



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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By Karen Brown

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### **Hands4Hope - Youth Making A Difference earns El Dorado County's Top Nonprofit Spot on Big Day of Giving**

Thursday, May 4 was a big day for 762 nonprofit organizations in the Sacramento region. The eleventh annual Big Day of Giving, facilitated by the Sacramento Region Community Foundation, brought in a record \$13.8 million among 55,000 donor gifts.

An El Dorado Hills-based youth development and service organization, Hands4Hope - Youth Making A Difference, emerged as a leader, earning the top spot in El Dorado County, and third place among all medium-sized nonprofit organizations participating across the region.

"We are deeply thankful for the overwhelming support that donors showed for the mission of Hands4Hope on the 2023 Big Day of Giving," said Jennifer Bassett, Hands4Hope's Founder & Executive Director. "This investment in our youth will pay dividends as we develop leaders who serve by helping others in need."

The organization set an ambitious goal of raising \$70,000 on Big Day of Giving, and was able to exceed that goal to raise \$73,456 with 246 donors.

"Hands4Hope has made such a difference in my life, and has helped me realize my drive and motivation," wrote Jayce Kaldunski, a youth participant who partnered with volunteer Adult Mentor Lynn Fedoryk to create their own fundraising campaign to support Hands4Hope's Big Day of Giving effort. "Through our service-learning model, I have been able to make invaluable connections with not just other youth, but also community members that I now consider friends."

Jayce's effort was one of 10 campaigns independently created by participants in Hands4Hope programs using the Big Day of Giving platform. Each of these campaigns allowed their creators to set their own fundraising goals and reach out to their personal contacts to share their own story of what Hands4Hope means to them. Altogether, these 10 campaigns contributed \$47,985 to the overall Hands4Hope total.

Since launching in 2013, the Sacramento Region Community Foundation's Big Day of Giving has helped raise \$91 million for the region's nonprofit organizations. Next year's Big Day of Giving is Thursday, May 2, 2024.

Hands4Hope - Youth Making A Difference is a non-profit, youth-driven organization with the mission to inspire and empower youth in leadership and service. Hands4Hope offers hands-on education and community engagement opportunities to youth from K-12th grades through school-based and after-school programs in Sacramento and El Dorado Counties. Hands4Hope was named California Senate District 4 2023 Nonprofit of the Year by Senator Marie Alvarado Gil.

Hands4Hope is now recruiting youth and adult committee members for its summer programming, as well as adult Board Member candidates. For more information about Hands4Hope - Youth Making A Difference, visit [www.hands4hopeyouth.org](http://www.hands4hopeyouth.org) or call [916-294-7426](tel:916-294-7426).

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