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Local Moraga Charity Named Top-Rated Nonprofit Organization

Submitted by Cynthia Brian



Photo from left to right: Carol Albans, Arlyn Van Dyke, Rachel Glass, Cynthia Brian, Jennifer Tao, Courtney Cheng, Gaby Gryko, Orinda Books Resident Kitty. Photo submitted

Supporters have spoken! BE THE STAR YOU ARE!(r), 501 c3 has been named to a new list of top-rated nonprofits by GreatNonprofits, the leading provider of user reviews for nonprofit organizations. During May, 2010, over 46,000 people read and wrote reviews about 368 nonprofits serving and empowering women. Of those 368, 154 charities were selected to be honored as a top-rated charity.

Reviews for BE THE STAR YOU ARE!(r), 501c3 are available at <http://greatnonprofits.org/reviews/be-the-star-you-are-inc>. The reviews were posted as part of the Women's Empowerment campaign conducted by GreatNonprofits, in partnership with Guidestar and a coalition of nonprofit organizations. "We are gratified to be able to honor BE THE STAR YOU ARE!(r), 501 c3 for its work on empowerment, education, improved literacy and positive media issues," said Perla Ni, CEO of GreatNonprofits. "They deserve to be recognized for the support they have from their community of stakeholders."

The Mission of BE THE STAR YOU ARE!(r), a 501 c-3 not-for-profit corporation, is to provide, promote, and distribute books and positive media to empower women, families, and youth-at-risk to increase literacy, decrease violence, and improve daily life.

The Vision of BE THE STAR YOU ARE!(r) is to help all women, families, and youth-at-risk, regardless of ethnicity, religion, sex, vocation and avocation overcome obstacles, increase self-esteem while offering a head start to beat the odds.

Since the founding in 1999 by philanthropist Cynthia Brian, BE THE STAR YOU ARE! (r), a Moraga-based non profit, has served approximately 209,800 individuals and families within 71 organizations and has logged more than 229,880 volunteer hours, while distributing over \$1.6 million in resources. BE THE STAR YOU ARE!(r) was nominated for the California Governor's and First Lady's Service Awards and touted with five star ratings by Guidestar and Great Non Profits in the Women's Empowerment Campaign. The Starstyle(r)-BE THE STAR YOU ARE!(r) radio program broadcasts to 5.5 million listeners in 82 countries. (<http://www.voiceamerica.com/worldtalkradio/vshow.aspx?sid=764>) More than 1500 authors, experts, and professionals have been interviewed on the radio show. Over 475 books have been read and reviewed by the Star Teen Book Review Team and published by publishers, The Reading Tub, and on the web site at <http://www.bethestaryouare.org>. Be the Star You Are!(r) fosters numerous outreach programs to support community and communications.

On May 22, several of the volunteers and Lamorinda teen contributors to the new book, Be the Star You Are!(r) for TEENS hosted readings at Orinda Books. A musical concert was provided by flutist Carol Albans who has performed at Carnegie Hall and is the principal flute with the Bay Area Chamber Symphony. Participants at the event included New York Times best selling author and Executive Director of the charity, Cynthia Brian, Gaby Gryko, Jacqueline Tao, Rachel Glass, Courtney Cheng, and Arlyn Van Dyke.

Be the Star You Are!(r) volunteers are very thrilled with this nod of confidence for their work and thank Lamorinda businesses and individuals for their ongoing support of giving, volunteering, and patronage. More information is available at <http://www.bethestaryouare.or>. Contact information is info@bethestaryouare.org or 925-376-7126.

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