

CITIZEN OF THE YEAR NOMINEE

KATHERINE UTSUMI

NOMINATOR: MARY MILLER



I am honored to nominate 25-year Dublin resident Katherine Utsumi to be our 2019 Citizen of the Year. Katherine has a proven track record of volunteering in our community from working with the Girl Scouts, Dublin High School (DHS) PFSO, The DHS Irish Guard, and DPIE. For more than a decade Katherine has dedicated herself to raising funds to ensure that all the children in our community will have the resources they need to be successful. Katherine never says no to an opportunity that will benefit the children in Dublin. When once asked how she finds the time and the energy, Katherine replied, "I am a doer...whatever it takes for the kids." Katherine's daughter

Karyn is now in her third year at UC Davis. While many look forward to taking a break from volunteering once their children have graduated, Katherine is just the opposite. She continues to seek out opportunities to raise funds for the kids in Dublin and beyond. In the summer of 2019, Katherine could be found volunteering in the fireworks booths for numerous shifts benefiting many organizations, even spending the entire 4th of July in the booths. In the fall, alongside her husband Michael, Katherine worked tirelessly to ensure the success of the Dublin Partners in Education (DPIE) Speakeasy Gala fundraiser that benefits all the schools in the district. Her attention to detail in every aspect of this event continues to elevate this successful fundraiser and turning it into the most profitable event in the history of the organization. Many are now familiar with Katherine's Annual Team Sloth 5K Turkey Trot on Thanksgiving Day. Katherine is now using this fun community event as just another opportunity to enrich the lives of the kids in our community by collecting toys for the Tri-Valley Pop UP Toy Shop. However, Katherine's spirit of giving is not limited to Dublin's borders. In December, Katherine took an advantage of an opportunity through her employer to participate in a community reinvestment volunteer program to be a guest teacher in a 2nd grade classroom in Oakland. She taught the kids about community, jobs, earning money, and even paying taxes. This is just one of many examples proving that Katherine will always go above and beyond for the children. Katherine is a person that continues to give her time, her attention, her voice, and her heart to our community and beyond. As they say in Hawaii, Katherine has a kind and gentle Aloha Spirit with a generous heart that she continues to share with everyone around her. Katherine makes a difference and would be a very worthy recipient of Citizen of the Year honors.