



In May 2005 San Mateo High School was excited to announce the official implementation of the Jefferson Awards for Public Service Program. At the time, implementation of this program was one of the first steps in a Five-Year Plan for the Leadership Class and the SMHS ASB to recognize and promote community service by San Mateo High School Seniors. In 2006, the program was expanded in order to give Jefferson Awards for community service to teachers, community leaders and parents of SMHS students.

### **What are the Jefferson Awards?**

In 1972, Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, U.S. Senator Robert Taft, Jr. and Sam Beard founded the American Institute for Public Service, a public foundation, to establish a Nobel Prize for public and community service - The Jefferson Awards.

The Jefferson Awards are presented on two levels: national and local. National award recipients represent a "Who's Who" of outstanding Americans. On the local level, Jefferson Awards recipients are ordinary people who do extraordinary things without expectation of recognition or reward.

In 1977 the Jefferson Awards began a Media Partnership through which local newspapers and television stations ran major promotions dramatizing local "Unsung Heroes." In the first year they began with 12 Media Partners. Today they have 147 Media Partners in 93 communities, including CBS-5 in San Francisco.

### **What role does San Mateo High School play?**

In order to increase exposure on the local level, the Jefferson Awards decided to launch the *Service in Schools* initiative in four urban markets in the U.S., San Mateo is taking a lead role as one of the first of 20 schools to begin implementation in the Bay Area. San Mateo essentially works with the local media partners as an influential proponent of public service, as well as an avenue through which members of the San Mateo community –teachers, staff, students, and parents – are recognized for public service and presented with Jefferson Awards. A selection committee selects one to five students each spring, and presents all winners with the prestigious award at a school-wide Awards Night. The selection committee will also select one to five parents, teachers or staff for recognition and these awards will be presented at the Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) end of year celebration on May 5, 2011. San Mateo is in turn recognized by its local media partners and as a National Leadership School by the organization.

### **How do I nominate an individual for a Jefferson Award?**

The nomination process is simple. Please highlight something interesting or courageous about the nominee and illustrate how your nominee benefits the school/community. Write a brief, passionate, compelling story and place the nomination in the PTO mailbox in the main office or mail to Kerry Hyman, 1401 St. Kitts Lane, Foster City, CA 94404, by **Friday, March 23, 2012**. If you can't fit your nomination on the page, please type up and staple it to the form. That's all there is to it. Thanks!

Use the nomination form on the next page. Additional nomination forms can be either picked up at the school office starting February 1, 2012 or received by email; send a request to [smtopres@gmail.com](mailto:smtopres@gmail.com) to receive a form by email.