

Young Citizen of the Year Nominees: Arya and Esha Cyril

Nominator: Shannon Harrison



Both Arya and Esha are devoted volunteers, who have been giving back to various communities since middle school. In fact, both have received the Presidential Volunteer Service Award for all of their hard work and volunteer efforts. For the City of Dublin specifically, Arya and Esha were aware doctors and nurses faced a dire shortage of masks in the Bay Area. Based on their prior experience with working at a health clinic, Arya and Esha started to reach out to family and friends to see if people had extra N95 masks. Within two days, they had enough N95 masks, which were donated to Tri-Valley Pediatrics and essential senior health care workers. They continued with their efforts to find ways to make masks more available to other elderly

residents in our community by fundraising over 2,200 dollars for the masks, which were distributed to organizations that needed them.

I think one of their biggest accomplishments was launching a virtual walkathon for Hepatitis (HBV) on World Hepatitis Day alongside their JoinJade team. More than a few hundred people from different places participated and shared their pictures on social media. This walkathon was one of the firsts for hepatitis awareness in Dublin and Pleasanton. Passionate about increasing the minimal data on the mental health challenges and needs of South Asian youth, Arya and Esha have joined efforts with the South Asian Mental Health initiative with a team of UCSF doctors and experts to build a curriculum and website to explore challenges that young, South Asian teenagers face involving mental health, self-esteem, and identity (cultural and gender identity), while also exploring and offering potential solutions.