Announcing the Recipients of the 2011 Citizens Medal

The Presidential Citizens Medal, our nation’s second highest civilian honor, is awarded by the President to citizens who have performed exemplary deeds of service for their country and their fellow citizens.

This year President Obama selected thirteen recipients from over 6000 nominations. Dr. Margaret Martin, founder of Harmony Project based in Los Angeles, was one of those selected. Dr. Martin received the Presidential Citizen’s Medal from President Obama on October 20, 2011 in a White House ceremony. That same evening, Brian Williams and NBC News honored Dr. Martin and Harmony Project in a national newscast.

Please take a moment to read the incredible stories of this year’s Citizens Medal recipients.

Margaret Martin, Harmony Project Founder

Margaret Martin, who was once homeless with two children, and who eventually overcame her hard ships and earned a PhD from U.C.L.A. in public health, made a personal commitment to dedicate her life to making quality arts education available to those in the most underserved areas of Los Angeles by founding the Harmony Project.

The Harmony Project, currently serving 1500 children on a full scholarship basis, utilizes the study and performance of music to encourage children to remain in school, seek a higher education, and become productive members of the community.

Margaret received the Citizens Medal for creating a program designed to replace violence and despair in children’s lives, with hope and opportunity.