LIAISON TEAM EFFORTS LEAD TO STEADY DECREASE IN DISTURBANCE CALLS

They may not wear capes or have superpowers, but a team representing Chapman University and the City of Orange are doing heroes’ work to keep local neighborhoods peaceful.

“Since the start of fall semester to the time of publication, less than 10% of disturbance calls citywide were attributed to Chapman University, a number that has been steadily decreasing over the past few years,” said Lt. Phil McMullin from the Orange Police Department (OPD).

The work done by the three-person community liaison team has a lot to do with this decrease. Members include Sgt. Jordan Uemura from OPD, Sgt. Adriana Pasino from Chapman Public Safety and Chapman’s Community Relations manager James Gerrard. Their teamwork exemplifies the strong partnership between Chapman and OPD.

Statistics from OPD show the liaison team’s efforts are having a positive impact. The team visits students living off campus who have received a written warning, a fine or a citation from OPD. The goal of the program is to facilitate common ground and mutual understanding between students and their neighbors.

They take an educational approach and talk to the students about being a good and considerate neighbor. The team answers questions about what can happen if OPD is continually called out to address concerns. They also discuss the support role the university’s Public Safety department plays in this work, and what can happen if there is a violation of Chapman’s student code of conduct.

Programs such as this are used by a number of colleges around the country. Students and neighbors both appreciate the time taken to answer questions and address town and gown issues. In most cases, the team does not have to make more than one visit to a house.

Additionally, if neighbors contact Community Relations with concerns, the liaison team might conduct visits to address these issues. For many

Chapman students, this is the first time living on their own and they may not know all the expectations of living in a neighborhood. So, for more minor considerations, such as trash cans or parking, students working for Chapman’s Community Relations office will often follow up with a peer-to-peer visit to the residence.

The liaison team also meets with neighbors about student relations, expectations, and how Chapman and OPD address issues of student misconduct. Chapman is not permitted to respond to disturbances taking place off campus on private property. For issues requiring an immediate response, neighbors are encouraged to call OPD’s non-emergency line at (714) 744-7444.

2023 VOLUNTEER FAIR FOSTERS CIVIC ENGAGEMENT FOR STUDENTS IN THE COMMUNITY

At Chapman University, community engagement is not just a buzzword; it’s a way of life. The university’s dedication to creating a culture of service and social responsibility is apparent from the students’ first days on campus, starting with a Volunteer Fair held in September in the Attallah Piazza.

During this year’s Volunteer Fair, organized by Chapman’s Office of Community Relations, students took advantage of the opportunity to connect with dozens of local non-profit organizations. They spoke with representatives about their organizations and explored volunteer opportunities that resonated with their interests, values and career aspirations.

Organizations in attendance at the event included Assistance League, Project Access, Youth Centers of Orange, OC Food Bank, Orange Home Grown, CASA and more. The fair organizers hope that by connecting students with organizations that share their commitment to community service, they can ignite a sense of purpose and active involvement in local philanthropic initiatives.

“Volunteerism is a reciprocal act. Volunteers gain invaluable experiences, develop new skills, and form lasting connections within their communities,” said James Gerrard, community relations manager.
Young aspiring scientists will have another way to support their education at Chapman University thanks to the Arnold and Mabel Beckman Foundation and its longest-serving board member.

On Oct. 3, the foundation announced a $1 million endowment to create the Wescombe STEM Scholarship at Chapman's Schmid College of Science and Technology. The scholarship, which honors recently retired Beckman Foundation board member Gary Wescombe, was unveiled at the Keck Center for Science and Engineering.

"It's a nice recognition from a major national foundation – that they see us as a place to train top STEM scholars in Orange County," said Schmid College Dean Michael Ibba.

The four-year scholarship, which will be awarded starting in fall 2024, will support two students each year. Students must be from Orange County and majoring in a science field. These scholars receive both faculty and peer mentoring.

"The Wescombe STEM Scholarship will help us cultivate more homegrown talent in the sciences and send more Chapman graduates to Orange County's STEM industry," said Chapman President Daniele C. Struppa.