

Mentor of the Month

White honored by Calaveras Youth Mentoring

The Calaveras Youth Mentoring Program has recognized Murphys resident Kristin White as its April 2018 Mentor of the Month.

White has been matched with her 15-year-old Charis Hulbert for more than a year.

"Kristin is an exceptionally devoted and steady volunteer," said Katie Lackler, coordinator of the Calaveras Youth Mentoring Program, in a press release. "She is very busy as an optometrist with the newly opened MACT Health Clinic in San Andreas, but when it comes to Charis, she always has enough time. From the beginning, Kristin and Charis have had a truly happy and fun connection."

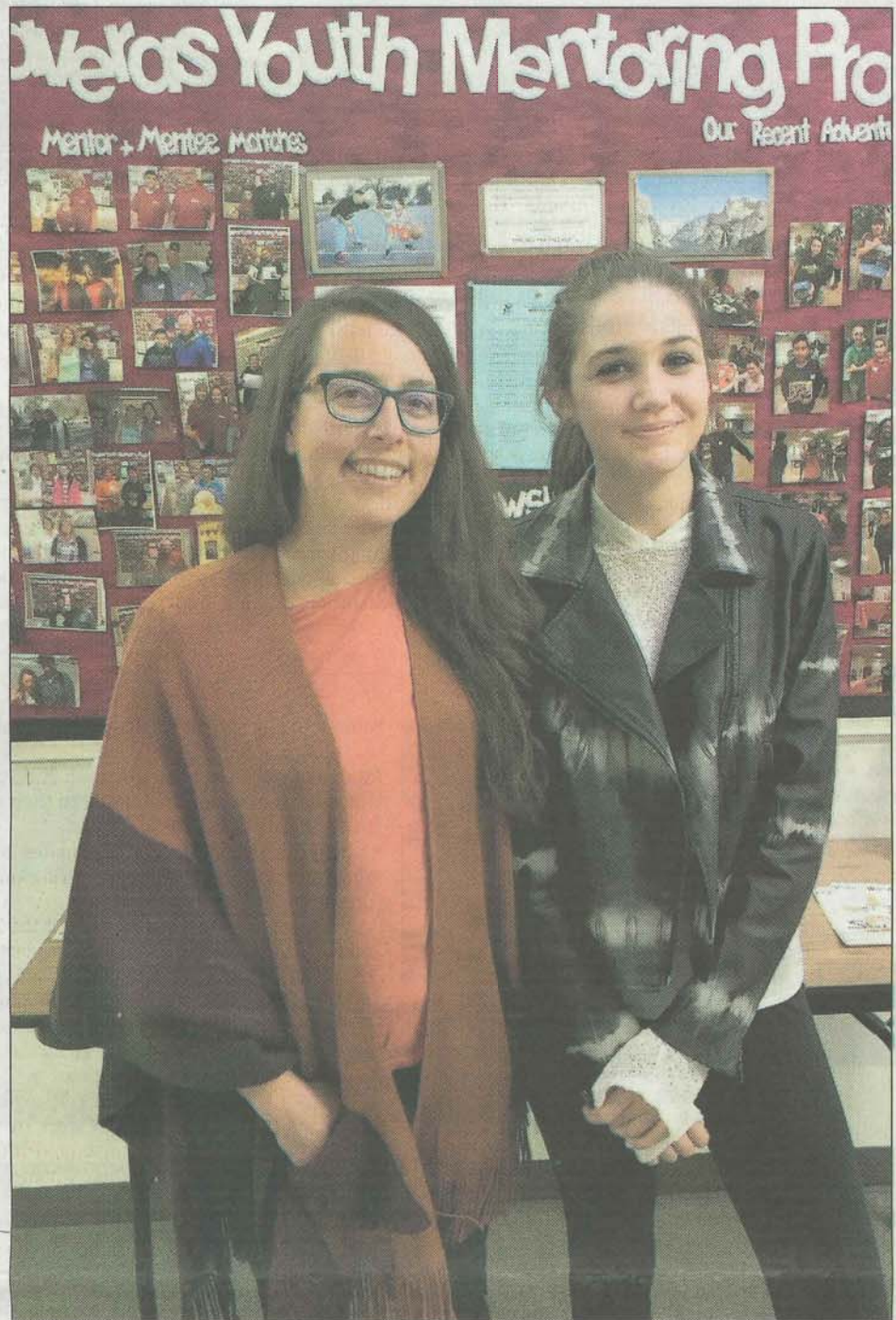
Volunteering is a regular activity for White, and she includes Charis whenever possible. Together, they have worked with Habitat for Humanity in Calaveras, volunteered at numerous health fairs doing vision screening, and worked at the Resource Connection Food Bank.

"It's so awesome to see Charis involved when we volunteer together," White said. "I get a chance to see her use all these great skills I didn't know she had."

Charis has helped kids pick out glasses at a Vision Screening Day at Mountain Oaks, organized products at the Food Pantry to make it easier to pack bags, and taken on various roles independently at a Christmas Mall in Sacramento while White was doing vision screening.

"What I like best about Kristin is her fun and creative personality," said Charis.

The duo has also spent time doing creative projects from soap-making to creating Valentine's Day chocolates. When asked what she likes best about the mentoring program, Charis said, "It's cool that I have an adult to rely on and who



Courtesy photo / Calaveras Youth Mentoring Program

Kristin White (left), a Calaveras County optometrist, was recognized by the Calaveras Youth Mentoring Program for her dedication to her mentee, Charis Hulbert (right).

will always be there. It's a very trusting friendship."

Charis' grandmother, Adean, is also happy with the match, and said that Kristin is a wonderful person.

White enjoys the connection, too.

"I started volunteering with the Calaveras Youth Mentoring Program because it's important to me to be involved in my community,

and I've always enjoyed working with young people," she said. "Becoming a mentor has allowed me to connect with the community in a different way. Without the Mentoring Program, I probably never would have met Charis or her family, let alone have such a wonderful friendship."

The Mentoring Program is seeking volunteers in all

areas of Calaveras County, particularly in Valley Springs and Copperopolis. People can support the program by suggesting possible mentors, helping with fundraising or getting the word out to the community.

For more information about the program, call Lackler at (209) 736-6078, or go online to calaverasmentoring.org.