

Young Citizen of the Year Nominee: Sia Desale

Nominator: Brianna Glazman



A global pandemic could not deter high school sophomore Sia Desale from uplifting the mission of the East Bay SPCA and its friendly critters. Her perseverance and creativity have been vital toward protecting one of the neediest communities in our City of Dublin - shelter animals. As a dedicated volunteer since 2018, Sia has been feeding the dogs, walking them for well-needed exercise, and providing much-needed care to dogs as they settle into shelter life.

Due to COVID-19 when all this came to standstill, Sia combined volunteering with a long-time hobby of hers, making bar soap, and launched Olivesoap (<https://www.olivesoap.org/>) in April of 2020. Olivesoap is a non-profit organization that sells natural, handmade bar soap, and donates all proceeds to the East Bay SPCA in order to support the animals' dietary and surgical needs. By working closely with the East Bay SPCA; creating her product; learning how to sell door-to-door and online; and sheer hard work, Sia was able to raise money for the East Bay SPCA. The hours put into Olivesoap and volunteering at the shelter earned Sia the Silver Presidential Volunteer Service Award. Her desire to support a larger web of shelter animals and bring awareness to animal cruelty and negligence led her to participate in the Greater Good Charities Girl's Voices for Change for Pets Competition. Sia created a video detailing the extensiveness of these issues; her experience at the East Bay SPCA and with Olivesoap; and how we as a community can work to make a difference. With an outpouring of positive support within and outside of Dublin, she won the grand prize of \$5000 for her video entry and \$500 for her photo essay entry (<https://girlsvoices.greatergood.org/girls-voices-for-change-2020/>).

To help the shelter and spread awareness about animal abuse, she continues to work with the Greater Good Charities team and is establishing a process to effectively donate all of the prize money so it can best support the shelter and its animals. By witnessing her dedication and aim to create positive change, I am pleased to nominate Sia Desale for Dublin Young Citizen of the Year.