



# NATIONAL PAL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POLICE ATHLETIC/ACTIVITIES LEAGUES, INC.

## Winter 2025 Newsletter

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Kids, Cops & Communities

# Table of Contents

*Message from National PAL Board President* .....2

*Save the Date! 2025 National PAL Annual Conference*.....3

*Feature: Greater Melbourne PAL*.....4

*In Loving Memory of Officer Arthur "Art" Martineau* .....5

*Supporting our Southern California Colleagues*.....5

*Welcome New National PAL Staff*.....6

*Save The Date: Upcoming National PAL Events*.....6

*Feature: Buffalo PAL*.....7

*Supporting Youth Affected by California's Recent Fires*.....8

*Chapter Membership*.....9

*Feature: Henrico PAL Aviation Program*.....10

*Feature: Rochester PAL*.....11

*Feature: Waterbury PAL – Erica Soares: From PAL Kid to Program Director*.....12

*Feature: Martin County PAL*.....13

*Spotlight on Isabella Avila: A Story of Resilience and the Power of PAL*.....14

## Message from our National PAL Board President

Happy New Year Local PAL Chapters,

On behalf of the entire National PAL Board, we hope this year has started off well for you and the youth you serve daily. We send out our heartfelt thoughts and prayers to those adversely impacted by the horrific fires in California. National PAL will continue to monitor the situation, and we are prepared to assist if needed. Additionally, I would like to thank you and the National PAL staff for your dedication to America's youth. We should all be excited about the direction of National PAL in regard to positioning ourselves to identify additional resources, enhance our brand, and better serve the nation's youth. Recently, your Board of Directors have agreed to adopt the following four strategies taken from our Operational Strategy to serve as areas of focus to significantly improve National PAL's viability and sustainability:

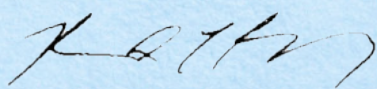
- 1. Develop a management and organizational structure that supports the growth of Chapters and the number of kids being served by PAL**
- 2. Build financial capacity to support long-term growth and sustainability**
- 3. Communicate to advance the mission broadly, effectively, and through modern media channels**
- 4. Engage in organizational planning**

You can anticipate hearing more about these strategies and our progress in the coming months. I'm also excited to report that the planning for our 80<sup>th</sup> Annual Training Conference in Memphis, TN is going very well, and we expect this to be one of the very best conferences in our history. Furthermore, the opportunities and benefits of being a member of National PAL have resulted in an increase in membership. If you haven't already done so, please make certain your membership is current, so you don't miss out on grant opportunities and all the other services offered by National PAL.

Once again, thank you for trusting in me as your Board President and I assure you the Board will continue to explore opportunities for growth which best helps our Chapters.

With warmest regards,



  
**Kenneth L. Ragland**  
National PAL Board President

# Save the Date! 2025 National PAL Annual Conference

The National PAL Annual Conference is back, and this year's theme is Strive! Set in the vibrant city of Memphis, Tennessee, from May 13–16, 2025, the conference will provide an unparalleled opportunity for professional development, networking, and celebration of the transformative work of PAL Chapters.

## CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS:

**Location:** Hilton Memphis | 939 Ridge Lake Boulevard, Memphis, TN 38120

**Dates:** May 13–16, 2025

**Theme:** Strive – Embracing Growth, Innovation, and Community Impact

**Workshops and Panels:** Featuring leading experts in youth development, community engagement, and law enforcement partnerships

**Special Events:** Awards Gala, Luncheon, and networking opportunities



## REGISTRATION INFORMATION:

### Member Pricing:

- *Early Bird (before 3/7/25):* \$625
- *Regular (after 3/7/25):* \$825

### Non-Member Pricing:

- *Early Bird (before 3/7/25):* \$725
- *Regular (after 3/7/25):* \$925

### Guest/Spouse Pricing:

- *Early Bird (before 3/7/25):* \$525
- *Regular (after 3/7/25):* \$925

**Additional Tickets:** (This pricing is a la carte for individuals who are not registered for the full conference)

- *Single Luncheon Ticket:* \$75
- *Single Gala Ticket:* \$125

**Group Discount:** Organizations registering more than four representatives from the same PAL Chapter will receive a \$25 discount per registrant.

