

ORGANIZATION OF THE YEAR NOMINEE

GIRLS4SPORTS

NOMINATOR: MALINI ALAGAPPAN



Girls4Sports is a transformative force within the Dublin community, championing equity, leadership, and empowerment through athletics and community service. In 2024, they launched a Girls Leading Change scholarship program, awarding a total of \$2,500 to five Dublin High and Valley High students so that they could develop community service projects that promote equity and pursue higher education — paving the way for lasting community-wide change within Dublin. Beyond financial support, Girls4Sports has empowered female leaders and changemakers within our community. Their free monthly public speaking, advocacy, and leadership sessions hosted at Dublin High School

have cultivated 100 new youth changemakers within Dublin. These workshops provide enriching educational opportunities to speak with diverse world leaders, Olympic athletes, and professional athletes, such as Chris Evert (former #1 tennis player in the world), Paralympian Alejandra Aybar, and British Olympian Stef Reid.

Furthermore, they helped launch Dublin High School's first-ever girl's flag football team. They have strengthened the team and interest through their vibrant social media presence, with over 1,000 followers— becoming a platform to promote the team, amplify its success, and inspire the next generation of athletes within Dublin.

In addition to empowerment, Girls4Sports hosts free sports camps for all Dublin youth every three months. They have taught over 800 Dublin students (from all 16 Dublin Schools), badminton, volleyball, soccer, frisbee, and cross-country.

Their community service has brought Dublin commendation from California Governor Newsom, The British Royal Family, Ashoka Changemakers, Prudential Financial, and media features from *People*, the *New York Times*, the *Today* show, ABC7, and KTVU Fox.

Girls4Sports has a goal to integrate civic education into their equity-driven events. However, during their time hosting seasonal camps and speaker events, many students were nervous to participate due to an overall lack of civic engagement—an essential part of a young person's life. Therefore, Girls4Sports focused on incorporating civic education within our workshops, summer camps, and conferences – integrating confidence and civic engagement with youth as young as age four. With various age demographics and various civic educational levels, many of the youth felt unsure of how to participate in civic matters. Vulnerable, the youth voice was being left out of decisions that affected them. Girls4Sports has consistently created educational materials (videos, lectures, games, and more) to amplify the youth in matters that affect their communities. However, it will continue to take constant innovation and dedication to bring increased awareness to our youth population—a goal that Girls4Sports is committed to working toward.