

# Youth Focus Alumni in Action

**Kristen (Burke) Scott's** Youth Focus career began when she was 4, performing in California State Talent competitions. She continued to compete through her teen years. She was Miss Winter Festival in 1988 and Miss Santa Clara County in 1989. Kristen attributes much of what she has accomplished from what she learned during her days with Youth Focus. Today she is the owner and confectionarie for Artisan Candies where she and her husband Dean create amazing candies in their manufacturing kitchen in San Jose, CA. She is also the owner of Magickal Entertainment, a high quality entertainment and creative service provider, including face painting and other entertainment services. Kristen has been painting faces and entertaining the public since 1984. She has a Bachelors degree in Illustration from San Jose State University and has performed in amateur and professional theatre and dance shows for most of her life.

**Danny Lansford** is a Youth Focus Board Member, where his background in business and communications is a tremendous asset. He came into the program through the Salute To Youth Program where he was the Manteca City Ambassador in 1995 and California State Ambassador in 1996. For the past two years he has been the Producer of the California State Program. Danny works for Apple, where he oversees the operational setup for new store openings and remodels globally. He attended California Lutheran University majoring in Communications.

**Brittany (McKenzie) Lansford** graduated from UC Davis with degrees in Mathematics and Education, including a Masters Degree. She has been involved with Youth Focus through the Ambassador program. She was Miss Teen El Dorado County, Miss Eldorado County and Miss California State. Currently Brittany teaches math at Leland High School in Almaden Valley and serves on the Youth Focus Board of Directors.

**Kimberly Faraday** came into the Youth Focus program through her work with 4H. Among other things, Kimberly was the recipient of the National Junior Award for the Daughters of the American Revolution and a National 4-H Advisor. She recently received her Masters Degree from San Jose State. Today she is Special Projects Program Manager for Santa Clara County and Protocol Director, Santa Clara County. She is a member of the Board of Directors for Youth Focus.

**Ruth Cormier** became part of Youth Focus in 2011 when she was selected as the Youth Hall Of Fame/Salute to Youth Ambassador. In 2012 she was Miss Santa Clara County and later became Miss California State. She has an extensive community service background through her work with our armed forces. She created an organization called "Kards 4 Soldiers" and to date is responsible for making and delivering over 150,000 cards. She has been made an honorary member of Gold star moms, Blue star moms, and Patriot Guard Riders (veterans who honor fallen soldiers). She was Los Gatos Youth Citizen of the Year in 2011. She has received 6 Congressional Awards and received the Lifetime Presidential volunteer award. Ruth received a \$48,000 Scholarship from the Buick Motor Division for Community Service and will transfer to San Jose State this fall.

**Colette O'Bannion** participated in many competitions as part of the California State Talent Competition, a Youth Focus Program. In addition she was Ambassadors of Long Beach/Long Beach's Young Woman of Achievement 2001, San Jose's/Silicon Valley's Young Woman of Achievement 1998, and Ambassadors of the California State Talent Competition 1996. Her education is extensive, including: B.A. Speech Communication, California State University, Long Beach; M.A. Education, Honors, Santa Clara University; Ph.D. Education, Chapman University. Colette is a Member of Kappa Delta Pi, an international honor society in education. She was also a Lead Trainer and Facilitator with the Youth Education Series at the Disneyland Resort. Today, Colette teaches 4<sup>th</sup> graders at Monticello Academy in Santa Clara.