

their own and built the man a 1100-square-foot addition. "When it was over, we wanted to do it again," Haynes says, "and again and again." In 2008, they started Warrior's Wish Foundation, an organization that fulfills the dreams of veterans with terminal and life-limiting illnesses. It has granted 100 wishes since then, including sending veterans and their families to Disneyland.

One recipient was David Griffin, 26, a father

of three who served in Iraq and was diagnosed with leukemia in January. "I thought it would be great if he could take the kids to Disneyland and make some fun memories with them," says his wife, Christine. "My husband told me, 'Honey, don't ask for a wish. I don't need anyone to pay me back; I was just doing my duty.' But I answered, 'It's not about paying you back. It's about saying thank you.'"

BRIDGING THE GENERATIONS

Group: Sketches of a Memory, Union City, Calif.

Award: \$50,000

In 2008, Janet Ballelos, then 23, suffered a stroke and had to drop out of law school. While recovering at a nursing home run by her brother in Union City, Calif., she observed that the residents had lots of stories to tell—but no one to listen. At the same time, she says, "I noticed that a lot of young people aren't blessed to have grandparents in their lives." So she started Sketches of a Memory, which arranges for



"I want kids to have the feeling of being complete I got from my grandparents," says founder Janet Ballelos

seniors to meet regularly with local teenagers and share their recollections with them. Both groups are benefiting from the exchange. Seventeen-

year-olds Audrey Miciano and Marissa Phelan now love the woman they call "Grandma Aurora" (all three, above). While their month-long program has ended, their meetings have continued. "She's so resilient," Miciano says. "She was in the hospital twice last month, but still she always smiles."



"Character is better than talent" is our motto," says volunteer Mesheka Carson

DANCING TO SUCCESS

Group: KIDDS Dance Project, Lithonia, Ga.
Award: \$50,000

Fifteen years ago, Pat Martin, a founder and executive director of KIDDS Dance Project, bought tutus for the girls at the home day care she ran. "They'd say, 'Miss Pat, if I eat my vegetables, can I put on the tutu?' I realized—that's some power!" Although she has no formal training, Martin, 54, choreographed routines for her charges, who performed at a local church. More kids joined—boys, too—and she realized that dance could inspire them to succeed in their lives.

Says Mesheka Carson, 23, who has performed

with the group since age 8 and is now a volunteer: "Many kids don't have someplace to go after school to get away from the pressure to do drugs or have sex. KIDDS Dance is that place." With a computer lab and ballet, karate, acting, and recording studios opening in January, Martin wants to show students that their future is full of possibilities. Next on her wish list: Bringing KIDDS Dance to Broadway. "I just know it will work!" she declares. Spoken like a true dreamer.

YOU CAN STILL VOTE!
Help select the final batch of winners at refresheverything.com.

DOING GOOD FOR FOOD

Group: SHARE Program, Inc., Philadelphia, Pa.
Award: \$25,000

"If you eat, you qualify." That's the principle behind SHARE—Self-Help and Resource Exchange. In return for performing two hours of community service each month—from helping at its headquarters and in schools to running errands for seniors—people can buy groceries from SHARE for 50% less than they'd pay at a store. At the group's Philadelphia location, this may include fresh produce from its small city farm. Started in 1986, SHARE now has around 20,000 participants each month,

about 20% of whom receive government assistance. "Our clients

come from all walks of life," executive director Steveanna Wynn says. "When we're sorting potatoes, you can't tell who works for a big corporation and who is homeless." The food-for-service model works because "everyone is

valuable. We all have something we can contribute."

"Our program shows we're all part of the larger solution," says executive director Steveanna Wynn



PHOTOS BY PAT MARTIN (KIDDS DANCERS), ZACHARY DECASTRO PHOTOGRAPHY (SKETCHES OF A MEMORY), AND ANDREW KAHL/WONDERFUL MACHINE FOR PARADE (SHARE PROGRAM)