

**Tulare County Office of Education
CHARACTER COUNTS! Week 2025
Weekend Feature Representatives**



Student Name: Ruben Gonzalez

School: Cutler Elementary School,
Cutler

Pillar: Caring

Nominators: Rita Marquez and Megan
Thiessen

Statement:

Nominator: Rita Marquez states: When I had to pick the pillar to characterize this student, I had a hard time deciding because Ruben Gonzalez exemplifies every pillar. I have seen Ruben in every grade level since he was in the second grade. I do not work directly with Ruben, yet in every class that I have worked in I can always count on Ruben to be an exemplary student. He is helpful, friendly, kind, caring, sympathetic, and empathetic. He demonstrates the Wildcat way daily: shows respect, makes good decisions, and solves problems. He also shows compassion to our Special Education students and is willing to help them and others students whenever he can. He always has a positive attitude. Ruben aspires to become a firefighter when he grows up and I think he has the perfect mindset to attain this goal. My favorite thing about Ruben is he always has a joke to tell and a smile on his face.

Nominator: Megan Thiessen states: Ruben consistently demonstrates a profound and selfless concern for his classmates, making him a true embodiment of this pillar.

Ruben's caring nature is evident in his daily actions. He is a diligent student who finishes his own work efficiently. However, once his assignments are complete, he immediately turns his attention to his peers. He goes out of his way to help those who are struggling, not only assisting them with their schoolwork but also using his fun and

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engaging personality to make them laugh. He understands that a positive attitude can be just as important as academic support, and he helps ensure that everyone can complete their work and participate in our end-of-the-week fun activities. This act of prioritizing his classmates' success over his own free time is a clear reflection of his generous spirit.

Beyond academics, Ruben shows great empathy and kindness on the playground. He is always looking out for others, and if he sees someone standing alone or without a friend during recess, he goes out of his way to invite them to join him. This simple yet powerful gesture ensures that no one feels left out and that everyone has a chance to feel included.

Ruben's consistent acts of kindness, both in the classroom and during recess, create a more positive and inclusive environment for everyone. His genuine compassion and readiness to help others truly make him an outstanding role model and an ideal candidate for this recognition. He doesn't seek praise or attention for his actions; he simply cares about the well-being of those around him.

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Student Name: Abraham Baltazar

School: El Monte Middle School, Orosi

Pillar: Caring

Nominator: Jayboy Camaquin

Statement:

I am honored to recommend Abraham Baltazar for the Character Counts Award for his exceptional caring heart. As a seventh grader, Abraham showed remarkable empathy and selflessness when a new student from the Philippines struggled to adjust to a new school, campus, and language.

Despite still being new himself, Abraham immediately took the student under his wing—offering reassurance, helping navigate classes, and providing emotional support during a challenging transition. His kindness went beyond friendship, demonstrating deep empathy and dedication while managing his own stresses.

Abraham's willingness to recognize and respond to his peer's needs with compassion and generosity truly embodies what it means to have a caring heart. For his initiative, selflessness, and constant commitment to inclusion, Abraham is highly deserving of this recognition.

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Student Name: Blanca Rodriguez

School: Esperanza High School, Oroquieta

Pillar: Responsibility

Nominator: Karen Stuart

Statement:

I want to recognize Blanca for her exceptional responsibility and dedication to her studies. Blanca has consistently demonstrated a strong commitment to learning by taking the initiative in her studies. Her ability to stay organized, set goals, and manage time effectively has been remarkable. Through her focused efforts, Blanca has shown that responsibility is not only about meeting deadlines but also about taking ownership of their education. Whether working through challenging assignments or seeking out additional resources to enhance understanding, she approaches every task with a mature and thoughtful mindset. I am proud of the hard work, self-discipline, and initiative Blanca has displayed, and I look forward to seeing her continued growth as a student. Her dedication to independent study not only reflects her academic strength but also her admirable character.

