

# Teen wins award for helping children

Brentwood youth  
founded fundraising  
organization to rescue  
child slaves in Ghana

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BRENTWOOD — Tyler Page, 10, started an organization three years ago, which has so far given more than \$50,000 to children in Ghana.

For his efforts, the Kids Helping Kids award was recently won by Tyler Page, 10, of Brentwood. The award is given to the most outstanding middle school and high school student in California each year.



Tyler Page

Each year, Tyler will receive a \$1,000 prize, an engraved silver medallion and a trip to Washington, D.C., this year for the program's national

## Tyler

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recognition event. There, he will attend a gala at the National Museum of Natural History, visit congressional representatives on Capitol Hill, and meet the top two honorees from each state.

California's other honoree is Blakely Colvin 16, of Santa Ynez, who raised funds for the fight against cancer.

The program, in its 16th year, is run by Prudential Financial and the National Association of Secondary School Principals. Tyler was nominated by J. Douglas Adams Middle School, where he is an eighth-grader.

Tyler's path to volunteerism began when he was 10 and happened upon an episode of "The Oprah Winfrey Show" featuring Ghanaian children sold into slavery. Shocked by the images of children half his age toiling knee-deep in murky water, Tyler felt compelled to take action.

Encouraged by his mother, the 10-year-old held a car wash with his friends that raised enough money to save five children from a life of slavery. Soon, he and his friends were also selling cookies, setting up lemonade stands, and putting on shows to raise money.

Today, Kids Helping Kids has sent \$30,000 to an inter-governmental organization that rescues child slaves in Ghana and raised another \$20,000 for other children in need. The organization has also helped send books to

The dozens of Brentwood kids who have gotten involved with the organization say they are drawn to Tyler's cause by a combination of empathy for suffering children, and the joy of being part of something larger than themselves.

Tyler's principal, Scott Vernoy, said that his organization has created a valuable educational opportunity for Brentwood children.

"In our abundant life, in a small, rural community, our children do not witness crime, poverty and destitution," he said. "Tyler's project has brought to light that not all children live a life like ours, and that even children can do something about it."