



HOTELS & RESORTS

For Immediate Release

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Montage Hotels & Resorts Announces Winners of Montage Memory Makers, Giving \$50,000 to Five Young Humanitarians

Third annual Montage Memory Makers contest recognizes students who are making the world a better place and honors each winner with a \$10,000 college scholarship

January 5, 2016 (ORANGE COUNTY, CALIF.) – [Montage Hotels & Resorts](#) today announced the results of its third annual [Montage Memory Makers](#) contest, which recognizes five young humanitarians across the nation by awarding these individuals each with a \$10,000 scholarship. Celebrating creativity, ingenuity and service, the Montage Memory Makers contest recognizes inspiring teens, ages 13 – 17 years old, involved in their communities and improving the world around them.

From September through November 2015, Montage Hotels & Resorts received submissions from young community leaders across the country. The five humanitarians selected for their commitment to service are:

- [Nathan Chiu](#), Wellesley Hills, MA – A victim of depression, Nathan used his personal experience to promote a greater understanding of mental illness within his community. Over the past three years, he has developed a network of mentors who have provided counsel to more than 500 students, equipping them with coping skills to understand and combat depression.
- [Olivia Feild](#), Miami, FL – Developing and leading The Vitamin Project, Olivia has inspired her community to work together to collect and pack vitamins for children in Guatemala over the past four years. As a result of her efforts, more than 2,000 orphaned, abandoned, and malnourished children in the South American country have received valuable vitamins to foster their growth and development.
- [Riley Joy Gantt](#), Sherman Oaks, CA – Riley was inspired to establish Rainbow Pack at the tender age of ten, following her own personal encounter with students who did not have the resources to be successful learners. Since establishing Rainbow Pack more than 5 years ago, the organization has provided more than 9,500 children with backpacks and school supplies, and raised more than \$125,000 to give young students the tools they need to learn.
- [Maria Keller](#), Plymouth, MN – As founder of Read Indeed, a nonprofit literacy organization, Maria has spent the past six years promoting literacy. Through her work, Read Indeed has gathered and gifted more than 1.7 million books to underprivileged children and teens, which have been distributed to more than 300 local organizations.
- [Katie Prior](#), Norman, OK – A talented musician, Katie uses her skills to pay tribute to military veterans at funerals since military buglers were in short supply. Initially inspired by her own great-grandfather, a World War II veteran, she enlisted a group of volunteers to play at funerals and community events, including monument dedications and wreath-layings. Since founding Youth Trumpet & Taps Corps in 2014, Katie's organization has grown into a network of more than 40 volunteers in six states.

“The number of submissions we received in 2015 far surpassed the volume from previous years, exhibiting that the culture of giving back continues to gain popularity among our nation’s young people,” said Montage Hotels & Resorts’ Founder and CEO Alan J. Fuerstman. “Montage Hotels & Resorts is proud to recognize these passionate young humanitarians, empowering them to continue their missions to make the world a better place within their local communities and beyond.”

Individuals were judged on the following criteria: 1) Ongoing community service or volunteering efforts, 2) Achievements that have made a meaningful impact in their community or beyond, and 3) How their community service inspires others. In order to be considered, young humanitarians from across the country uploaded a three-hundred (300) word essay, and submitted additional material detailing how they inspire and provide service to their communities. From a group of 12 finalists chosen by an executive committee, a panel of guest judges selected five winners. The judging panel was comprised of diverse and accomplished individuals including Alan Fuerstman, Founder & CEO of [Montage Hotels & Resorts](#); Bill Shore, Founder & CEO of [Share our Strength](#); Brad Meltzer, #1 New York Times bestselling [author](#); Charles Best, Founder and CEO of [DonorsChoose.org](#); Darell Hammond, Founder & CEO of [KaBOOM!](#); and Ellen Asmodeo-Giglio, Executive Vice President and Publisher of [AFAR Magazine](#).

Each of the five winners will receive a \$10,000 scholarship towards an accredited college or university and a two-night stay at one of the Montage properties in the Continental U.S., including Montage Beverly Hills, Montage Laguna Beach, Montage Deer Valley and Montage Palmetto Bluff. The winners will also receive one 30-minute mentor session via phone with one of the guest judges, as well as a feature in the spring 2016 issue of [Montage Magazine](#).

For photos of the 2016 Montage Memory Makers, please click [here](#).

About Montage Hotels & Resorts

Montage Hotels & Resorts is a hotel and resort management company founded by Alan J. Fuerstman. Designed to serve the luxury traveler and homeowner, the company features an artistic collection of distinctive hotels, resorts and residences in stunning settings that offer comfortable elegance, a unique sense of place and spirit, impeccable hospitality and memorable culinary, spa and lifestyle experiences. The portfolio of hotels, resorts and residences includes Montage Laguna Beach, Montage Beverly Hills, Montage Deer Valley, Montage Kapalua Bay, Montage Palmetto Bluff, and opening in late 2017, Montage Los Cabos. In 2014, the company launched Pendry Hotels, a second brand that will marry the culture of service for which Montage is renowned with an inspired, fashion-forward and design-driven approach to hospitality. The first Pendry Hotel, Pendry San Diego, will open fall 2016. In addition, the company also operates some of the country’s premiere golf courses, including Spanish Peaks Mountain Club in Big Sky, Montana and The May River Golf Club in Bluffton, South Carolina. For more information, please visit [www.montagehotels.com](#).

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