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Student Name: Jose Z. Rodriguez

School: Golden Valley Elementary
School, Oroquieta

Pillar: Caring

Nominator: Norma Lupa

Statement:

Jose is an incredibly caring 5th grade boy! I often see him at the playground sitting with any student who is having a rough day or is having trouble making friends. Jose sits quietly and listens and then he offers advice. We currently have a boy who is worried about his parents because they are going through a couple of difficult situations. The boy comes to school with a stomachache most days and often cries in the morning and wants to go home to be with his mom. I overheard Jose 'counseling' him last week during recess. He was giving the boy advice regarding the situation. Jose himself is going through something difficult at home with his parents, and it is very kind of him to put his troubles aside to help others. Jose has some medical issues, but he comes to school in an optimistic mood every day. I often tell Jose that we need more kids like him at Golden Valley!

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Student Name: Mya Ornelas Trujillo

School: Palm Elementary School, Oroquieta

Pillar: Caring

Nominator: David Belman

Statement:

Mya is an exemplary student who demonstrated remarkable kindness and empathy, embodying the true spirit of caring. The incident that brought her to my attention occurred on a day when another student was visibly upset and crying at their desk. While other students in the class were reacting with curiosity and judgment, Mya's immediate response was one of genuine concern. With a worried expression, she quietly approached me and, out of respect for her peer's privacy, asked if she could invite the crying student to sit at her desk, as her own partner was absent. Her actions were not only thoughtful but also demonstrated a deep level of compassion. When I later asked her about her decision, she shared that a family member has similar disabilities, allowing her a unique understanding of the challenges others face. This experience has clearly cultivated a profound sense of empathy within her. Mya's behavior was a powerful display of both kindness and maturity. She stood apart from her peers, choosing to offer a helping hand rather than joining in the judgment, and in doing so, she created a safe and comforting space for another student. For her kindness and empathy, I believe Mya is a truly deserving recipient of the Caring Award.

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Student Name: Jason Rosiles

School: Lovell High School, Orosi

Pillar: Citizenship

Nominator: Antonio Diaz

Statement:

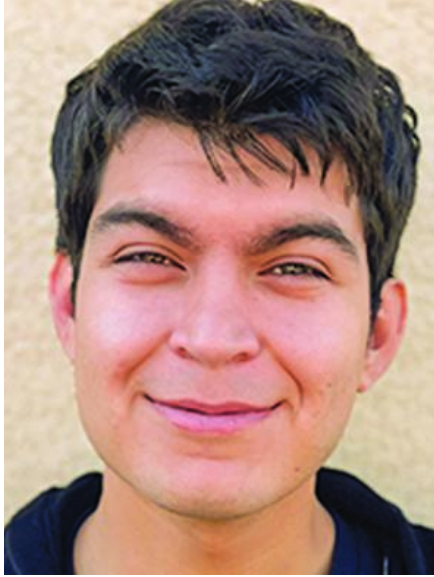
I've had the privilege of knowing Jason Rosiles for two years. When I first met him as a sophomore, he was timid, adjusting to a new school setting, but I quickly saw his strong determination to succeed and catch up on credits to return to a comprehensive high school.

At Lovell High, Jason not only focuses on improving himself but also supports those around him, taking initiative in school activities despite not being in the leadership course.

At home, Jason is the dependable youngest sibling, balancing his family responsibilities while consistently arriving at school on time—even with early mornings. Motivated by his parents' hard work in the fields, Jason is determined to break that cycle and create a brighter future for himself and his family.

His dedication, leadership, and perseverance make him a remarkable student and role model.

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Student Name: Juan Salazar Flores

School: Orosi Community Based
Instruction AcCEL Program, Orosi

Pillar: Caring

Nominator: Erin Elliott

Statement:

Juan exemplifies all pillars, but maybe CARING the most. He can relate so well to others and truly cares about everyone. He understands feelings and makes an effort to pay attention to the feelings of all the other students in the class. He notices every little thing. He came in one morning and asked if I would like to buy a key chain that he made. I asked him, "How much?" and he said, "\$7", which is the exact amount of a school lunch. I asked him if he needed money for lunch, and he said, "No, but I know a classmate would like it. Whenever I get lunch, he always asks me for my leftovers, and he always only brings the same thing from home every day." He spent what he had, material and his time, to make something in the hopes of being able to earn money to give to this other student.

