

2015 DAC Achievement Award Nomination Form

Nominee Information

Nominee Name: Anthony T. Martinez

Nominee Address: [REDACTED]

Nominee Phone: [REDACTED]

Nominee Email: [REDACTED]

Nominator Information

Nominator Name: Lennie Lujan

Nominator Address: [REDACTED]

Nominator Phone: [REDACTED]

Nominator Email: [REDACTED]

Nomination Category (please select one):

- ☒ Individual
- ☐ Organization
- ☐ City of Fresno Employee or Department

Nominated for:

- ☒ Improving the quality of life for individuals with disabilities
- ☐ Advocacy for issues pertaining to individuals with disabilities
- ☒ Volunteerism that has a positive impact on individuals with disabilities
- ☐ Development of new programs or services impacting individuals with disabilities
- ☐ Customer service to individuals with disabilities that is above and beyond the standard
- ☐ Innovation or Entrepreneurship by an individual with a disability or that has a positive impact on individuals with disabilities

Nomination Statement

Give a brief description (300-500 words) of why you feel your nominee should receive this award. Attach two to six letters from people able to provide supporting testimony (peers, parents, students, clients, etc.), additional supporting materials, and photo of nominee (optional). Attach additional pages if necessary.

NOMINATION STATEMENT

It is with great pleasure that I write this letter of recommendation in support of Lieutenant Anthony T. Martinez's nomination for the Disabilities Advisory Commission Achievement Award in recognition of his volunteer efforts to serve individuals with disabilities.

Over the last 5 years I have spent countless hours with Anthony as he lead the Lions of District 4-A2. Under Anthony's leadership the Lions have established themselves as the primary benefactor of the Diabetic Youth Foundation's Bearskin Youth Camp. This camp in Sequoia National Forest serves the needs of over 700 children each summer as they learn about and how to live with diabetes. The camp is nearly 50 years old and each year several decks have to be torn down and rebuilt again. The stage platform used for award presentations was so old and unstable that it was declared unsafe and unusable. Under Anthony's leadership and guidance a team of volunteers has spent the last several Memorial Day weekends rebuilding those decks and now the kids have a permanent stage platform that is handicap accessible.

One of Lt. Martinez's key projects, Operation Friendship, focused on serving youth and adults with disabilities. Lt. Martinez has traveled every March, at his own expense, to Ensenada, Mexico, with other fellow Lions with the main purpose of re-building schools in the most impoverished communities in Mexico. In addition to providing financial support to schools, members volunteer countless hours providing vision screening and eyeglasses to students and their parents. Since Lt. Martinez was elected as a committee member of Operation Friendship, this project has expanded to include dental hygiene, chiropractic exams and adjustments, blood pressure and diabetes screenings. This year, under his leadership, over 600 children and 200 adults benefited greatly from the services they

provided. Locally, Lt. Martinez helped this cause by obtaining VSP vouchers for local clubs to provide to any children and adults that did not have any coverage for eye exams and glasses.

A few weeks ago the Visalia Rawhides baseball organization wanted to help in the community and, due to Anthony's involvement in community events, the Lions were asked to help raise funds for the Blind Babies of Tulare and Kings Counties. Before the game the Blind Babies Association had a "Beeper Ball" game. I watched as Anthony took the field with a blindfold mask on and fielded balls as the sound of the beeping got louder. He actually hit the ball off a tee while blindfolded on the third try. Watching him run to first base blinded was a little comical. This leader of many was demonstrating to others that we should actually walk a mile in these disabled children's lives to help us realize their world. That night I saw Anthony bid on the jerseys' that the players were wearing he "won" two of them and the check he wrote was not small, contributing to the \$7,300 dollars that was raised for the Blind Babies Association of Tulare and Kings County that night.

July 29, 2015

Dear Lennie,

Please forward this letter to the Disability Advisory Commission in support of nomination of Anthony Martinez for the 2015 Achievement Award.

Over the last two years I have spent literally thousands of hours with Anthony as he lead the Lions of District 4-A2. Under Anthony's leadership the Lions of A2 have established themselves as the primary benefactor of the Diabetic Youth Foundations, Bearskin Youth Camp. This camp in Sequoia National Forest serves the needs of over 700 children each summer as they learn about and how to live with diabetes. The camp is nearly 50 years old and each year several decks have to be torn down and rebuilt again. The stage platform used for award presentations was so old and unstable that it was declared unsafe and unusable. Under Anthony's leadership and guidance a team of volunteers has spent the last several Memorial Day weekends rebuilding those decks and now the kids have a permanent stage platform that is handicap accessible. As I went through many pictures of the work being done at this children's camp I saw Anthony in almost all of them.

