Shauna Parisi, formerly Shauna Fleming, is an Orange County native and 2011 graduate of Chapman University and the Dodge College Public Relations & Advertising program. At 15 years old, Shauna started a small service project in Orange County to collect and distribute cards and letters of appreciation to U.S. military stationed around the world. She called the project "A Million Thanks," with the initial goal of collecting one million letters.

Local Campaign goes National

What began as a local campaign turned into a non-profit organization with national recognition within a matter of weeks. Shauna was invited to a private meeting in the Oval Office with President Bush to recognize the efforts of A Million Thanks and partnered with companies like General Motors and Southwest Airlines to raise awareness for military support. Shauna authored a book chronicling her journey with A Million Thanks and travels the country speaking to groups on the importance of servant leadership.

Grant a Wish, Fund a Scholar

To celebrate the organization’s 10th anniversary in 2014, Shauna expanded the mission of A Million Thanks to also include granting wishes of injured veterans and providing higher education scholarships to children of fallen military.

7,623,457 Letters and Counting!

The Schweitzer Rising Star Award is given annually by Chapman University to an inspirational young Alumna/Alumnus who has taken up Albert Schweitzer’s challenge to find a place to invest his or her humanity for the betterment of humankind and the world.