I am new to this classroom this year. In the morning of the second week of school, he came in early to tell me that he thinks I am doing really well and "handling the behaviors great". We have one student who has some difficult behaviors at times, and Juan will always sit next to him to make sure he is okay. These are just some examples, but his character shines through every day. Juan will go without giving to others. Every day, he welcomes each student with a hug or high five and ends each day with the same. I have never heard him say a negative word about anyone. I can not say enough good things about him. Honestly, I think he is a better person than most "typical" people I know. I am so lucky to know him, and I wish everyone could be as blessed to know someone like him.

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Student Name: Peyton Adame

School: Orosi High School, Orosi

Pillar: Responsibility

Nominator: Juan Carlos Campos

Statement:

Peyton is a shining example of being active in her community and consistently exhibits the graduate outcome of being a productive citizen. Peyton has maintained a GPA of 3.2 or higher every semester of her high school career. She is a full participant in the color guard program at Orosi High School, and she is quickly rising up the ranks at the Sheriff Explorers program. These after-school activities require her to work hard after school. She has worked more than 70-hours of community service, including events such as Winter Wonderland, the Tulare County Fair, and the World Ag Show. Peyton works hard and keeps a positive attitude every day. Although she keeps busy and excels in all she does, she still finds time to help those in need, such as carrying heavy boxes for someone in need.

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Student Name: Amalia De La Cruz

School: Dinuba Community Based Instruction, Dinuba

Pillar: Fairness

Nominator: Krista Cisneros

Statement:

Amalia exemplifies the character trait of fairness. She tells the truth and consistently follows through on her commitments. Amalia willingly gives up her turn to give others a chance and speaks up to ensure that everyone has an equal opportunity to participate in school activities. She is reasonable and treats everyone with fairness and respect.

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Student Name: Luis Rico

School: Dinuba High School, Dinuba

Pillar: Citizenship

Nominator: Jessica Guzman

Statement:

Luis has been part of my AVID class for the past two years and has consistently demonstrated responsibility, compassion, and a strong commitment to service. He has completed over 40 hours of community service at Washington Intermediate—supporting football as a team manager, helping at Parent Night, AVID fundraisers, Robotics events, and campus beautification projects. Beyond school, he volunteered at Tulare’s Winter Wonderland and assisted with AVID student interviews.

Luis approaches every task with integrity, humility, and a genuine desire to help others. He also showed leadership by founding the Lunchtime Cinema Club, creating a safe and welcoming space for students to connect and build friendships. His actions reflect Tulare County’s values of citizenship, community, and inclusivity.

Balancing his service with a 4.0 GPA, Luis exemplifies dedication both in and out of the classroom. He is one of the kindest, most giving students I have taught—a true example of how leadership and service can strengthen a community.

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Student Name: Josue Gomez

School: Grand View Elementary
School, Dinuba

Pillar: Caring

Nominator: Ruth Hernandez

Statement:

Josue is a compassionate student who consistently goes out of his way to help his peers. He doesn't just wait to be asked; he has a big awareness for noticing when a classmate is struggling. Examples of this would be walking a classmate to the nurse when they are sick or injured or encouraging good behavior.

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Student Name: Kimberly V. De Jesus Carreto

School: Jefferson Elementary School, Dinuba

Pillar: Responsibility

Nominator: Breanna Matthies

Statement:

I am pleased to nominate Kimberly for the Pillar of Responsibility. Kimberly has consistently demonstrated exceptional integrity and a strong sense of accountability in everything she does. Kimberly consistently follows through on her commitments, whether it's completing assignments with attention to detail or stepping up to help classmates when they need assistance. She never seeks shortcuts and always takes the time to ensure that her work reflects her best effort. Even when challenges arise, Kimberly remains dedicated, showing resilience and determination to meet her responsibilities.

What truly sets Kimberly apart is her honesty and transparency. She holds herself to the highest standards and can be trusted to make decisions that are fair. Kimberly doesn't shy away from tough situations; instead, she faces them head-on, taking responsibility for her actions and setting an example for others to follow. Kimberly's unwavering sense of responsibility extends beyond academic duties. She is a reliable team member in group projects, always willing to take on her share of the work and support others in reaching their goals. She leads by example and fosters an environment of mutual respect and trust, encouraging her peers to do the same.

