

# Our Community

Elfrida Schragen with some of the youth portraits being displayed at Hillside shopping centre. The portraits are being auctioned off to raise money for Our Place. DARREN STONE, TIMES COLONIST

## Young leaders join art event to help Our Place



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Our Place Society has joined with artist Elfrida Schragen to recognize some of the region's most remarkable young people.

The Admired Youth exhibit has been set up in the Hillside shopping centre, next to B.C. Shaver & Hobbies, with portraits created by Schragen of 28 people ages 18 to 29. All have made contributions to their communities by improving life for others.

"There are so many impressive youth in our region," said Our Place executive director Julian Daly. "And this is just one small way for us to shine a spotlight on their work."

Steven Seltzer, manager of special events and corporate giving for Our Place, praised "the vision and accomplishments" of Schragen's subjects.

Among those featured by Schragen are

Chanel Mandap, Eleonora Stoynova and Hannah Estabrook.

Mandap is one of the original members of Voices in Motion, an intergenerational choir that focuses on people with dementia. She also created Wise & Well VIC for people who are stressed or alone with an aim to bring adults of all ages together online.

Stoynova takes part in restoration work on Mount Tolmie, and volunteers with Island Health and Victoria's Bulgarian community.

She teaches Bulgarian youth about the history of the country and also teaches Bulgarian folk dancing.

Estabrook helped co-ordinate Community Cabbage, an initiative to redirect food from the waste stream for meals, and is a member of the Youth Food Justice

Group. She is also part of starting a community garden in her neighbourhood and leads youth programs with the Compost Education Centre.

An online auction for the portraits began June 1. The public can purchase them for \$1,000 each, or make a smaller donation to the portrait or portraits that most speak to them.

Funds raised will support the Victoria Our Place Society, which supports some of the region's most vulnerable people, including people struggling with homelessness, mental health challenges, substance use issues, the working poor, and impoverished elderly.

• The portraits can be seen at Hillside Shopping Centre or online at [hibid.ca/events/portraits-of-caring](http://hibid.ca/events/portraits-of-caring).