Monterey Bay Aquarium Honors Five Exceptional Volunteers During National Volunteer Week

The Monterey Bay Aquarium celebrates National Volunteer Week by recognizing five exceptional volunteers with its 2018 Lucile S. Packard Memorial Award and Youth Volunteer Awards. This year's recipients are Amy Wareham, Jay Fukushima, and Joan Daughtry, and student volunteers Cleo Kent-Davy and Yuriko Mora-Santillan. The aquarium will officially present the awards at its annual volunteer gala on Sunday, April 15.

The Lucile S. Packard Memorial Award and Youth Volunteer Awards honor individuals “whose dedication and service exemplify Mrs. Packard's lifelong commitment to volunteerism.” Lucile and David Packard provided the initial gift to build the aquarium. Mrs. Packard was also the driving force behind creation of the aquarium’s internationally acclaimed volunteer program.

Since Monterey Bay Aquarium opened in 1984, more than 9,000 individuals have given more than four million hours to the nonprofit organization in support of its mission to inspire conservation of the ocean. The 2018 award recipients include:

- Amy Wareham: Amy’s volunteer service spans 23 years for a contribution of 2,700 hours. She works in the Aquarium's administrative offices to support ocean conservation, having assisted Education Programs, the Membership department and the Gift Planning Team in Development. Amy lives in Monterey, CA.

- Jay Fukushima: Jay is a Sea Otter Research and Conservation program field observer and kelp forest feeding show narrator, serving as a volunteer for more than 20 years with more than 8,000 service hours. He has worked in 18 of the 83 possible volunteer roles. Jay resides in Salinas, CA.

- Joan Daughtry: Joan serves as a volunteer guide, providing tours and accumulating 7,355 hours over the past 14 years. She assists with guide training, offering extra research to make it easier for the new volunteers to understand the training. She also volunteers with Education, Teen Conservation Leaders, and the husbandry department. Joan lives in Monterey, CA.

- Cleo Kent-Davy: Cleo volunteers with the Student Ambassadors program, contributing 536 service hours. She also serves in many other capacities at the Aquarium, including volunteer guide, Student Oceanography Club mentor, and an Evenings by the Bay guide. Cleo lives in Monterey and attends Santa Catalina School.

- Yuriko Mora-Santillan: Yuriko serves in several assignments at the aquarium, joining in 2015 and racking up more than 362 hours service hours. She volunteers as a Teen Conservation Leader but also played a key role in establishing the Student Ambassador program and additionally participated in the Watsonville Area Teens Conserving Habitats program. She lives in Watsonville and attends Pajaro Valley High School.

Volunteers are central to Monterey Bay Aquarium operations, continuing the tradition established by Mrs. Packard in 1984. The aquarium often offers volunteer opportunities tailored to fit the demands of life, work and school schedules - whether it's serving as guides working with aquarium guests, helping with sea otter, shark and tuna research, scuba diving to clean exhibits, assisting with visiting school groups, or supporting the global work of the aquarium's Seafood Watch program.

Learn more about volunteer opportunities at montereybayaquarium.org/volunteer.