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Student Name: Valeria Mendoza

School: John F. Kennedy Elementary
School, Dinuba

Pillar: Respect

Nominator: RubyAnn Alvarado

Statement:

Valeria has shown outstanding responsibility. She consistently comes to class prepared with her materials and assignments completed on time. She takes ownership of her learning by staying focused, asking thoughtful questions, and making sure she gives her best effort in everything she does. Valeria also demonstrates responsibility beyond academics—she helps keep the classroom organized, reminds her classmates of expectations, and is trusted with important tasks because she follows through reliably. Her actions show that she can be counted on to make good choices and serve as a positive role model for her peers.

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Student Name: Karielle A. Camaquin

School: Lincoln Elementary School,
Dinuba

Pillar: Responsibility

Nominator: Jayboy Camaquin

Statement:

Karielle is a top student in the fifth grade who always works hard to do the right thing, whether she is at school or at home. Responsibility is the most important part of Karielle's personality. We see this trait clearly in her school performance. Her teachers report that she is a perfect example of an accountable student. She always finishes her assignments on time. More importantly, she shows she really owns her learning. When she has hard projects, she plans very well. This planning helps her manage her time efficiently, and she delivers excellent, high-quality work without needing reminders from us or her teacher. What is truly special is watching her use her strong work habits every day at home. She handles all her domestic responsibilities and chores (like cleaning her room or helping around the house) very carefully. She follows a clear schedule, which allows her to balance her housework and her schoolwork perfectly. She takes on these tasks without hesitation or needing reminders, and we never have to ask her twice. She sees her duties as chances to contribute and feels pride in everything she does. For a fifth grader, this ability to manage herself, be organized, and be so efficient is highly impressive and rare. Karielle consistently shows high standards of reliability, self-discipline, and proactive engagement. She is a dedicated and organized young person who understands how important it is to follow through and take ownership of her commitments. For all these reasons—her consistent efficiency, her strong commitment to meeting all obligations with pride, and her capacity for taking initiative—Karielle truly deserves this important recognition. She perfectly represents what responsibility means.

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Student Name: Abdrahman Ali

School: Ronald Reagan Academy,
Dinuba

Pillar: Responsibility

Nominator: Terry McReynolds

Statement:

Abraham Ali is a responsible, hard-working student. He works beyond the level of expectations set aside for him. For example, he earns 4 to 5 credits a week instead of the normal 2 credits a week assigned in class. As of today, he has earned all "A's" on his report card. Abraham is currently working in his family business- a chain of grocery stores. He is currently responsible for check cashing, accounts receivable, and accounts payable. Abraham has a sense of capability and competence, belief in control over one's success, self-reliance, ability to plan and problem solve. While I communicate with him, I often notice his ability to pause and think before responding. He demonstrates self-respect and respect for others. He is a positive example of our model student R.A.P. (Respect, Accountability, Perseverance).

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Student Name: Adelyn R. Popp

School: Roosevelt Elementary School,
Dinuba

Pillar: Caring

Nominator: Rosa Popp

Statement:

Adelyn Popp is a student who shows care and kindness in everything she does. As her teacher, I see every day how she treats those around her with compassion and patience and a genuine heart. She listens carefully when others speak and is thoughtful in the way she communicates. She looks for ways to make those around her feel supported and valued. One of the many ways Adelyn shows her caring nature is through how she helps others without being asked. She checks in on our newcomer student who is learning English as soon as she finishes her own work. She offers patient support and encouragement in a way that makes him feel included and confident. She is incredibly kind to our special friend in class and shows patience and understanding that come naturally to her. Adelyn notices what others might need and quietly steps in to help. She is thinking of others before herself. Her caring heart is also seen in the small everyday actions that make a big difference. She stacks chairs for classmates and grabs backpacks at the end of the day if she sees someone is still plugging in their computer. She looks for opportunities to make things easier for her peers and these thoughtful actions never go unnoticed. Adelyn shows care for her own learning by putting forth her best effort and taking pride in her work. Her positive attitude helps create a classroom where everyone feels safe and supported. As both her teacher and her mom I could not be prouder of the person she is becoming. Adelyn is a true example of what it means to lead with heart. Her kindness and compassion make a difference every single day and she reminds us how powerful it is to care deeply for others.

