

# YOUNG CITIZEN OF THE YEAR NOMINEE

## RABIA AFSHAN BADAR

NOMINATOR: SHEREEN QAADRI



Rabia Badar, founder of the Junior Civitans at Averroes High School in Fremont, has made a significant impact in addressing food insecurity in Dublin. Through her leadership, she organized a holiday food drive, in partnership with the Alameda County Food Bank, raising an impressive \$4,200 to directly benefit food-insecure families in Dublin. This campaign highlighted the power of community support, as all funds came from local donations. In addition, Rabia dedicated the entire month of May to volunteering for Open Heart Kitchen at the Senior Center. Every Monday through Wednesday, from 10:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., she served meals to seniors in need, further demonstrating her commitment to helping vulnerable members of the community. This effort was part of a partnership between Averroes High School and Open Heart Kitchen, emphasizing the importance of youth involvement in solving local challenges. Rabia's hard work, compassion, and dedication to service have truly benefited Dublin, showcasing the impact one individual can have when supported by a caring community.

Rabia likely faced several challenges during her food drive and volunteering efforts to support Dublin's food-insecure families. Organizing the food drive required encouraging community participation, raising awareness, and meeting a \$4,200 fundraising goal, all while balancing schoolwork and extracurricular commitments. Coordinating logistics with the Alameda County Food Bank and ensuring smooth distribution of food and funds also posed challenges.

Additionally, volunteering with Open Heart Kitchen at the Senior Center throughout May—serving meals to seniors every Monday through Wednesday, from 10:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., in partnership with her school—required considerable time management and dedication. Her ability to overcome these obstacles highlights her leadership, compassion, and commitment to serving her community.

The success of Rabia Badar's food drive for Dublin's food-insecure families was a testament to the unwavering support of the local community. Every dollar of the \$4,200 raised came from generous community members who recognized the importance of addressing hunger in their own neighborhoods. From individual contributions to collective efforts, the community came together to support Rabia's partnership with the Alameda County Food Bank, ensuring that families in need received the help they deserved. This project highlighted the power of grassroots action and the strength of Dublin's residents in uplifting one another.