



## **Northridge Youth Recognized for Philanthropy and Volunteerism**

Change the World with a Giving Heart was the theme of the recently held National Philanthropy Day Luncheon hosted by the Greater San Fernando Valley Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals,

“On National Philanthropy Day we recognized and paid tribute to the contributions that philanthropy and philanthropists have made to our city,” said Paula Kupiec, President of the Greater San Fernando Valley Chapter of AFP. “With government funding decreasing and the economy in challenging times, charities need to rely more and more on the giving hearts of individuals, companies, and volunteers. Our honorees have made great commitments to support the work of non-profits in the Valley and beyond, and we were thrilled to honor them.”

Among those honored as outstanding youth volunteers were Carly Simon-Gersuk and Mady Rasey, both Northridge residents.

Mady, age 16, and Carly, age 17, have served as volunteer co-coordinators of the Brite Lites Dance Entertainment Troupe. The Brite Lites are developmentally disabled adults who dance and sign, and serve as New Horizons’ Ambassadors by providing entertainment to the community.

Mady and Carly have conducted weekly 2 hour dance rehearsals for 25+ participants in the Brite Lites program throughout the past year. They have prepared the Brite Lites for performances at companies, civic groups and for New Horizons’ special events.

Not only are Carly and Mady volunteers at New Horizons, but they are also active in their high schools and other service groups.