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Student Name: Andy Lopez

School: Sierra Vista High School,
Dinuba

Pillar: Trustworthiness

Nominators: Celia Garcia and Anabel
Reveles, Amy Coats, Damaris Valdez,
and Vanessa Villegas

Statement:

Nominator: Celia Garcia states: Andy Lopez has demonstrated respect towards one another and has shown empathy. She is also part of the student council where she shares and expresses her opinions. She is very kind, outgoing, and always ready to learn. Andy is known for her character and passion towards helping other students and also helping staff with extra activities. May her passion continue to grow.

Nominator: Anabel Reveles states: Andy consistently demonstrates outstanding citizenship both in and out of the classroom. She leads by example through her positivity, integrity, and willingness to help others. Whether assisting peers, supporting younger students in the ELOP program, or volunteering at community events, Andy embodies the values of kindness and service.

She goes above and beyond in every activity—helping set up the school pantry, creating decorations for senior events, serving on the school site council, and volunteering at the Dinuba Health Care facility. Her participation in school fundraisers, including annual pizza sales at the park, further reflects her dedication to community.

In addition to her strong academics, Andy stands out for her compassion, dependability, and maturity. She treats everyone with respect and strives to make her environment welcoming for all. Andy Paola Lopez truly exemplifies responsibility, caring, and good citizenship.

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Nominator: Amy Coats states: It is with great pride that I nominate Andy Lopez for recognition in the area of Trustworthiness. Andy is an exceptional student who models what it means to be someone others can depend on. She has earned the trust of her teachers, staff, and peers through her consistent integrity, reliability, and willingness to go above and beyond.

Andy takes her responsibilities seriously, completing assignments on time and with care. She often stays after school to check if teachers or staff need assistance, and she readily volunteers her time to support projects and extracurricular activities. What stands out most about Andy is her eagerness to help others and her openness to learning new skills in order to be of service.

Her dedication and character make her a role model for her peers and a true asset to our school community. Andy Lopez not only exemplifies trustworthiness, but she also inspires others to follow her example.

Nominator: Damaris Valdez states: Andy Lopez has not only shown exemplary citizenship by being supportive to her family and community, but also throughout her attendance at Sierra Vista for her junior and senior year. At such a young age she has experienced the loss of her father and with great responsibility and care she helps her family financially by working weekends in a catering business. She carries herself with great pride knowing she is helpful and caring just the way that her dad taught her. She proudly shares she has great satisfaction being of help and providing service to others. She is eager to sign up year round to volunteer for Senior Center visits and child development classes where she is able to share her care and compassion with the elderly and youth.

Nominator: Vanessa Villegas states: Andy is an amazing leader and role model on campus. She goes over and beyond to help our school and the community. For every event held on our campus, another campus within the district or the community, she is helping organize and volunteer for the event. These events include food distribution, visits to the Dinuba Healthcare convalescent home, SVHS pizza sales, senior sunrise and many more. She is also a part of our Student Voice Group, which helps make changes and improvements on our campus. Andy is involved in everything and brings a positive attitude at all times. She makes an impact on our school, community, and I have no doubt she will continue to do so in the future.

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Student Name: Ranfery Solorzano
Ferreyra

School: Washington Intermediate
School, Dinuba

Pillar: Responsibility

Nominator: Kelly Graves

Statement:

Ranfery is an exceptional young man whose responsibility, diligence, and compassion make him a model student and citizen. From the first day of school, his preparedness and focus revealed a maturity beyond his years. He embodies trustworthiness, respect, fairness, caring, and citizenship—qualities that guide both his actions and attitude.

A “straight-A” student and English Language Learner, Ranfery approaches every assignment with care and commitment, consistently producing thoughtful, high-quality work. His dedication reflects not just academic ability, but discipline and a deep respect for learning.

This same responsibility extends beyond school. At home and in his community, Ranfery demonstrates reliability, respect, and integrity. He is a quiet leader whose actions inspire his peers, showing that true success comes from hard work and a strong sense of duty.

In every way, Ranfery represents the best of our school’s values—responsibility, perseverance, and kindness. He is not only an outstanding student but a remarkable person and role model for others.

