

This is Erin Dunn from the Fortuna Chamber of Commerce with a Community Comment:

I'll admit it, sometimes I get worried. I worry about the youth of today...the millenials or Gen Y as they are sometimes called. I have been known to buy into the notion that they are an unmotivated and entitled group. Surely they do not work as hard as WE did at that age...and they certainly don't have a sense of community.

And then, just as my high horse couldn't get any higher...I am reminded that our young adults today are fantastic. That they are capable, caring and absolutely community minded.

Last week was Rotaract week. What is Rotaract? Rotaract is a Rotary-sponsored service club for young men and women ages 18 to 30. In Humboldt County our Rotaract group—Lost Coast Rotaract--is sponsored by the Rotary Club of Eureka.

They are, in a sense, "partners in service" and key members of the family of Rotary but not officially Rotarians.

I regard the members of Lost Coast Rotaract as ROCK STARS. Their energy and willingness to help is ceaseless. They have one member who is in France right now as an Ambassador of sorts with the Rotary sponsored Group Study Exchange—and this same club had a member participate in the same program last year on the team that went to Turkey. It's a very competitive program and a high honor to be chosen as a team member.

If you have ever attended a local Rotary fundraiser, chances are you were helped somewhere along the way by a member of Rotarct. They do that in addition to fundraising for their own projects that range from assisting women in Tibet to providing weekend backpacks of food for a local elementary school.

And as if that wasn't enough, they are just plain wonderful human beings.

My faith in today's youth was also bolstered after watching the California Conservation Corps video that went viral last week. If you didn't see it—although I'm not sure how that is possible—two corpsman and their leader were having a sort of “dance off.” I was struck by a couple of things about that video and subsequent news coverage. First there was true affection between the corpsmen and their leader—and I was reminded what nice young people are in the corps today.

The Fortuna Chamber of Commerce has a huge respect for the CCCs...they help Fortuna with many community events like Apple Harvest and Grave Matters—we often say we couldn't do events without them. Because of that, the Chamber presented the CCCs the Volunteers of the Year award a couple of years ago. .

Instead of wringing my hands over the state of young adults today, I want to personally THANK YOU for all you do to make our community special.

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