



PVSA Silver Medal Recipient: Emma Chen

I am Emma, a rising seventh grader from Metrolina Regional Scholars Academy. I enjoy playing tennis with my friends and listening to music. Volunteering has been pleasurable because it motivates me to do more of what I have done for others. I love it when they smile and I appreciate everyone's work whenever I go to an organized activity. Volunteering has helped me by being careful with each step we take. It has also helped me with interacting with different people. Volunteering allows me in both ways, mentally and physically, to improve my weaknesses and strengths and I hope it can help others too.



2023-2024 volunteer hours: 87.5; age group [11, 15]



PVSA Gold Medal Recipient: Jolin Cheng



Jolin is a junior who has been with CCA since 2017. She began volunteering as a teaching assistant before becoming an intensive class teacher in 2022. In her free time, Jolin enjoys reading, creating art, and playing the flute. Additionally, she also volunteers biweekly at Atrium Health, becoming more passionate about volunteering and giving back to her community. Excited to get involved with more CCA volunteer opportunities, she has been a TA at CCA since 2017,

organized and was involved in multiple groups in preparation for the yearly Mid-Autumn Events and Picnics as well as for the Spring Festival events. Jolin is also grateful for the opportunity to represent CCA at many non-profit performances. Finally, she is an avid dog and cat lover!

2023-2024 volunteer hours: 300; age group [16, 25]



PVSA Gold Medal Recipient: Chloe Fong

Chloe Fong is a rising sophomore at Ardrey Kell High School. During her free time, she enjoys listening to music, playing a variety of games, reading, and ice skating. She also has taken an interest in technology related things, ranging from volunteering to maintain websites, to fixing technical difficulties that may occur. Her volunteering services at Charlotte Chinese Academy (CCA) includes being a teacher's assistant, maintaining the school's website by updating old links, and making things more convenient for people with the power of technology (e.g. Google forms creation, QR code, & etc). She has also done the same for Carolina Humanity Youth Foundation (CHYF). Updating the website, creating a YouTube channel for CHYF, creating short videos to summarize events, and etc. In conclusion, volunteering has uncovered many new things for Chloe to discover about the world. Being able to help many people by using technology shows how far the world has come.



2023-2024 volunteer hours: 173.5; age group [11, 15]



PVSA Bronze Medal Recipient: Kieran Lee



Kieran is a rising senior currently studying in Ardrey Kell High School. He has been with Charlotte Chinese Academy since 2022, and has volunteered as a teaching assistant ever since. Kieran enjoys being a teaching assistant for lower-level classes because he loves being able to expose young students to Chinese culture and traditions that they can share with their families. Outside of CCA, Kieran enjoys cooking, badminton, and playing the viola in multiple regional and state orchestras along with the Ardrey Kell Orchestra. He also likes to volunteer at multiple events related to enhancing

children's learning experience, like the Community House petting zoo by introducing rising 6th graders to musical instruments and performing arts.

2023-2024 volunteer hours: 163.3; age group [16, 25]



PVSA Silver Medal Recipient: Justin Li

Justin Li is 14 years old. He is a 9th grader at Marvin Ridge High School. He is the Teacher's Assistant in the Chinese School Chess club and volunteered during events like the mid-autumn festival, Chinese New Year at Chinese school. Justin has been playing flute for 3 years and piano for 7 years. Justin also loves to learn math and has done many math competitions. He also loves to sleep and play video games in his free time. Justin has a brother named Jaden who he plays a lot with. He likes to read books that are interesting. Justin likes having fun; he is energetic and happy.



2023-2024 Volunteer hours: 77; age group [11, 15]



PVSA Gold Medal Recipient: Michael Lu

I am Michael Lu, a rising sophomore at Myers Park High School. I am on my school's swim team and actively compete in chess tournaments. Volunteering is something I am passionate about as it allows me to have a meaningful impact on my community. I have been a teacher assistant at CCA for 2 years. During this time, I gained a deep understanding of teaching and what is necessary to successfully run a class. In addition, I have participated in various CCA events, including a Book drive, serving as an Emcee at the Spring Festival, and designing a presentation for the Mid-Autumn Festival. I've also worked as a chess tournament director for CMSA. Another memorable experience was acting as a Spanish translator and distributing free laptops and internet plans at a laptop distribution event for disadvantaged communities. It was a rewarding experience to witness smiles on their faces. I was deeply moved and came to realize how blessed I was compared to the less fortunate, that every laptop given today could potentially change one's life trajectory. Through those activities, I have enhanced my leadership abilities, strengthened my communication skills, and improved my time management. Those experiences continue to drive me to volunteer and strive to make more of an impact on people's lives.