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Student Name: Robyn Valdivia

School: Wilson Elementary School,
Dinuba

Pillar: Fairness

Nominator: Michelle Cruz

Statement:

A shining 5th grade student who shows compassion and fairness to all is Robyn Valdivia. Robyn is an amazing Wilson Warrior who never strays from serving her peers and striving to include others in all that she does. Robyn was nominated to serve on our Wilson Buddies counselor to assist students with peer conflict resolution.

Robyn understands the importance of inclusion with all students and will often volunteer to work with students who may not have a partner or aren't asked by others to partner with. She sees the need of students who struggle with peer engagement and jumps into action to support others.

Robyn is a young lady who goes above and beyond to be fair to others. She is a role model not only to her 5th grade peers, but also to our young Warriors in our primary classrooms. Her willingness to put herself out there as a trusted student and supporter of ALL students is inspiring.

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Student Name: Jackson Cairns

School: Eleanor Roosevelt Community Learning Center, Visalia

Pillar: Responsibility

Nominator: Ellen Brown

Statement:

In the classroom, Jackson stands out as a student with strong character. He has exhibited responsibility in class by always doing what he is supposed to do. Whether the assignment requires writing, sharing out, research, or creativity, Jackson is the first one to begin, always exceeds the expectations, and stays focused. Recently, the class has been working on research and poster projects. Jackson thoroughly researched his chosen topic, asked questions about credible sources, and was focused while creatively organizing his poster. Not only is he always on task, but he is kind and caring towards the people around him. Jackson is helpful, mature, and respectful in the learning environment to both his teachers and classmates. He is clearly invested in learning and I look forward to seeing him grow over the course of this school year!

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Student Name: Karen Jarquin

School: Kings River Union School,
Kingsburg

Pillar: Caring

Nominator: Briana Nino

Statement:

Karen deserves the Caring Award for her outstanding contributions to the classroom environment since day one. She consistently demonstrates a willingness to not only give her best effort but also to assist her classmates in understanding their tasks, especially when language barriers or learning struggles arise. Karen has taken on the role of a supportive peer, ensuring that everyone knows what to do. She is respectful to all individuals on campus, whether they are adults or fellow students. Moreover, she is always the first to pick up trash, showing her commitment to maintaining a clean environment, regardless of whether it belongs to her or not. Her actions truly exemplify what it means to care for others, making her deserving of this recognition.

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Student Name: Gael Gonzalez

School: Monson-Sultana Joint Union
School, Sultana

Pillar: Citizenship

Nominator: Kristyn Wagenleitner

Statement:

Gael is one of those rare students who leaves a lasting impression long after the school day ends. He is the first to offer a helping hand, the one who notices when someone feels left out, and the student I can always count on to set the best example for others. His kindness is genuine, he goes out of his way to make every classmate feel valued and included.

What makes Gael so special is that his character shines not only in school, but also at home. His family shares how he eagerly helps his father all day, showing the same responsibility, respect, and compassion that we see in the classroom. He doesn't just follow directions, he listens deeply, learns with purpose, and gives his very best in everything he does. Gael never settles for "good enough." He pushes himself to dream big, to reach higher, and to inspire others to do the same.

Students like Gael are unforgettable. He is the kind of young person who reminds you why teaching matters, because you know he will carry these qualities of integrity, kindness, and perseverance with him wherever he goes. Gael doesn't just represent the six pillars of character, he lives them. He is truly deserving of this recognition.

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Student Name: Jimena Trejo

School: Stone Corral School, Visalia

Pillar: Caring

Nominator: Diana Ward

Statement:

It is my honor and pleasure to nominate Jimena Trejo in second grade for the character trait of Caring. Jimena shows a caring heart everyday by making sure her Spanish speaking classmate who is new to this country and learning English, is not left behind. She simultaneously translates what the teacher is teaching. This caring act is admirable. Jimena also spreads her kindness by helping other classmates in need; offering a helping hand, a smile, and giving these students positive words of encouragement. Her compassion and thoughtfulness makes her classroom a more welcoming and happy place for everyone. Jimena is the ideal role model for the Caring Character Pillar. Thank you Jimena for reminding me how powerful caring can be!