Operation Friendship is a Lions event each spring where Lions throughout the San Joaquin Valley travel at their own expense to Mexico to assist the building of a school and to provide health and vision screenings. This year Anthony secured many new volunteers to participate in this endeavor. Again, under Anthony's leadership over 600 children and over 200 adults were screened with most of them getting glasses. In one case a 50 year old gentleman brought his 80 year old mother to the screening and she was screened and fitted with the first pair of glasses she had ever had. As she touched her sons face, she sobbed with tears, as she thanked everyone, she said she had not seen her sons face in over 20 years. Hundreds of children will be able to do better in school, thus better in life, because they can now see the blackboard (yes, they still use a blackboard). All of this accomplished with the helping hands and motivation of Anthony.

The Lions Clubs International Foundation is the non-profit foundation that supports humanitarian needs in our community as well as around the world. This foundation supports victims of natural disasters as well as providing needed hearing and vision surgeries for those that can't afford it. Earlier this year Anthony gave a speech in support of this foundation to several hundred people. The emotional challenge to stand with him, and support the many services of this foundation was amazing. After the speech individuals and groups along with clubs started cheering and challenging each other and an hour later nearly \$12,000 dollars was raised to assist others.

A few weeks ago the Visalia Rawhides baseball organization wanted to help in the community and due to Anthony's involvement in community events the Lions were asked to help raise funds for the Blind Babies of Tulare and Kings Counties. Before the game the Blind Babies Association had a "Beeber Ball" game. I watched as Anthony took the field with a blindfold mask on and fielded balls as the sound of the beebing got louder. He actually hit the ball off a tee while blindfolded on the third try. Watching him run to first base blinded was a little comical. This leader of many was demonstrating to others that we should actually walk a mile in these disabled children's lives to help us realize their world. That night I saw Anthony bid on the jerseys' that the players were wearing he "won" two of them and the check he wrote was not small. That night \$7,300 dollars was raised for the Blind Babies Association of Tulare and Kings County.

Lennie, I know that all of you in the City of Fresno have seen time and time the leadership qualities and the ease that he motivates others to help those in need. But my friend, you have only seen the tip of the iceberg. I wish that you and the Commission could see just a small amount of what I have seen and you would understand that Anthony Martinez is worthy of being recognized.

Melvin Jones once said," You can't get very far, until you start helping someone else"

Anthony Martinez lives this with each beat of his heart.

Thank you for the opportunity to share these thoughts with you, and please let me know if I can help in any way.

Sincerely,

Craig Cooper

General Manager

The Sequoia Safety Council.



PARLIER LIONS CLUB

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

July 30, 2015

Shannon M. Mulhall, Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator

2600 Fresno Street, Rm. 4011

Fresno, CA, 93721

Dear Ms. Mulhall,

It is with great pleasure that I write this letter of recommendation in support of Lieutenant Anthony T. Martinez's nomination for the Disabilities Advisory Commission Achievement Award in recognition of his volunteer efforts to serve individuals with disabilities.

I have personally known and worked with Lt. Martinez for the past nine years and feel that he is highly deserving of this prestigious award. Lt. Martinez has demonstrated continuous commitment to improving the lives of youth and adults with disabilities through his work as a Lieutenant and Commander of the Southwest District of the City of Fresno and, most importantly, through his volunteer work as member of the world's largest service organization, Lions Club International. Lt. Martinez has been a member of the Parlier Lions Club since 1997. His leadership and involvement in numerous service projects, led him to be elected to serve as the District Governor of Lions District 4-A2 for 2014-2015. As the leader of our District, he had a lasting impact on members and the communities we serve.

Lion members are known as “Knights of the Blind”, as an initiative of Lions Club International is restoring vision and preventing vision loss. Lt. Martinez led by example and successfully carried out the mission of helping with vision, through various projects. First of all, within a 3 month span, record time, he visited all 64 lions clubs in the District to deliver the International President’s global vision of service and encourage and empower Lion volunteers to serve their communities and meet humanitarian needs. His message was so inspirational that membership grew in record numbers, earning him the International President’s metal. The key projects Lt. Anthony endorsed all focused on serving youth and adults with disabilities. One of these projects is very dear to his heart, Operation Friendship, as he explains it was what helped him “earned his whiskers as a Lion”. Since the year 2000

Lt. Martinez has traveled every March, at his own expense, to Ensenada, Mexico, with other fellow Lions with the main purpose of re-building schools in the most impoverished communities in Mexico. In addition to providing financial support to schools, members volunteer countless hours providing vision screening and eyeglasses to students and their parents. Since Lt. Martinez was elected as a committee member of Operation Friendship, this project has expanded to include dental hygiene, chiropractic exams and adjustments, blood pressure and diabetes screenings. This year, under his leadership, over 600 children and 200 adults highly benefited from the services provided.

Locally, Lt. Martinez helped this cause by obtaining VSP vouchers for local clubs to provide to any children and adults that did not have any coverage for eye exams and glasses.

Another significant project Lt. Martinez actively endorses and supports is Bearskin Meadows Diabetic Camp. This is a camp for children and juveniles with Type-1 diabetes. The camp provides education, support groups and activities to help the children deal with this condition. Lions District 4-A2 has adopted this as a District project, however if it weren’t for the efforts of Lt. Martinez, this project would not be as successful. For the past three years, since this became a District project, Lt. Martinez has

attended the camp during Memorial Day weekend. Our members, along with Lt. Martinez, help prepare the camp for opening day and for winter closure. This year, decks and roofs were re-built, along with a new amphitheater.