***Take advantage of Early Bird pricing by registering before March 7, 2025!***

**Register Now:  
[Conference Registration Link](#)**

## Hotel Accommodations:

We are excited to partner with Hilton Memphis to host the conference. Hotel reservations are now available, and attendees are encouraged to book their room early.

- **Booking Deadline:** April 10, 2025
- **Reservation Link:** [Book Your Stay Now!](#)

If the conference rate of **\$129 per night** does not automatically populate, please enter the code **90M** in the "Special Rate" section and click on the government/military check box on the Hilton website.

For general questions on the conference and hotel as well as inquiries about being a speaker at the conference, please contact Kenneth Harris, Program Director at [kharris@nationalpal.org](mailto:kharris@nationalpal.org) or phone number 202-455-5507.

## Sponsorship Opportunities:

Support National PAL's mission while gaining visibility among leaders and changemakers.

## Program Advertising:

- Full Page, Color Ad: \$500
- Half Page, Color Ad: \$250

**Ad Artwork Deadline:** March 19, 2025

Please contact June Matics at [jmatics@nationalpal.org](mailto:jmatics@nationalpal.org) for payment information and to submit artwork. For more details on sponsorship tiers, [click here](#).

## Inspirational Awards Nominations Now Open!

We are thrilled to announce that nominations for the Inspirational Awards are now open! This is your chance to recognize outstanding individuals in the following categories:

- ***Female Youth of the Year***
- ***Male Youth of the Year***
- ***Volunteer of the Year***
- ***Law Enforcement of the Year***
- ***Staff of the Year***
- ***Chapter of the Year***

**Nomination Deadline:** March 31, 2025

To nominate someone, please complete the nomination form at the link below:

[Inspirational Awards Nomination Form](#)

Don't forget to email a high-resolution photo of your nominee to Daleska Siroki, Executive Administrative Manager, at [dsiroki@nationalpal.org](mailto:dsiroki@nationalpal.org).

**Let's come together to celebrate the remarkable individuals who make our National PAL family so impactful!**

## Feature: Greater Melbourne PAL

Greater Melbourne PAL's Girls Flag League serves young ladies ages 7-13. They are currently in their third season and are looking to compete with more PAL girls flag leagues.

Brevard Prevention Coalition, under the leadership of Stanley Bizz, is one of the organizations in their local community who are doing great work. They are dedicated to tackling the issue of drug, alcohol, and substance misuse that youth face every day. This coalition accomplishes their goals through preventative strategies, addressing the underlying issues, and guiding others into a better life.

Greater Melbourne PAL Summer Camp Officer, Valerie Butler, is an excellent mentor and leader for many of the PAL kids in the community and the schools. She has been highlighted for giving Greater Melbourne PAL's youth leadership advice and words of wisdom.



# In Loving Memory of Officer Arthur "Art" Martineau

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Officer Arthur "Art" Martineau, a cherished member of the National PAL family and a dedicated board member, who lost his courageous battle with cancer in January.

For 27 years, Art faithfully served the Miami Beach Police Department, dedicating his life to law enforcement and community service. As the Executive Director of Miami Beach PAL since 2010, his leadership and passion empowered countless youth, guiding them toward brighter futures. His tireless efforts led to transformative opportunities for young people, including full scholarships to prestigious universities such as Cornell.



Art's impact extended far beyond his professional accolades. A proud graduate of the Union Institute and University, he was named Miami Beach Employee of the Year in 2018 and was honored by the city with "Officer Art and Deborah Martineau Day" on May 25<sup>th</sup>. Even while battling esophageal cancer, his strength and unwavering commitment to his community remained an inspiration to all who knew him.