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Student Name: Adeline Thiel

School: Three Rivers Union School,
Three Rivers

Pillar: Caring

Nominator: Mrs. Beck

Statement:

It is difficult to choose just one trait for Adeline “Addie”, as she truly demonstrates them all. However, I am nominating her for Caring. Addie is an exceptional student who consistently excels in everything she does, yet she never focuses only on herself. She is a quiet leader in the classroom, modeling kindness and compassion through her daily actions.

Addie goes out of her way to support classmates, especially those who may struggle. She sits beside one student every day, offering encouragement and patiently guiding her through assignments. When that student feels upset or overwhelmed, Addie takes the time to comfort her and help her regain confidence. Addie’s actions show that she deeply values the well-being of others. She doesn’t just care about her own success—she cares about lifting up those around her. I am honored to nominate Addie for this Character Counts Award.

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Student Name: Christian Lopez

School: Traver Joint School, Traver

Pillar: Caring

Nominator: Elizabeth Rodriguez

Statement:

Christian has displayed a caring heart at Traver School. He's consistently coming into class with a smile, and gives a compliment to not only his teacher but to his peers as well. He's always willing to lend a helping hand to his classmates and helps them with their math work and offers support in any way possible. Before he walks out of my classroom he makes sure to say, "Have a great day!" On campus Christian is often seen "doing the right thing". If Christian sees something that isn't quite right, he speaks up and tells an adult. He is a great young man who displays all of the pillars, but has definitely shown everyone he cares about his peers, teachers and Traver School.

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Student Name: Lily Gonzalez

School: Elbow Creek Elementary
School, Visalia

Pillar: Caring

Nominator: Hannah Rufert

Statement:

It is my pleasure to nominate Lily Gonzalez for recognition under the Character Counts Pillar of Caring. Lily consistently demonstrates what it means to have a caring heart, both inside and outside of the classroom.

In class, Lily works hard to complete her assignments and is always willing to lend a helping hand to her classmates. She shows empathy, kindness, and respect to everyone she interacts with. Her positive attitude helps create a supportive and welcoming environment in our 3rd-grade classroom.

Lily is also very involved in her school community and displays excellent leadership skills that her peers look up to. She sets a wonderful example for others. Outside of school, Lily is actively involved in dance and sports and participates as a young actor in local plays. Through these activities, she continues to model teamwork, dedication, and compassion while inspiring others with her creativity and leadership. For these reasons, I am proud to nominate Lily for recognition in the Character Counts Pillar of Caring. She truly exemplifies the caring qualities we value and encourage in our students.

**Tulare County Office of Education
CHARACTER COUNTS! Week 2025
Weekend Feature Representatives**



Student Name: Cara Xaivong

School: Goshen Elementary School,
Visalia

Pillar: Trustworthiness

Nominator: Ana Bagley

Statement:

Cara is a student that I can always trust to be doing the right thing even when no one is looking. When I am scanning the room after giving directions, she never has to be told more than once. In her group she is the first one to be ready with a task and then she checks with others to gently remind them or see if they need help. I can always trust that she will be on task and on topic. So if she is talking to another classmate it is related to academics or classwork. Cara is a great model student to her peers when it comes to many pillars but especially trustworthiness.

**Tulare County Office of Education
CHARACTER COUNTS! Week 2025
Weekend Feature Representatives**



Student Name: Yaretzi Sanchez
Amador

School: Ivanhoe Elementary School,
Ivanhoe

Pillar: Caring

Nominator: Francisca Vega Hernandez

Statement:

Yaretzi Sanchez is an amazing student that is very caring. She is very kind to her classmates in class, outside of class, and she is so helpful to myself in the classroom. I can count on her to always be on task at all times. When I have had rough days with behavior in class, she tells me that I am an amazing teacher and that the reason she comes to school is because of me. She makes my day better and helps me realize that I am making a difference. She has a smile on her face every day and she spreads kindness across Ivanhoe Elementary every day. I am so glad to be her teacher. Keep spreading kindness everywhere you go!

**Tulare County Office of Education
CHARACTER COUNTS! Week 2025
Weekend Feature Representatives**



Student Name: Henley Montano

School: Castle Rock Elementary
School, Woodlake

Pillar: Trustworthiness

Nominator: Leanna Rodriguez

Statement:

Henley is a 5th grade student who always shows trustworthiness in class. She is honest with her teacher and classmates, even when she makes a mistake. Henley tells the truth, takes responsibility for her actions, and works hard to do the right thing. She also keeps her promises — if she says she will help a classmate or finish a group project, she always follows through. Because of her honesty and reliability, everyone in class knows they can count on her.