Although Lt. Martinez had an active role in the success of many volunteer efforts to serve children and adults with disabilities, I will end by sharing an unforgettable moment that occurred at a District Cabinet meeting on November 1, 2015. During his opening speech of the meeting, Lt. Martinez started to discuss the importance of donating to the Lions Club International Foundation, as this charitable organization that is the first responder for major catastrophes. He gave an emotional speech on how LCIF helps around the world. He explained his disappointment with the lack of the support LCIF had previously received in our District. He challenged members to support this worthy cause. Within five minutes, Lt. Martinez secured an astonishing \$12,000 in donations from individual members and clubs. This is the type of influence Lt. Martinez has on the people he comes in contact with. He inspires others to identify needs in their communities and serve. He uses his leadership abilities for the greater good.

Without hesitation, I highly recommend Lt. Anthony T. Martinez for Disabilities Advisory Commission Achievement Award of 2015. Please contact me if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lydia R. Martinez".

Lion Lydia R. Martinez

July 31, 2015

Dear Ms. Mulhall,

It is with great pleasure that I write this letter of recommendation in support of Lieutenant Anthony T. Martinez's nomination for the Disabilities Advisory Commission Achievement Award in recognition of his volunteer efforts to serve individuals with disabilities.

Over the last 5 years I have spent countless hours with Anthony as he lead the Lions of District 4-A2. Under Anthony's leadership the Lions have established themselves as the primary benefactor of the Diabetic Youth Foundation's Bearskin Youth Camp. This camp in Sequoia National Forest serves the needs of over 700 children each summer as they learn about and how to live with diabetes. The camp is nearly 50 years old and each year several decks have to be torn down and rebuilt again. The stage platform used for award presentations was so old and unstable that it was declared unsafe and unusable. Under Anthony's leadership and guidance a team of volunteers has spent the last several Memorial Day weekends rebuilding those decks and now the kids have a permanent stage platform that is handicap accessible.

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Sgt. Lennie Lujan S157
Downtown Police Unit
Fresno Police Department

OPERATION FRIENDSHIP 2015

By Gov. Anthony T. Martinez

The Lions of District 4-A2 joined los Leones del Distrito B-1 in Ensenada, Mexico, March 19-22, for the 53rd annual Operation Friendship Visitation. As most know, this is the annual visit where our Lions make the trek to Ensenada and have traditionally performed eye exams and dental cleanings for the students of a chosen school site. Along with these services, our Lions have also donated cash to the school sites in need of repair, school supplies for the students and teachers and any additional needs identified.

As a Committee member, I am proud to report this visitation had more Lion paws on projects than any time I can remember. What was once eye and dental services only has grown into what was referred to this year as a health clinic. There were Lions performing: vision exams, dental/hygiene services, chiropractic exams, blood pressure checks and glucose testing for diabetes. Also, for any Lions who weren't working at an actual health station, others took care of cleaning the grounds of the school by picking up trash, pulling weeds and trimming trees. This year's school site, Felipa Hiraes Elementary School, really benefitted from the services and funds our Lions provided.

I still remember when the time spent at the school was done before noon each year. For the past two years, the Ensenada Lions have had to provide a sack lunch to our Lions because the work and services continue until approximately 3 pm, with the only break being when the students of the morning and afternoon school sessions switch out.

In keeping with true Mexican tradition, there was also fun to be had by all. We were treated to a nice welcome reception on Thursday with dinner and a dance; this year, a mariachi group was also brought in to perform all of our song requests. Friday was the big work day. Saturday was a day of free time with excursion choices for our Lions that included a wine tour and a trip to La Bufadora. I heard compliments from the Lions that chose each option. On Saturday, I went on a nice self-tour of a couple of wineries with the Caruthers Lions, thanks again for inviting Lion Jim, Lion Lydia and I along with you guys...the mushrooms were fantastic (please ask Lion Lydia about that experience).

Others chose to simply relax on Saturday and enjoy the beautiful weather; some spent the day shopping on the local main street, which had much more activity, things to see and open stores than recent years.

Here are some of the final totals: 500 students and 100 adults received Vision exams with 135 pairs of glasses provided, 415 received Dental Hygiene services along with toothpaste and toothbrushes, 140 students and adults received Chiropractic exams with 98 requiring Chiropractic adjustments and 80 students and adults received Blood Pressure and Glucose testing. Money donated to improvements at the school included \$1,300 from pre-sold raffle tickets and \$1,800 from donations from 4-A2 Lions Clubs, Lions and guests. This year, 64 of our Lions took part in the visitation.

Each year, our Committee promises you a great time and that plenty of valuable services will be provided to the students of the chosen school site. This year was no exception; in fact the services provided were over the top. Please mark your calendars for next year's 54th annual Operation Friendship Visitation, March 17-20, 2016.