

Citizen of the Year Nominee: Michael D'Ambrosio

Nominator: Catherine Brown



It is with great pleasure that I nominate Michael D'Ambrosio as Dublin Citizen of the Year. In this challenging year, I think you will be hard-pressed to find someone who did more for our community than Michael did with his founding and coordination of the Facebook group Tri-Valley Community Help During Shelter in Place. This was no ordinary social media gathering. It turned out to be a movement for good, eventually numbering more than 2,100 people who found a gathering place to help others during a

difficult time, and Michael made it go. Every day. It started early in the pandemic with a plea to check on neighbors and friends and make sure that their needs were being met during the stay-at-home order. It was a scary time and people wanted to band together. Michael took that prompt and ran with it. He began to call local non-profits and charities. He recruited drivers and donors and volunteers. He coordinated with hospital and health care workers and restaurants. Soon, many of these groups began calling him to harness this group's power to create good and to help. He was a project manager and a cheerleader. He made amazing things happen all while getting online every day to teach his students at Dublin High School in distance learning. In his last post of the year on December 30, he summarized what the group had been able to do over the last nine months. With his coordination and motivation and his endless positive energy, here is the list:

Picked up prescriptions. Bought groceries for families. Helped families with essentials. Collected 40,000 diapers. Made and donated masks for our community and hospitals. Became drivers for Tri-Valley Haven. Donated cleaning supplies, bags, baking goods, produce, and more for community members and non-profits. Donated money to buy gift cards to support local restaurants. Donated gifts cards to local hospitals. Over \$8,000 worth of gift cards donated. Donated Easter baskets for families. Local Author donated children's books for our younger students while sheltering in place. Supported non-profits: Axis Community Health; Open Heart Kitchen; CityServe of the Tri-Valley; Tri-Valley Haven; Senior Support Program of the Tri-Valley; Spectrum; Meals on Wheels; Tri-Valley NonProfit Alliance; Culinary Angels; and Hively. Donated over \$3,000 for non-profits. Had a food drive and collected over 1,600 items. Collected over 3,200 children's books, almost 4,700 individual sized cereal boxes, and over 270 extra-large boxes of cereal. Donated protein packs for our military - over 2,000 pairs of socks; 450 sweatshirts; 300 jackets. Supported Alameda Food Bank. Collected goods, food, clothing for all of our non-profits on our Santa's List.

Ask any of the non-profits and groups that benefitted, and they will tell you that Michael is a rock star. He made an incredible difference in his community, and he will say that he had a ton of help, which is true. But it wouldn't have been possible without him, and he deserves to be Dublin's Citizen of the Year.