**Tulare County Office of Education
CHARACTER COUNTS! Week 2025
Weekend Feature Representatives**



Student Name: Lexi Rubio

School: Francis J. White Learning
Center, Woodlake

Pillar: Respect

Nominator: Edward Vidal and Daniel
Salazar

Statement:

Nominator: Edward Vidal states: Lexi is one of the most respectful students on campus. She treats all students with fairness and you can depend on her to be there to help others when in need. She has been a wonderful help at the playground, classrooms, and with many of our students with special needs. You can always depend on Lexi to include others, help them when in need, and treat everyone as if they are family.

Nominator: Daniel Salazar states: Lexi was a student in my first-grade class last year, and she consistently demonstrated what it means to be a person of strong character. I am honored to nominate her as a Kid of Character for the trait of respect.

Lexi treated everyone—classmates and adults alike—with kindness and consideration. She consistently used polite and respectful language and spoke with a calm, peaceful tone. She showed respect not only through her words but also through her actions, setting a positive example for others to follow.

Lexi demonstrated respect by valuing her peers, listening to others, and following classroom rules. She truly embodied what it means to treat others the way you would like to be treated. I am confident that Lexi will continue to be a model of respect and an inspiration to her peers.

**Tulare County Office of Education
CHARACTER COUNTS! Week 2025
Weekend Feature Representatives**



Student Name: Kevin Hart Martinez

School: Woodlake AcCEL Program,
Woodlake

Pillar: Responsibility

Nominator: Denise Gomez

Statement:

Kevin Hart Martinez is a great example of a Character Counts student. Not only is he an outstanding responsible student but also has all of the qualities of the six pillars. In the classroom, Kevin goes straight to working on his work. Kevin knows the classroom schedule and is ready to transition to the next activity. When it is time to clean up a preferred activity, Kevin immediately starts to clean up and will help his classmates clean up. Kevin always arrives with a smile off the bus and greets his teachers.

**Tulare County Office of Education
CHARACTER COUNTS! Week 2025
Weekend Feature Representatives**



Student Name: Aldo Rodriguez

School: Woodlake High School,
Woodlake

Pillar: Fairness

Nominator: Manuel Martinez

Statement:

Aldo is respected throughout his school, community, and other schools/teams. Aldo works hard for what he has accomplished in his young life. He knows that it takes hard work and dedication to get what he wants, and that things don't come easy and are not handed to him. Aldo is a three sport athlete and is the greatest example to others because of his great attitude and great work ethic in all that he does. He is one that understands the rules and regulations and abides by them, and also encourages others to help them succeed. Aldo is a leader on and off the field and always makes sure that those around him are also succeeding.

**Tulare County Office of Education
CHARACTER COUNTS! Week 2025
Weekend Feature Representatives**



Student Name: Tathiana Tovar

School: Woodlake Valley Middle School, Woodlake

Pillar: Citizenship

Nominator: Jenn Gowett

Statement:

Tathiana is always modeling outstanding citizenship. She shows up ready to go with a smile on her face, and she is always offering to help other students and myself. She is the first to volunteer to meet a need and she is always ready to help support a friend. She gives her best and brings a positive vibe to the classroom. She also is willing to put herself out there and try new things. She recently joined color guard and I'm so excited to go watch her energy light up the field! The spaces she is in are made better when she is in them.

**Tulare County Office of Education
CHARACTER COUNTS! Week 2025
Weekend Feature Representatives**



Student Name: David Meraz

School: AcCel Yettem Learning Center,
Yettem

Pillar: Responsibility

Nominator: Debbie Michaelian

Statement:

David Meraz is an exceptional young man who is determined to achieve his personal best. He demonstrates the Character Counts Pillar of Responsibility by taking ownership in his academics. He demonstrates perseverance and has diligently worked to exercise self-discipline when asked to complete non-preferred tasks. David responsibly engages in all activities with a cheerful demeanor and willingness to learn!