

# VOICES OF THE VOLUNTEERS

"I was honored to be able to work with such an important organization such as KPA because of their love for our community. Whether it's planting trees or giving scholarships, KPA is always there to support the community and provide support for its people."

- **Nicholas Anderson, Sophomore at Poly High**

"It was an honor to be out there celebrating and honoring a life of a person who has contributed so much to the Long Beach Community. Through these trees, not only will we remember her work but the trees serve as a great memorial that will beautify and serve a purpose in the community."

- **Mark Anthony Paredes, MPP, Outreach Manager, IFP Outreach**

"I had a great time being part of something big for our community. Thanks for giving me an opportunity to be part of the solution. I'm very happy to see the community come out as a whole, regardless of their ethnicity, background, religion and political view, to join hands in planting trees. I couldn't be prouder of the community. I look forward to the next tree planting event."

- **Steve Meng, President/Founder of CARE Foundation**

"Planting a tree in the memory of Lok Yeay Heam Sum was very memorable. Hundreds of people came to support the event because planting trees is a great way to memorialize someone special, and it will make the city a better place to live in."

- **Kenneth San, Senior at Poly High**

"I was so excited to see everyone come together for such a beautiful Memorial Tree Planting on Saturday, especially the young generations who actively participated in this special event. I believe Lok Yeay has a big smile on her face looking at all of us beautifying our city in the AOC7 neighborhood. Good luck and best wishes to all of you."

- **Chilynna Lo, Parent**

Although Saturday, September 24th, was my birthday, I felt honored to volunteer to plant a tree in the memory of Lok Yeay Heam Sum and in the service of the community. It maybe not the usual birthday that a person gets, but it is better than staying at home. Instead, I feel joy in helping the community."

- **Matthew San, Junior in Poly High**

"It was my first time at a tree planting event, and I had a great experience. Everyone was welcoming and cheerful. I am glad to be a part of this community. I am looking forward to more events."

- **Van Tran, Senior at Poly High**

"The tree planting on Saturday, September 24th was a new experience for me. It is such a fulfilling feeling to leave a mark in the community. I felt welcomed by everyone at the event. I hope to go again in the near future."

- **Vena Chantha, Senior at Jordan High**

"Yesterday, I attended the Heam Sum memorial tree planting event. The turnout of volunteers exceeded my expectations, and gloves and tools quickly ran out. Since I was not quick enough to grab a tool, myself and other KPA volunteers knocked on residents' doors to ask if we could fill up three 20-gallon trash cans with water, and to my surprise the residents allowed us to use their water hoses. The kindness the residents of 10th Street showed in how eagerly they shared their water and the hundreds of volunteers from different organizations and clubs throughout Long Beach that came out to volunteer left a lasting impression on me. They showed me the importance of coming together as a community to honor one of Long's Beach own community leaders and to beautify the city."

- **Kassandra Chhay, Senior CSULB**

"Yesterday was my very first time planting a tree. I was very proud to do the hard work to honor Ms. Heam Sum. I had the opportunity to work alongside many other hard-working volunteers. I was very tired but proud to be a part of this memorable event. Many organizations provided a lot of delicious food for breakfast and lunch. We had sandwiches, fried bananas, fresh fruit, palm pastries, rice cakes, popcorn, snow cones, donuts, coffee, juice and water for all the volunteers."

- **Sreyroth Loa, Sophomore, UC**

"On the day of the Heam Sum Memorial Tree planting, I was with the green team. I had an amazing time and met many new people. I planted my very first tree for the community. The service was a great experience, and I would be happy to do it again."

- **Calvin Boonlua, Sophomore, Poly High**