As a board member of National PAL, Art played a vital role in advancing our mission to strengthen relationships between law enforcement and youth across the country. His contributions, both locally and nationally, leave a lasting legacy of service, leadership, and compassion.

National PAL mourns the loss of an extraordinary leader, mentor, and friend. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Deborah, his family, and the Miami Beach PAL community during this difficult time. Rest in peace, Art. Your light will forever shine in the lives you have touched.

## Supporting our Southern California Colleagues

The devastating fires in Los Angeles and Southern California have caused widespread damage. We have confirmed that several of our National PAL Chapter members have experienced significant losses, including the destruction of valued property and cherished memories. Thankfully, we have not received any reports of loss of life or injury to our members.

National PAL is monitoring the situation and working to provide support where it is needed most. To this end, we are launching the National PAL California Fire Relief campaign to assist our affected members. We are accepting monetary contributions to help provide immediate relief and recovery efforts.

If you or your supporters would like to contribute to this important cause, please visit our website and donate online with a notation that it is for the **National PAL California Fire Relief Fund**. You may also contribute by check to the same, and send to *National PAL, 601 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, South Building #900, Washington, DC 20004*.

We will work with our PAL Chapters in Los Angeles and Southern California to determine where best to distribute any funds raised.

# Welcome New National PAL Staff

## JUNE MATICS

*Director of Corporate and Foundation Relations*

June Matics has joined National PAL to lead our efforts in engaging philanthropic and sponsorship support that will directly benefit youth through our Chapters. She comes to National PAL having worked with us for several years as a grant writing consultant. June is based in the Washington, DC area. She can be reached at [jmatics@nationalpal.org](mailto:jmatics@nationalpal.org).



## Save The Date: Upcoming National PAL Events

### INAUGURAL NATIONAL PAL GOLF INVITATIONAL

*June 9, 2025*

We are thrilled to announce the launch of our annual **golf invitational** and invite you to join us for a wonderful day of celebrating PAL and playing golf! The event will take place on Monday, June 9, at the **Manor Country Club, Rockville, Maryland**, from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

This exciting event will feature soccer star Mickenna Whitman as our guest of honor.

If you're interested in getting involved in or sponsoring the event, please contact June Matics at [jmatics@nationalpal.org](mailto:jmatics@nationalpal.org). We hope to see you there!

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### NATIONAL YOUTH SUMMIT

*July 9-12, 2025*

The annual **National Youth Summit** returns to Washington, DC this year with many new and exciting opportunities for PAL youth to grow their leadership skills, engage with government leaders, law enforcement, and have incredible experiences meeting other PAL youth.

Please plan to join us in **Washington, DC** on July 9-12 at the **Hilton Arlington Landing**, 2399 Richmond Hwy, Arlington, VA 22202. Keep an eye out on our website for registration information!

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### NATIONAL PAL BOXING TOURNAMENT

*September 29th-October 4, 2025*

We are excited to announce the **National PAL Boxing Tournament**, which will take place in **Oxnard, California**, from September 29 to October 4! Last year's tournament was a great success, and we can't wait to see the incredible talent and sportsmanship on display again this year.

Mark your calendars and join us for this thrilling event. Stay tuned for more details coming soon.

# Feature: Buffalo PAL

2024 was a transformative period for Buffalo PAL, defined by meaningful programs, impactful partnerships, and standout events. The organization continued its mission to empower inner-city youth through sports, mentoring, and community-focused initiatives that foster positive relationships with law enforcement. By addressing the physical, mental, and social well-being of its participants, Buffalo PAL reaffirmed its role as a pillar of youth development in Buffalo.



## FEBRUARY

The Buffalo Bills Foundation donated \$10,000 to support the Youth Opportunity Program.



## MARCH

Buffalo PAL launched critical conversations between law enforcement and youth with the Buffalo Police Department Neighborhood Engagement Team in four Buffalo public high schools.



## APRIL

Thanks to the Cullen Foundation's support, the Literacy STAR Program expanded to serve 250 youth at four community center locations.



