

La Jolla Light, 1/18/2017

# La Jolla News Nuggets, Jan. 19



At its November meeting, Kiwanis Club of La Jolla presents Mason Matalon (center) with a grant to build a home through Project Mercy for a family in need in Tijuana. (Courtesy)

## **Light Staff**

## **Teen gets Kiwanis grant to build home for needy in Tijuana**

Mason Matalon, a member of the La Jolla Chapter of the National League of Young Men (NLYM), was awarded a \$5,000 grant from the La Jolla Kiwanis

Club to help build a home in Tijuana, Mexico through Project Mercy. Matalon applied for the grant and shepherded it through the Kiwanis Club process to earn the funds.

“We are very proud of the work our young men do on behalf of this organization,” said League president Alice Mo. “Mason, in particular, has shown great initiative in earning this money for the second year in a row.”

In 2015 Matalon also won the Kiwanis Club grant on behalf of NLYM, which sent 11 young men and their parents to Tijuana for the philanthropy’s first experience with home building. “I am so excited to be part of such a great experience again,” said Matalon, a junior at La Jolla High School. “Last year’s build gave us insight into another way of life that made an impact on us all.”

NLYM was founded in May 2014 to provide teens an opportunity to serve their community while gaining leadership skills, along with protocol knowledge and cultural experiences. The program is open to young men and their mothers who reside in or attend school in the La Jolla ZIP code 92037. Membership requires at least 10 hours of service, as well as attendance at cultural events and meetings. For more details, visit [nlymlajolla.org](http://nlymlajolla.org)