

College and Career Center, *continued*

NPHS Students Selected as Westminster Free Clinic Volunteers

by Leigh Ann Diffenderfer, *STC Coordinator*

"This is a great experience to get involved in the community. It feels good to help others." NPHS Student, Ryan Rubinstein

NPHS students Brian Heeley, Danit Kaya, Ryan Rubinstein and Heidi Stohlman are serving as student volunteers at the acclaimed Westminster Free Clinic. The students were selected after a rigorous application and interview process in which they demonstrated their interest to gain experience in the health sciences and their sincere desire to help the poor. "This is an incredible learning opportunity. I'm so glad I was selected to volunteer at the clinic," says Brian Heeley.



NPHS student volunteers: Brian Heeley, left, Ryan Rubinstein, Heidi Stohlman, and Danit Kaya at the Westminster Free Clinic.

The Westminster Free Clinic, located at 1379 Thousand Oaks Boulevard in Many Mansion's Esseff Village, serves the homeless and working poor citizens of the Conejo Valley. The clinic provides \$250,000 in free medical care a year through leveraged support from the community and California Empowerment and Ventura County grants. Many local health care providers, doctors and nurses volunteer and provide services to the clinic. Dr. Steven Kamajian, Chief Medical Director, is the founder and visionary who made the clinic possible.

The NPHS students have made a long-term commitment to serve the clinic through their senior year. Brian, Danit and Heidi are seniors, and Ryan is a junior. The students are members of a student team, which is assigned a regular Wednesday evening to assist the clinic's doctors and nurses. The student teams assist the clinic staff in taking patient histories and vital signs, presenting the patients to the doctor, assisting the doctor in the examination, diagnosis and treatment. The students are provided extensive training and support from the nursing staff and doctors. "I want to be a doctor," explains Heidi Stohlman. "Being able to work with patients and to help them from when they enter the clinic through their examination and treatment is a great experience."

"When we decide to enter the medical profession, we'll have a head start," says Danit Kaya. "We're learning that being in the medical field isn't all about science. It's also about being helpful and kind and helping people." These students are also in the NPHS Majors Program. This volunteer experience counts as the career exploration / community service requirement for the Majors Program.

For more information about the Westminster Free Clinic or the Majors Program contact Leigh Ann Diffenderfer, NPHS School-to-Career Coordinator at ldiffenderfer@conejo.k12.ca.us or 805-498-3676 ext. 1138.

NPHS Majors

Arts, Media and Entertainment
Business
Engineering and Environment
Health Sciences
Industrial and Technology
Public and Human Services