playwrights Project**



Since 1985, Playwrights Project has been empowering students in San Diego schools to voice their stories through theatre. Playwriting programs lead students in Grades 3-12 to write individual plays. A theatre professional guides the process, and professional actors perform students' completed scripts. Students' confidence is boosted as they hear their work performed. Empathy is fostered as students hear their peers' plays and discover common feelings and beliefs. But it doesn't stop there. Each student has a chance to win a professional production at a local theatre.

Any Californian under age 19 can submit an original script to the California Young Playwrights Contest. Winners age 14 and under receive staged readings of their scripts, while scripts by writers age 15-18 are fully produced. This year, Playwrights Project received a record-breaking 581 submissions. Winning scripts will be presented as part of the Plays by Young Writers festival January 22-31, 2015 at the Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre in the Conrad Prebys Theatre Center at The Old Globe. That's where Point Loma High School students Erica Myrmel and Siobhan Snider saw their winning scripts performed last year.

Winning writers work alongside experienced artists and technicians throughout the production process. Each writer is supported by a writing mentor to strengthen his or her script.

The festival entertains viewers of all ages. Student matinees give hundreds of young people their first chance to "go to the theatre." Over 1,100 students attended last year's festival, accounting for 63% of overall festival attendance. Students, adult audiences and local critics praise productions and the sophisticated ideas tackled by the teenage writers.

Since 2000, the Community Service Association has helped make it all possible. CSA funds help students from San Diego Unified School District attend the student matinees.

For more information about Playwrights Project and the Plays by Young Writers festival and other programs, visit [www.playwrightsproject.org](http://www.playwrightsproject.org) or call (858) 384-2970.

## **CSA Mission Statement**

*The Community Service Association of San Diego Unified School District is a nonprofit association organized to solicit contributions from district employees for recognized charitable agencies in San Diego County which support the arts, education, health, and human services.*