2023-2024 Volunteer hours: 111.5; age group [11, 15]



PVSA Bronze Medal Recipient: Austin She

Hi, I'm Austin She, a **rising junior** at Ardrey Kell High School. In my free time, I enjoy listening to music, hanging out with my friends, and preparing for debate competitions. I compete in high school Public Forum debate, where I have achieved multiple awards and placements at national competitions. I spend lots of time in preparation for these debates, but have recently found a new passion in volunteering with the CCA. I have started out being a teaching assistant in the classroom, and have thoroughly enjoyed being able to help teach other kids Chinese skills. I have also frequently volunteered at Spring and Fall festivals, helping to set up and manage games. Outside of CCA, I enjoy volunteering at the Assistance League of Charlotte, where I serve as a juror on a multitude of court cases.



2023-2024 Volunteer hours: 112.5; age group [16,25]



PVSA Gold Medal Recipient: Vicky Teng

I am a rising sophomore at Marvin Ridge High School. I was in CCA for almost ten years. During those ten years, my teachers taught me a lot about language arts and Chinese culture. Some of my classmates and I became well connected and we volunteered in many CCA events together. This year, when I became a teaching assistant to Ms. Chen, I learned how to communicate art skills with young students. I appreciated the opportunity to be a teaching assistant to Ms Chen and hope to continue as an Art TA. Not only was I a TA, but I also hosted and organized market booths. I learned to price merchandise, advertise, and communicate with customers adequately. Before every event, arranging and decorating the venue was a lot of fun. I enjoyed all the activities I volunteered for CCA because I gained immense social and practical skills.

I've also volunteered as a teaching assistant for the Marvin Ridge Middle School band director after school. During band class, I taught sixth-grade flutists to learn new pieces and advised them on techniques. Nearing the holidays, Marvin Ridge Band goes to neighborhoods and local events for Christmas Caroling. As a band member, I enjoy these moments when music brings joy and celebration. In addition, as a part of Calvary Church's Student Orchestra, I enjoy performing for church service on Sunday mornings. I enjoy being able to work and grow my social, musical, and practical skills. Through my volunteer experiences, I hope my work and skills benefit CCA and my community as well. I'm very excited to work with CCA and Marvin Ridge Band in the next school year.



2023-2024 volunteer hours: 115.3; age group [11, 15]



PVSA Gold Medal Recipient: Ashley Wang

I am Ashley Wang, a **rising Junior** at Ardrey Kell High School, and I have been with CCA since 2017. I enjoy dancing, playing the flute, and participating in the Ardrey Kell wind symphony and Marching Band. While being a student at CCA, I enjoyed volunteering at CCA events, such as the Mid-Autumn Festival, Fall Picnic, and Spring Festival. I also enjoyed being a TA for the younger kids' dance class. Outside of CCA, I volunteered as a Summer Camp Assistant for Rainbow Baby LLC, as a dance performer at CAAOC (Chinese American Association of Charlotte) for the Charlotte Thanksgiving Parade event, and as a flute tutor at Community House Middle School, helping 6th-grade students to improve their band careers. During these volunteering activities, I enjoyed interacting with people of all ages, different ethnicities, and diverse cultural backgrounds, and appreciated the opportunity to learn about different American societies. I was especially happy to see young kids making a difference and growing into young adults. I want to say "thank you" to all the people who offered me these opportunities. I look forward to participating in more and encourage others to do the same.



2023-2024 volunteer hours: 152.5; age group [11- 15]



PVSA Gold Medal Recipient: Samuel Xiao



I am Samuel Xiao, a **rising sophomore** at Providence Day School. I have tutored children in math and English for the past year, and I also help out in the community whenever I can. During my free time, I enjoy hiking, running, pottery, and playing the piano. I have been working as a tutor for children for a little over a year on a mission to help them do better in class. Helping children succeed is something that I am incredibly passionate about because I believe that having a solid foundation is key to later success.

