

Serve to Skate

92024 SKATEBOARD GROUP INSPIRES GIRLS TO SERVE OTHERS

photos by Christin Rose and Nina Siebert

The Encinitas-based all-girls community program Skate Rising, part of local nonprofit EXPOSURE, is making a difference for others in North County. Skate Rising uses skateboarding as a conduit to teach confidence, creativity, and perseverance, and gives participating girls the opportunity to serve the needs of people and other worthwhile community causes. Program Director Calli Kelsay witnessed positive changes in her own daughters when they started skateboarding, and wanted to bring these important life lessons to a broader group. "I truly want them to grow up with an appreciation for what they have and also feel a responsibility to lighten the load of



others who may not be so fortunate," Calli said. "I don't ever want them to shy away from an opportunity to help somebody else."

EXPOSURE hosts the world's largest women's skateboarding competition each year at the same park where Skate Rising sessions are held. This year's competition will be on Nov. 5, drawing 100 competitors and over 5,000 spectators. All proceeds

from the event will be donated to victims of domestic violence.

Skate Rising is free and open to girls in Encinitas and surrounding areas between the ages of five and 18. At each event the participating girls learn about real world social issues and then take part in a related service project. After doing their part to give back, the girls have the opportunity to take part in a free skate clinic. The group meets on the second Saturday of each month at 9 a.m. at the Encinitas Community Skate Park. Discover more at www.exposureskate.org. ■