Exceptional teens receive Golden Heart Awards

**Taylor Stone, community service**

Stone, who was nominated by the Rev. Mary Lyn Davis of Davis Community Church, has worked more than 400 hours volunteering at the Yolo County Sheriff’s Office, where she helps law enforcement with data entry.

Beginning at age 4, she began volunteering as a cub scout at 1st Ward Park for “Day on the Green.” She also volunteers to help law enforcement agencies retrieve stolen property.

She has also worked on a community garden project for the Davis Community Church and has participated in the annual school supplies drive for low-income children.

For more information, call (530) 757-5626.

**Ashley Alchick, personal challenge**

Alchick was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at age 8 years old. In May 2009, Alchick, 16, missed a lot of school for treatments and hospitalizations. She eventually fell behind in her coursework.

But she persevered, and by 10th grade, she had caught up and was ready to take on new challenges. She began volunteering at the Yolo County Sheriff’s Office, where she helps law enforcement with data entry.

She also volunteers to help law enforcement agencies retrieve stolen property.

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**Neva Wixson, personal challenge**

Wixson, now a 15-year-old Harper Junior High student, is one of those few who have simply fallen through society’s crack. She was born in 1996, was neglected and abandoned, and attended foster care and group homes. She was diagnosed with acute lymphocytic leukemia in May 2009.

Speeding along with these challenges, she was selected as a member of the AVID program at Harper. In her younger years, she was neglected and often abandoned until her older sister, Carol—always left at home—persuaded him to take the necessary steps to obtain custody of Wixson and her younger sister, Sarah. In her sister’s care, Wixson began to shine at school, with her grades improving and her dreams of going to college coming closer and closer to reality. She was nominated for a Golden Heart by two teachers in the AVID program at Harper—Scott Thompson and Judith Hodges—who said “because of Neva’s dedication to school work and her hard work, she is a role model to me as a coach.”

For her part, Wixson said the award “shows me that I’ve overcome a lot and even though bad things have happened, I get through them.”