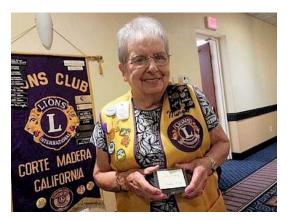
Marge Pardini Philanthropy Scholarship



Marge Pardini

Lion's Club International celebrated their centennial anniversary in 2017, and for a quarter of a century Marge Pardini has been at the heart of the Redwood Empire chapter, a heart that beats the very mission of the organization, "We serve." It is this boundless spirit of giving back that led the Redwood Empire Lions Club to honor Marge with a scholarship in her name and inspired Club leadership to partner with the Community Foundation to ensure her spirit of service is honored in perpetuity.

Celebrating our own 25th anniversary I couldn't be more thrilled with the synchronicity of this scholarship as Marge's service to the community mirrors our own dedication to giving back. It is this synchronicity that so excited me when I received the call from Lions Club past-president Earl

Chavez. "We want to provide a scholarship to a local student that rewards community service and giving back, and we want to do it in Marge Pardini's name," he told me. To achieve this, we have established the Marge Pardini Philanthropy Scholarship. "Philanthropy is at her core. We love her," current president, Sheryl Mitcham tells me. "She is the most wonderful lady there is. She helps with whatever is needed and has taught me so much."

"I am so honored, honestly," says Marge. "They surprised me with this and it is just marvelous." Marge was involved with the Lions Club even before officially joining in 1993. "My husband Julio has been a Lion since 1972 and he was the District Governor from 1994 to 1995. And I loved to help out even before I became a member." Marge has served as secretary for fifteen years, third vice president, and president. When we meet, I am struck at the way Marge's energy belies her 93 years. In the past year alone, Marge and the club have been feeding fire survivors, donating over sixty bikes to the Christmas program, and raising funds for a local Sheriff's Deputy who lost his leg due to cancer.

Her role in the Lions Club has allowed Marge to contribute to her community in so many ways. Recently Marge and Sheryl spent many hours cleaning and packaging eye glasses for the needy as part of the Lions Club Sight Program. They prepared 13,000 pairs of glasses that will be shipped across the world for those in need. "And we have fun!" Marge laughs. She describes helping local children affected by the wildfires last year. "We took ten kids and their parents to Kohls for a shopping spree. They each had \$150 dollars to spend and they got to just go for it! It was so wonderful." "It was heartwarming," Sheryl adds, "to help these families that had lost everything."

This kind of selfless generosity is a constant thread throughout Marge Pardini's life and now it will be passed on to the next generation. The Community Foundation has been honored to work closely with the Lions Club to develop the selection criteria for the Marge Pardini Philanthropy Scholarship to ensure the spirit of giving back and making a difference is central to the support it provides. The scholarship is open to all Mendocino County high school seniors and is awarded to a student who embodies Marge's generous spirit and demonstrates service to their community. Over time this scholarship will create a lineage of service-minded alumni. Marge's commitment to the Redwood Empire Lions Club and her unwavering dedication to providing for those in need is inspirational and so deserving of this legacy.