

It's pretty rooted in community service. It gives me a good feeling afterward. I'm doing something right."

Austin Stannius

17-year-old senior at Christian Brothers High School



Sacramento Bee/Anne Chadwick Williams

Above, Anne Winslow, 15, a junior at Christian Brothers High School, picks up garbage during a cleanup in Oak Park on Saturday. Below, Christian Brothers students remove trash from an Oak Park sidewalk along Broadway. The cleanup effort also involved Job Corps workers, police and firefighters.

## COMMUNITY CARE

Students and other volunteers clean up trash in Oak Park in the spirit of service

By Ralph Montaña  
BEE STAFF WRITER

Austin Stannius has an eye for details. As the 17-year-old senior at Christian Brothers High School patrolled the streets of Oak Park with a garbage bag in one hand and a grabbing fork in the other, cigarette butts and swizzle straws were not small enough to escape his attention.

"I'm pretty rooted in community service," said Stannius, who hummed and sang to himself as he worked. "It gives me a good feeling afterward. I'm doing something right."

He said he believed in his school and in the community of Oak Park. That spirit was what brought him and 32 classmates out early Saturday morning for street-cleaning duty.

Bobby Fresques, a teacher at the



school, said the students were not there for community service credit.

"They're here because they want to be," Fresques said. The cleanup is a long-standing annual

event and part of a continuing partnership the school has with the community.

This year, Christian Brothers students had some help in their efforts. They were joined by more

than a dozen young adults from Sacramento's Job Corps and representatives from the Oak Park Business Association.

"We're thankful there are some young people today interested in community service," said Richard Greene, business manager of the association. He said the event also marked the beginning of an association-sponsored program that will send a crew into the community daily to pick up garbage.

The program, funded by the Property Based Improvement District, will also bring more trash cans to the neighborhood at bus stops, Greene said.

"We are working together," Greene said. "Oak Park didn't deteriorate overnight, and it won't be fixed overnight either, but we have come a long way."

► CLEAN, back page, G6



## Clean: Some see signs of area's change for better

► FROM PAGE G1

Stephanie DeBenedetti-Emanuel, a service learning coordinator, said students have long been active in the community, a partnership that stretches beyond public service.

For example, in November, the school's students will perform a play based upon Agatha Christie's "The Hollow" at The Guild Theater at 2828 35th St.

For Christian Brothers student and Oak Park resident Chayla McDavid, 16, there have been recent hopeful signs of positive change in her neighborhood. "A lot of buildings and houses are getting redone and fixed up," she said.

The students made their way down Broadway, passing the Brickhouse Gallery at 36th Street where owner Dave Davis was cleaning the sidewalk in front of his artist studio.

"This is just what the neighborhood needs," Davis said.

Times have been tough for his and other businesses along the street, Davis said. "But I think people are actually starting to see the light at the end of the tunnel and believe that it's not a train, but actually the end of the tunnel."

■ ■ ■

*The Bee's Ralph Montaño can be reached at (916) 321-1159 or [rmontano@sacbee.com](mailto:rmontano@sacbee.com).*