

Tiburon man helps connect student-athletes with chronically ill kids

By JEFF DEMPSEY

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Chuck Doyle was taught from an early age to do for others whenever possible. It's a lesson his mother ingrained in him while he was growing up in Boston.

"When I was a kid she would take me to soup kitchens, to schools for kids with developmental disabilities," he says. "And she would tell me, 'Chunky, there but for the grace of God goes you.' That always stuck with me."

Volunteering continued to be a big part of Doyle's life while he was a student at College of the Holy Cross in Massachusetts. He eventually moved to California, and his mother called one day with a question.



Doyle

"She asked me, 'What are you doing? You've been out there two years, what are you doing to give back?'" says Doyle, 54.

The Tiburon resident, who works as the managing director for finance and restructuring firm Business Capital in San Francisco, began working to improve the lives of the homeless with San Francisco nonprofit Raphael House, where he served on the board for nine years and remains a board member emeritus.

It was five years ago, however, that Doyle found what he now calls his passion: Team Impact. The national nonprofit based in Massachusetts connects children ages 5-15 facing chronic or serious illnesses with local college teams to foster strength, camaraderie and support. Doyle currently serves on the board of directors for the organization, which has regional offices in Northern and Southern California as well as in the mid-Atlantic region of the country.

A child paired with a college team is drafted onto that team and is a full member "to every extent they can be,"



PROVIDED BY TEAM IMPACT

The softball team at Sacramento State 'drafted' Malena (center) to its squad through Team Impact, a national nonprofit that connects seriously ill kids with college sports teams. The kids participate in team activities on and off the field for about two years, and the student-athletes become part of the child's support network.

participating in team activities both on and off the field for a period of about two years, Doyle says. As an example, he pointed to Larry Prout, a Michigan teen who was drafted to the University of Michigan football team. Prout, a life-long fan of the team, has dealt with numerous health issues and undergone more than 100 surgeries.

"(Michigan football coach) Jim Harbaugh drafted him, he was announced at Michigan Stadium in front of 100,000 people," Doyle says. "He was a part of the team just like anyone else."

In its first year, Team Impact connected 12 kids with college teams. Now, in year five, Team Impact has connected more than 1,500 kids with 1,000 college teams all over the country. That includes about 15 kids in the Bay Area.

Doyle says the benefits for the kids are invaluable.

"A lot of them don't go to school on a regular basis. They're teased. There are a lot of social issues, physical is-

See DOYLE, PAGE 21

Grants fund Bay Area cancer services



Rona Weintraub of Strawberry models during To Celebrate Life Breast Cancer Foundation's annual Stepping Out gala in September. The money raised by the foundation is granted to Bay Area nonprofits that care for underserved breast cancer patients.

GLEN GRAVES

WHO: To Celebrate Life Breast Cancer Foundation

WHEN: Sept. 23, 2017

WHAT: The foundation held its 22nd annual Stepping Out gala at the Marin Center Exhibit Hall in San Rafael. The fashion show featured 33 breast-cancer survivors as models who were escorted down the runway by prominent local physicians.

Local contributors included Tiburon residents Rick and Cindy Armellini, Rick and Wendy Barbaria, Stone Coxhead, Cynthia and Chad Goodman, Roger and Mary Greenberg, Joseph and Margee Poen, Kathryn Servino, and Simon Snellgrove; Belvedere residents Anne and Jerry Butler, Gay and Wyman Harris, Kathryn Niggeman, Tom and Gwen

Price, and Janice and Eduard Still; and Strawberry residents Linda and Drew Dowsett, Ray Kaliski and Carla Daro, Robert Kaliski and Linda Nelson, Yvonne Robinson, Gail Stern, Mary Ware, and Rona Weintraub.

BENEFITING: The event raised \$360,468 for To Celebrate Life's breast-cancer grants program, which supports Bay Area nonprofits that provide emergency and direct services to underserved breast cancer patients.

VISIT: tocelebratelife.org.

DID YOU KNOW? More than 750 male and female breast-cancer survivors have modeled at Stepping Out events since 1996. In that time, To Celebrate Life has granted more than \$4.8 million to Bay Area nonprofits.

Annual concert benefits Whistlestop



MARGOT DUANE

Penny Mulligan (left) and Jill Ames (second from left) enjoy live music with friends at Whistlestop's annual 'Whistlestock' concert. The event benefits the San Rafael nonprofit, which provides resources, food delivery, social services and transportation for seniors.

WHO: Whistlestop

WHEN: Sept. 24, 2017

WHAT: "Whistlestock" is Whistlestop's annual benefit concert, where attendees can listen to live music while supporting the San Rafael nonprofit, which helps older adults age with independence and dignity. The 2017 concert was headlined by Jesse Colin Young, who was joined by Pure Prairie League, REWIND and special guest Tommy Castro.

Many local businesses contributed sponsorships including Strawberry's

Relevant Wealth. Several Tiburon and Belvedere supporters attended the event, including members of the Driftwood Unit of the Marin Foundation.

BENEFITING: The event raised \$265,000 to benefit Whistlestop's Fund-a-Ride mobility program.

VISIT: whistlestop.org.

DID YOU KNOW? Whistlestop is looking for CarePool volunteers, who drive older adults in need of a ride to a doctor's appointment or to shop for groceries.