

YOUNG CITIZEN OF THE YEAR NOMINEE

ADORA WEN

NOMINATOR: ANDY LI



Adora has played golf for almost a decade and is a leading junior golfer in Northern California. After suffering two serious knee injuries, however, muscle atrophy and the potentiality of invasive surgery forced her to stop golfing. While still recuperating in the hospital, Adora created a nonprofit organization called Junior Coach Golf Association (JCGA), a student-led organization that provides free golf lessons for youth, focusing on lower-income communities. She filed the registration and IRS tax forms, created and designed the website, reached out to potential Junior Coaches, and sorted out its finances, all while alone and immobilized in bed. After recovery, she began to search for golf courses able to host her program. This task proved a formidable challenge. At first, she visited five golf courses, but they all refused her directly. The golf courses wanted to turn a profit, and a nonprofit organization focusing on access was not compliant with their requests. Undaunted, Adora had learned from golf the ability to stay resilient and hopeful through the toughest of times. With her unwavering passion and resolve, she finally found a golf course willing to host free classes. Through her diligence, JCGA now has seven program locations across the United States, 30+ Junior Coaches, 330+ registered member students, and 600+ free golf lessons in just over a year. She has fundraised thousands of dollars for her cause. Adora is similarly passionate about education. She wrote a legislative bill during her time interning for Senator Glazer urging for improved communications between districts and teachers, and the impact this would have upon students' academic success. Correspondingly, she wanted her organization to educate, with enriching extracurriculars, for children without access to activities like golf. Members in JCGA hone not only their technical golf skills, but also emotional and mental fortitude by practicing composure in the face of the inevitable bad round and maintaining a positive mentality, all essential life skills. Adora herself often attributes her passion and determination to the ten years she spent golfing. She paved the way for the underprivileged youth of hers and other communities to experience and to learn from golf the way she was able to, directly positively influencing hundreds of young people. JCGA offers to its members a treasure and informal education that they would otherwise not have known. Adora is also the President of the Youth on Course Leadership Council, another national nonprofit organization subsidizing golf rounds for over 70,000 youth members, proving her dedication to expanding the accessibility of golf and providing more educational opportunities for youth. I sincerely believe that Adora is worthy of this award. On her journey to create JCGA, she has overcome many obstacles and persevered to spread the gift of golf to children all across the United States. She plants the seeds of hard work, endurance, and optimism in those who follow her. Adora is a humble girl, but in our minds, she is a true hero. I hope that you will consider Adora for your Dublin Young Citizen of 2019.