## JULY - AUGUST

Over 5,000 children and teens participated in Summer programs that emphasized physical fitness, teamwork, and personal growth.



## JUNE

Buffalo PAL's 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Classic Tournament had 123 golfers and 12 all-female foursomes. This year was the most diverse group of golfers with a unique experience of adult clinic mixers offered in early Spring leading up to the event.



## JUNE

Buffalo PAL launched Playball in partnership with Project Play WNY. Softball, t-ball, and baseball programming took place for 12 weeks and served 120 youth.



## NOVEMBER

The PAL's biggest event of the year, the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Auction, raised \$75,000 to support 2025 programs, with Highmark being the premier sponsor.



## NOVEMBER

Damar Hamlin's Chasing M's Foundation supported 150 families with Thanksgiving meals. He also kicked off the 1,000 for 100 campaigns with a \$5,000 donation. You can join the movement here: <https://buffalopal.com/fundraising/>



## DECEMBER

Heartwarming holiday toy drive led by Buffalo Bills' Jamarcus Ingram. Buffalo PAL proudly sponsored and helped host Buffalo's iconic New Year's Eve ball drop.

# Supporting Youth Affected by California's Recent Fires

The recent wildfires in California have had a devastating impact on communities, particularly affecting young people. The many variables that are present when this happens, such as loss of necessities (i.e. food, shelter, clothing) directly affect the mental health of the people involved. It's crucial to provide comprehensive assistance to help them navigate these challenging times. Here are some ways we can support these displaced individuals.



- 1. Emotional Support:** Offering counseling and mental health services can help youth process their experiences and emotions. Creating safe spaces where they can express their feelings is essential. Many children have witnessed their homes and schools being destroyed by fires, which can be deeply traumatic.
- 2. Educational Continuity:** Ensuring that education continues, even in temporary settings, helps maintain a sense of normalcy. Providing resources like online classes, tutoring, and school supplies can make a big difference. Over 300 schools in Los Angeles County have been closed or are on modified schedules due to the fires.
- 3. Community Engagement:** Involving young people in local projects and community rebuilding efforts can empower them, foster resilience, and provide a sense of purpose and belonging. Many natural areas used for outdoor education have been destroyed, impacting programs that were crucial for children's learning and development.
- 4. Access to Basic Needs:** Ensuring that youth have access to food, shelter, and healthcare is fundamental. Collaborating with local organizations and governments can help meet these needs effectively. The fires have displaced over 100,000 people, and many families are struggling to find temporary housing.

Many will ask, "Why do bad things happen to good people?" This is a natural thing to wonder, as unpredictable and unfair events such as this one can be challenging to understand, especially for young people. It is important to acknowledge that while we may not always have control over these events, we can control how we respond to them. By coming together as a community, offering support, and building resilience, we can help each other navigate through difficult times and emerge stronger.

## Notable Statistics:

- The recent fires have led to the evacuation of over **100,000 people** and the destruction of more than **1,000 structures**, including homes and schools.
- Over **300 schools** in Los Angeles County have been affected, with many closed or operating on modified schedules due to unhealthy air quality.
- Natural areas used for outdoor education, such as the Eaton Canyon Nature Area, have been destroyed, impacting numerous educational programs.

## Resources for Displaced Youth:

- **FEMA Assistance:** Provides financial assistance for essential items like food, water, baby formula, medication, and emergency supplies. It also offers housing assistance for those who cannot return to their homes due to the fires.



- **Evacuation Centers:** Various centers across Los Angeles County, such as Westwood Recreation Center and Pasadena Civic Center, are providing shelter for evacuees. These centers also accept domestic family pets.
- **California Department of Social Services Disaster Help Center:** Offers information and resources regarding public assistance and services available to impacted individuals and families.
- **CalHOPE:** Provides crisis counseling and support services to individuals and communities affected by natural disasters. It includes initiatives like BrightLife Kids and Soluna, which offer virtual behavioral health services for children, youth, and families.
- **California Youth Crisis Line:** Operates 24/7 as the statewide emergency response system for youth (ages 12-24) and families in crisis. It offers crisis intervention counseling and resource referrals to service providers in the caller's local community.
- **NAMI California:** Offers a Youth Mental Health Guide, which includes information on warning signs, how to help a friend, and resources for parents supporting their children's mental health.

