

Kiwanis Presents Distinguished Service Award to Natalie Crane, Administrator of Ugandan Orphan Project

On February 8, 2017, the Kiwanis Club of Tierrasanta presented Natalie Crane the Distinguished Service Award of Kiwanis International and the Kiwanis Cal Nev Ha District in recognition of her outstanding service as the initiator and administrator of the Ugandan Orphan Project from 2009 and continuing in 2017.



Kiwanis President Elect Jim Knox and Foundation President Mike Pent present Natalie Crane the Kiwanis International Distinguished Service Award

Natalie grew up in Tierrasanta and graduated from Serra High School in 1996 where she was an outstanding student, A.S.B. Senior Vice President and a star player on the Serra field hockey team. She received a field hockey scholarship to the University of Virginia and graduated with a degree in English Literature in 2000. She lived and worked in Washington, D.C., before returning to Tierrasanta in 2006.

In 2009, Natalie embarked on a remarkable yearlong journey to Uganda to provide aid to needy people in Africa. She encountered a family of five orphaned and struggling Ugandan children and has since added immeasurable to their lives. Her assistance has provided the children with adult caregiving, lifesaving medical care, room and board, education support and personal necessities. She accomplished this while suffering a serious illness requiring hospitalization in Africa and then challenges after returning to San Diego in 2010 that included providing assistance undaunted by distance, funding and communication difficulties. Two of the children (Agnes and Richard) have since been emancipated and are now living adult lives. In August 2011, the Kiwanis Club and Foundation of Tierrasanta joined with Natalie and have since then successfully assisted the Ugandan Orphan Project.

Natalie Crane with Ugandan Orphans



L to R: Nasulumbi Agnes, Asher Natalie "Peanut" (the Caretaker's daughter), Nabuduwa Sylvia, Natalie Crane holding Taka Rachel, Ajambo Beatrice and Ogola Richard *circa 2010*

Natalie Crane's initiation and continuing service to carry out the support of this family of children is a shining example and the personification of the Kiwanis International Motto "**Serving the Children of the World.**" She is a most worthy recipient of the Kiwanis Distinguished Service Award.