

PRESS RELEASE 0405-14

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PENNIES FOR PREVENTION

For the past several years, students have collected pounds of pennies for the annual Pennies for Prevention Drive during Red Ribbon Week at Top of the World Elementary. Monies collected were donated to a local charity or school in need. Last year, at the suggestion of TOW teacher and Laguna parent, Angela Irish, the money raised during the penny drive was used to start the TOW Red Ribbon Week Scholarship Fund. The money is given to two college-bound Laguna Beach High School students who have remained drug/alcohol/and tobacco free all the way through high school. Last year's donation exceeded \$1,200.00 and this year about 400 pounds of pennies have been collected.

LBHS students applying for the scholarship write an essay stating why they have chosen to remain drug/alcohol/and tobacco free throughout high school and what this has meant to their lives. Submitted essays are read and reviewed by the LBHS Scholarship Committee. Two winners are selected from these finalists by Ron La Motte, TOW Principal and Beth Sand, Red Ribbon Week Coordinator. Recipients are selected who clearly represent the standards, goals, and ideals that TOW holds for their students. Mrs. Sand remarks about this outstanding program, "It is all of our hope that our elementary age students will see their pennies sending these wonderful seniors off to college and set similar standards for themselves. The message idealized during Red Ribbon Week for school- age children all over America is a living reality to many fine students at LBHS and we are proud to be a part of their college-bound future."

TOW Red Ribbon Scholarship recipients will have an opportunity to meet and thank their grade school benefactors when the seniors return to the school to present their winning essays during an all school assembly at the end of the school year.