### How People Outside of California Can Help:

- **Donate to Relief Organizations:** Contributing to organizations like the American Red Cross, Baby2Baby, and GiveDirectly can provide immediate financial assistance and essential supplies to affected families.
- **Support Mental Health Initiatives:** Donations to mental health organizations such as NAMI California and CalHOPE can help fund counseling services and support programs for youth.
- **Volunteer Remotely:** Many organizations offer remote volunteer opportunities, such as crisis counseling through the California Youth Crisis Line or administrative support for relief efforts.
- **Raise Awareness:** Use social media platforms to share information about the impact of the fires and encourage others to support relief efforts.
- **Fundraise:** Organize fundraising events or online campaigns to gather donations for affected communities. Platforms like GoFundMe can be used to create and share fundraising pages.

By addressing these areas, we can help youth affected by the recent fires in California recover and thrive, building a stronger, more resilient future for all. For more information or personalized help, please reach out to Dr. Galen Duncan at [gduncan@nationalpal.org](mailto:gduncan@nationalpal.org) or (202) 455-8010.

## Chapter Membership

Membership in National PAL has many benefits! **Registration for 2025 is underway,** and we ask that if you have not already done so, please register your Chapter now!

If you are not a current member but are reading this – it means you are part of the PAL family, and we want you back in the fold! Please register now at [nationalpal.org/membership-information](https://nationalpal.org/membership-information) or reach out to us via email at [membership@nationalpal.org](mailto:membership@nationalpal.org).

If you are looking to become a PAL Chapter or have never officially joined National PAL, we want you to join the National PAL family. **We want to hear from you,** so feel free to reach out to us, and we will help you get started!



# Feature: Henrico PAL Aviation Program

Henrico PAL, in partnership with the Forgotten Heroes Foundation, began a free and impactful aviation program on December 7, 2024. This unique initiative was designed to inspire youth ages 10 and older by exposing them to the exciting world of aviation and STEM concepts.

Throughout the day, participants engaged in hands-on learning experiences that included lessons about airplanes, the science of flight, and the career opportunities available in the field of aviation. One of the program's highlights was the opportunity for each participant to sit in the cockpit of an airplane and take an actual flight, offering an unforgettable, once-in-a-lifetime experience.

The program took place at a private airport in Norfolk, Virginia, with Henrico PAL providing free transportation to ensure accessibility for all participants. In addition to the flights, the children had the opportunity to use flight simulators and engage in interactive STEM activities, further enriching their understanding of aviation.

Their second Flight Discovery will take place in late February and they will continue to provide participants with the incredible opportunity to learn and explore the world of aviation.

This program exemplifies Henrico PAL's commitment to creating life-changing opportunities for youth by fostering curiosity, building confidence, and sparking youth interest in STEM fields.



# Feature: Rochester PAL

Rochester PAL had a busy holiday season with three large events: Miracle and Heroes, Shop with a Cop, and a New Year's Eve Celebration.

**Miracles and Heroes** was held on December 11, 2024 at the Children's Cancer Center at Mayo Clinic Hospital, Saint Mary's Campus I. Rochester PAL partnered with the Target Corporation to arrange for holiday gifts for the 81 children in the hospital, and even many of their siblings received a toy/gift as well. In addition, there were snacks, games, a photo area, and activities for the kids and their parents in the atrium where they were joined by a variety of first responders and volunteers. These included Rochester police officers, Rochester fire fighters, Mayo Clinic ambulance staff, chaplains from Salt & Light, as well as Target employees who came with Bullseye the Dog. Carts with a variety of toys were delivered from room to room by first responders for the children who were unable to leave their rooms. This is the 7<sup>th</sup> year of this program and partnership between Rochester PAL, Mayo Eugenio Litta Children's Hospital, and Target.



