People in the News

Star Tomlinson, above, is owner of The Drain Company and recipient of HSBC’s “Spotlight Series” campaign grant of $5,000. In October HSBC Encino’s manager Christopher Neville submitted Tomlinson for the grant, which is for clients of HSBC who have gone above and beyond for their community during COVID. Neville said, “Out of all my clients I had to chose one single client who I thought best reflects HSBC Bank’s values and would shed some positive light during these trying times – and one name kept popping in my mind. Star was not only a “Star” for her family but also for the community. She provided meals, support, volunteering and above all kindness during these difficult COVID times. She worked with the elderly, children, the police department (Devonshire Division) and anyone in need.” Tomlinson told Valley News Group that she, “wanted to give back. If I could I would work for free and just give money away!” Those that know her say that is true of this valley executive. Tomlinson has already given $1000 to Adaptive Ops which fights human and child trafficking, $1000 to Canoga Park Women’s Club and $1000 to Devonshire PALS which gives children new outfits for the holidays.

West Hills native James Pyle, above, entered into the blind auditions of “The Voice” and was chosen by John Legend for his team. Pyle grew up in a musical family and started playing drums at age 10. His mother always encouraged his singing but he was shy. She died when he was 18 and he used his grief to explore his voice and write songs. He recently has started singing at open mic nights and hopes to make his mother and family proud on “The Voice” stage.

To help protect the most vulnerable in our communities, Kaiser Permanente has awarded $1.5 million in grants to local nonprofits, including Hope of the Valley Rescue Mission, aimed at preventing and mitigating COVID-19 for people experiencing homelessness. The $100,000 grant will help individuals who access homeless shelters and have an increased risk of developing and transmitting infectious disease because of challenges to their living conditions. “Without a safe, stable place to live, it is nearly impossible to maintain or improve health,” said John Yamamoto, vice president of Community Health and Government Relations at Kaiser Permanente Southern California. “Even in the absence of COVID-19, homeless individuals are at two to three times higher risk of death than house populations.” Shown above left to right: Murtaza Sanwari, SVP and Area Manager, Kaiser Permanente Woodland Hills, Ken Craft, President and CEO, Hope of the Valley Rescue Mission, and Payman Roshan, SVP and Area Manager, of Kaiser Permanente Panorama City issuing the $100,000 grant to help care for people experiencing homelessness in the San Fernando Valley.

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COMMUNITY