

# 'THE TWO-DOLLAR-BILL LADY'

**Special delivery:** Carlsbad philanthropist has been mailing \$2 bills to locals since 2007

By Zack Ponce

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**CARLSBAD »** While an anonymous millionaire has made national news for stashing money around San Francisco, Carlsbad has its own version of a philanthropist.

Known around town as the "\$2 bill lady," 85-year-old Ann Halford has an interesting way of rewarding success and achievements; and last month was presented with a Character Counts award from the school district for supporting the city's youth.

Halford reads the Current-Argus each morning and whenever she stumbles upon a story of a child who has either accomplished something great or struggled through hardship, Halford sends a brand new \$2 bill in laminate with a message.

"I think it's really important to encourage these kids," Halford said.

Each bill Halford gives away has three notes marked with a black permanent marker on the front of the lamination. "You are special," is written in the center of the \$2 bill, while a smiley face stares back on the right end of the bill.

Halford, who grew up in Belen and lived in Truth or Consequences before moving to Carlsbad, sent her first \$2 bill in 2007.

The lucky recipient was a deaf boy named Dalton. Halford had interpreted for Dalton at his great grandmother's funeral and later helped teach him how to use sign language to communicate.

"I still keep in contact with his grandmother and she tells me about him, and sometimes I write to him," Halford said of Dalton, who now lives in Austin, Texas. "It really is a fun thing to do."

Halford received a thank you card from Dalton on Sept. 2, 2007 and saved it as a way to remember him. Seven years and hundreds of



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Ann Halford, known as the "\$2 bill lady," has used her unique method to help encourage Carlsbad's youth.

## Dollar

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of gratitude cards later, Halford has filled three scrapbooks with cards and photos of children and teenagers thanking Halford for the inspirational \$2 bill.

Halford has no idea how many \$2 bills she has given away. She has recently purchased 300 additional \$2 bills

and the laminated sleeves to protect the money and said that despite the large amount, she expects the bills to "go fast."

Sometimes kind acts go unnoticed, and other times they attract the rare \$2 bill.

"It's amazing how many wonderful kids we have in this town, I am so impressed," Halford said.

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