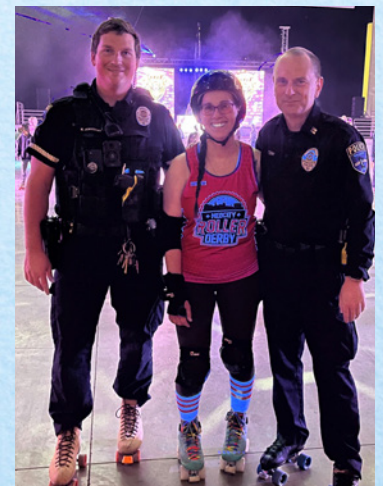
## Shop with a Cop 2024

The 21<sup>st</sup> annual Shop with a Cop, organized by Rochester PAL, was held Saturday December 14, 2024 at Walmart North and was very well attended. This year, between volunteers, officers, deputies, troopers, and kids, the PAL had over 200 people participating in this event. This year Rochester Police Department was joined by Olmsted County Deputies and the Minnesota State Patrol. This was the 21<sup>st</sup> year for Shop with a Cop, held in Rochester and supported through generous donations to Rochester PAL. Each child paired with an officer received \$120 to shop for themselves and their family, lunch with an officer at Sam's Club, a tour of police vehicles, and custard from Culver's. This is always one of Rochester PAL's largest and most popular events of the year.



## New Year's Eve Celebration

Rochester PAL's New Year's Eve celebration was another great success, with many participating. The PAL partnered with Experience Rochester, Mayo Civic Center, and Big Bang Productions for a free family-friendly New Year's celebration. Indoor roller-skating, DJ, ball drop, video game trailer, bounce house inflatables, rock wall, and more helped to make this an enjoyable time for all who attended! Thanks to these great partnerships, Rochester PAL was able to keep this event free for all to enjoy.



# Feature: Waterbury PAL – Erica Soares: From PAL Kid to Program Director

Waterbury PAL is proud to spotlight one of its most inspiring success stories, Erica Soares. From her beginnings as a PAL participant to her current role as Program Director, Erica's journey exemplifies the transformative power of mentorship, community, and perseverance.

Erica's story is one of resilience and leadership. As a former PAL kid, she experienced the positive influence of structured programs and mentorship, which motivated her to give back to the organization that helped shape her path. Today, she not only leads her Chapter's programs but also advocates for youth empowerment, growth, and opportunity.



## LEADERSHIP AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

**Program Revitalization and Expansion:** Erica has spearheaded the development and enhancement of several key initiatives, including the *Beyond the Bleachers Leadership Academy*, *Girls Inspire Program*, and *Youth Workforce Programs*. By integrating life skills, social-emotional learning, and leadership development, these programs have grown in reach and effectiveness.



**Basketball Coach and Mentor:** Erica serves as a basketball coach for multiple age groups, combining athletic development with lessons in teamwork, discipline, and perseverance. As a dedicated mentor, she provides one-on-one guidance, helping youth build confidence and set ambitious goals.

**Workforce Development:** As the Summer Youth Employment Program Coordinator, Erica has helped nearly 200 youth each Summer gain invaluable work experience and job skills. Through partnerships with local organizations and businesses, she has expanded career exploration opportunities and

introduced workforce training initiatives, preparing youth for long-term success.

**Community Engagement and Advocacy:** Erica is a passionate advocate for youth, working closely with families, educators, and community leaders to address critical social issues. She has played a vital role in partnerships with organizations such as CCM, 119K, CMHA, NYEC, HerTime, Special Olympics CT and local schools to expand resources and opportunities.

**Event Planning and Fundraising:** Erica has successfully organized both the National PAL Annual Training Conference as a committee member and the Region 4 PAL Conference. She has also led major fundraising initiatives, such as the *Plane Pull for Special Olympics Connecticut (SOCT)* and the three-day *CT Chili Brew Fest*, along with PAL's Annual events.