2023-2024 volunteer hours: 101.8; age group [11, 15]



PVSA Bronze Medal Recipient: Jasmine Yeung

My name is Jasmine Yeung, a rising senior at Weddington High School.

I was a student at CCA starting from when I was 8 and I have been a teacher's assistant with CCA for the past three years, assisting in the Chinese classes as well as the cultural enrichment class of Kung Fu and Lion Dance. I have been speaking Chinese almost all my life and have been doing Kung Fu since I was 5. During this volunteering duration, I helped to teach children the great language of Chinese and I also assisted in teaching the techniques of Kung Fu and Lion Dance. I am very grateful to be able to receive this award. Volunteering with CCA's Chinese class and Kung Fu and Lion Dance class has been a memorable experience as I have been able to meet many new people and make life-long friends. Additionally, I am able to learn a lot about how to teach children patiently through this opportunity.



Outside of CCA, I also volunteer as an assistant golf coach at the Weddington Middle School. I assist in setting up practices, helping to coach the team, and overall maintaining their golf interest amongst the participants. Through these combined experiences as being an assistant to a chinese teacher, Kung Fu Sifu, and a golf coach, has allowed me to develop into a better human. I hope the future brings more of these opportunities.

2023-2024 volunteer hours: 103.5; age group [16, 25]



PVSA Gold Medal Recipient: Ashley Zhang

My name is Ashley Zhang, a rising sophomore at Providence Day School. Volunteering is one of my biggest passions and time investments, since I love to think about the impact that I'm creating on the world, be it big or small. One of the volunteer activities I have taken part in this year was being a chair for a middle school Model UN committee. I was to do all the work from scratch, from making the background guide to actually moderating the committee. All of the students there were extremely cooperative and appreciative, and this volunteer experience just added to my passion to help others overall. This feeling resurfaced when later in the year, I volunteered as a CCA Teaching Assistant (TA) this year, I was shown so much appreciation from both the teacher and my students. This truly inspired me to continue putting in the effort to be a wonderful TA for these children, and give back to the community as I do so. Throughout this year, the experience of being a TA taught me many life lessons, but the most important one is to be responsible. During every class, I would perform my duty and clean up after my students, and I never realized how much picking up after myself would help others until I needed to perform this task as a TA. Another important life concept that I learned through volunteering is how important leadership is, and how much I've been able to use this skill while organizing my own clubs at school. All in all, I believe that volunteering has impacted my life in many great ways, and I hope to both help others while learning new skills myself. In my free time aside from volunteering, I enjoy art, volleyball, as well as STEM-related activities. During the school year, the clubs that I participate in include Science Olympiad, Model UN, and HOSA, which is a branch of a club in which I co-founded last year with a similarly inspired group of young individuals.



2023-2024 volunteer hours: 116; age group [11, 15]



PVSA Bronze Medal Recipient: Judy Zhao

My name is Judy Zhao and I am currently a student at providence high school. In my free time I enjoy reading, hanging out with friends and volunteering.



2023-2024 volunteer hours: 104; age group [16, 25]



PVSA Silver Medal Recipient: Lam Wing Zhu

I am Lam Wing Zhu, a rising 12th grader at Ardrey Kell High School. This is my first year doing voluntary work and I am delighted to share my enriching journey as a volunteer:

A significant highlight is being a volunteer teacher assistant in a Chinese language classroom. In my role, I am primarily responsible for managing class discipline, while involved in creating a positive learning environment for young children. This has honed my skills in behavior management and effective communication, ensuring that the child feels supported and encouraged to participate in the learning process. Additionally, I have actively supported the lead teacher with daily lessons, engaging students through interactive and immersive language activities. This hands-on experience has significantly contributed to my personal and professional growth.

Another highlight of my volunteer work has been decorating for cultural events such as the Mid Autumn Festival and Lunar New Year. These events provided a wonderful platform to showcase my drawing skills and creativity. Through these artistic activities, I have spent Chinese culture within the local community. By introducing young students to the traditions and customs associated with these festivals, I have helped foster a greater understanding and appreciation of Chinese heritage. I am grateful to promote diversity and inclusivity within our community and look forward to carrying these experiences and skills into my future school life at CCA.



Volunteer hour: 163.3; Age group [16, 25]