**Unified Sports Leadership:** As the PAL Chapters Liaison for Special Olympics Connecticut, Erica has led the implementation of Unified Sports initiatives in PALs across the state, promoting inclusivity and diversity in athletics. Her efforts have increased visibility and participation in these programs, bringing communities together through the power of sports.

**Strategic Partnerships and Program Growth:** Erica excels in building partnerships with organizations to strengthen and expand PAL's programs. Her ability to secure funding and successfully plan and execute major community events has allowed for new opportunities and innovative enhancements.

**National Recognition and Advocacy:** Erica's advocacy extends beyond Waterbury. She has spoken on national platforms, including the National Youth Employment Coalition Youth Days and the 119K Commission. Her work drives action to create equitable opportunities for all. Locally, she collaborates with families, schools, and organizations like NRWIB, DCF, and CMHA, building partnerships to strengthen PAL's mission.



**A Role Model for Youth and Community** Erica's journey from a PAL kid to Program Director embodies the mission of PAL: building positive relationships between kids, cops, and communities. Her leadership and dedicated mentoring have not only transformed PAL's programs but also inspired countless youth to dream big and believe in their potential. Whether she is coaching basketball, facilitating leadership workshops, or advocating for disconnected youth, her unwavering commitment to community shines through in every initiative she leads. Erica's work continues to strengthen the foundation of Waterbury PAL, ensuring that it remains a beacon of hope, opportunity, and empowerment for generations to come.

## Feature: Martin County PAL

This past December, Martin County PAL set out on a heartfelt mission to spread holiday cheer and brighten the season for those in their community. With the help of their amazing youth — and even a surprise visit from the Grinch — Martin County PAL delivered hand-decorated mini nutcrackers to residents at local assisted living facilities in the community. The rooms were filled with laughter, smiles, and a touch of holiday magic, creating unforgettable moments for the residents and showcasing the incredible spirit of the PAL's young leaders.

But this wasn't just about handing out gifts. It was about creating connections, sharing kindness, and giving young leaders the chance to make a real difference in the community. Martin County PAL believes in shaping future leaders who don't just chase their own dreams, but also find ways to lift others up. This simple but meaningful act of holiday giving reminded those on the PAL team about the power of spreading light, joy, and purpose to those around them — leaving a lasting impact that goes far beyond the season.



# Spotlight on Isabella Avila: A Story of Resilience and the Power of PAL

In August 2024, 12-year-old Isabella Avila, a participant of the Santa Barbara Police Activities League (SBPAL), faced an unimaginable challenge when her family's home was destroyed in a devastating fire. Despite losing nearly everything, Isabella's strength and determination inspired everyone around her.

SBPAL's mission is to build bridges between cops, kids, and the community, and they were honored to support Isabella during this difficult time. With the help of the Santa Barbara Police Department, Chief Kelly Gordon and officers surprised Isabella with a thoughtful gift basket filled with Harry Potter items—her favorite series. This was followed by her participation in the "Shop with a Cop" program, which included a special ride in the PAL Camaro, a shopping experience to replace lost essentials, and a heartfelt dinner. It was a day filled with kindness and connection, reminding Isabella and her family that they are surrounded by a community that cares deeply.

Isabella's story embodies the values that we strive to uphold at National PAL. Her resilience and unwavering dream of becoming a police officer serve as a powerful example of how PAL programs positively shape the lives of youth. Isabella has even expressed her desire to give back by preparing a home-cooked meal to thank the first responders who risked their lives to save her home.

SBPAL is proud to offer programs like the Bridge Mentoring Program, where officers serve as advocates and mentors, and the Youth Leadership Council, which fosters leadership skills and community engagement. These efforts, combined with their long-standing commitment to academic success, have led to a nine-year trend of 100% high school graduation rates, with all graduates pursuing college, trade schools, or military careers.

Isabella's journey reminds us why PAL Chapters across the nation are so vital. Together, we create safe spaces, nurture dreams, and inspire the next generation of leaders.



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