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Visit Birmingham Youth Assistance at  
[www.BirminghamYouthAssistance.org](http://www.BirminghamYouthAssistance.org), Facebook and Instagram



# 13th Annual Celebration of Youth in Service

Sponsored by  
Birmingham Youth Assistance  
and  
The Birmingham Optimist Club

April 24, 2024  
Wylie E. Groves High School





## Birmingham Youth Assistance

Oakland County Youth Assistance (OCYA) has been dedicated to the prevention of juvenile delinquency, child abuse, and neglect since 1953. Twenty-six offices in Oakland County, under the auspices of the Oakland County Circuit Court—Family Division, provide programs to serve youth and their families. Youth Assistance programs work because they are community-based and developed by volunteers who have their fingers on the pulse of the community.

Birmingham Youth Assistance (BYA) is proudly celebrating 62 years of serving youth and their families through a variety of programs and resources. A professional caseworker provides short-term counseling to youth (and their families) referred by schools, police, and the courts. BYA offers parent education programs and gives summer camp scholarships that provide learning opportunities and also enable children facing challenges to enjoy a respite from stressful everyday lives. The Mentors Plus program matches youth with screened and trained caring adults. BYA also offers a variety of fun programs designed to strengthen families. These annual programs include Breakfast with Santa and the Kids' Dog Show, an event for kids aged 4-14. Touch a Truck is an opportunity for youngsters to get up close and personal with fire trucks, police cars, construction vehicles, and more. BYA offers a Kids' Zone at the Birmingham Farmers' Market and, of course, our annual celebration of Youth in Service.

BYA operates with the sponsorship and generosity of the Oakland County Circuit Court—Family Division; Birmingham Public Schools; the City of Birmingham; the Villages of Beverly Hills, Bingham Farms, and Franklin; and donations from organizations and individuals. Principal funding is provided through the Oakland County Board of Commissioners.

## Thanks to the Generous Sponsors of Birmingham Youth Assistance

### **Oakland County Circuit Court-Family Division**

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Honorable Lisa O. Gorcyca  
Honorable Maureen H. Kinsella  
Honorable Lisa Langton,  
*Presiding Family Division Judge*  
Honorable Julie A. McDonald  
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Pam Hansen, *Trustee*  
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## Beverly Hills Lions Club

### *Lion's Pride Award*

The Beverly Hills Lions Club is grateful to Birmingham Youth Assistance for their commitment to strengthening families through community. We appreciate this opportunity to honor the Youths in Service nominees that are demonstrating the true mission of Lionism, We Serve.

This year we will be presenting the first Lion's Pride award to acknowledge one outstanding young leader who exhibits strong leadership skills in organizing and implementing service projects and fostering positive change within their community.

The mission of the Lions Clubs is to create and foster a spirit of understanding among all people for humanitarian needs by providing voluntary services through community involvement and international cooperation. From the betterment of local communities, to bringing sight to the world's blind, members never waiver from the mission statement "We Serve". The Beverly Hills Lions Club embraces those committed to building a brighter future for their community.

The Beverly Hills Lions Club is celebrating 52 years of service to the Beverly Hills community this year. Sponsored by the Southfield Lions, the first Installation was held April 14, 1972. At that time the club made the following pledge to the community:

"To our Community, we pledge our best efforts towards making Lionism a viable force in the fulfillment of humanitarian service ... in every area of need ... but especially sight conservation."

The club still adheres to this pledge! The Beverly Hills Lions Club is very proud of its history of service to the community in the true spirit of Lionism. The club continues to serve the community as well as supporting a number of local charities.

For more information on the Beverly Hills Lions Club, please call Mark Scicluna at 313-492-8232 or check our website.

# We Serve.



bhlions.org

## Youth in Service Celebration

### Reception

Entertainment provided by Seaholm High School musicians Hope Hughes and Hannah Marshall

### Program

#### **Welcome and Introductions**

Ann Nazareth Manning — Chair, Birmingham Youth Assistance

#### **Greetings from Birmingham Public Schools**

Dr. Embekka Roberson — Superintendent, Birmingham Public Schools

#### **Greetings from Oakland County Circuit Court**

Honorable Amanda J. Shelton — Oakland County Circuit Court—Family Division

#### **Greetings from Birmingham**

Katie Schafer — Mayor Pro Tem, City of Birmingham

#### **Youth in Service Awards Presentation**

Ann Nazareth Manning — Chair, Birmingham Youth Assistance

Susan Robbins — Vice Chair, Birmingham Youth Assistance

#### **Birmingham Youth Assistance Mission and Programs**

Meg Sullivan Lopé — board member, Birmingham Youth Assistance

#### **"All-Star" Awards Presentation**

Richard Stasys —Treasurer, Birmingham Youth Assistance and Birmingham Optimist Club board member

#### **Lion's Pride Awards Presentation**

Rob Ginther —Beverly Hills Lions Club board member

#### **Closing Remarks**

Ann Nazareth Manning — Chair, Birmingham Youth Assistance

This program will air on Comcast channel 18, AT&T channel 99, and Wow channel 18 in Birmingham, Bingham Farms, Beverly Hills and Franklin, as well as on Comcast channel 15 in Bloomfield Hills and Bloomfield Township. It will also be available online at [www.Bloomfieldtwp.org](http://www.Bloomfieldtwp.org) or [www.Birminghamareacableboard.org](http://www.Birminghamareacableboard.org) Video on demand page. Residents will have 24/7 access to the program online.



2024 Youth in Service Honorees — Middle School

Kendall Dorfman

Berkshire Middle School, 7<sup>th</sup> grade  
Nominator: Pam Lucken—Community Service Organizer, Berkshire Middle School



Kendall Dorfman is a dedicated volunteer for the Friendship Circle, a nonprofit that provides support to individuals with special needs. Last summer, she provided one-on-one support during two weeks of the organization’s overnight camp, assisting students from 7am until their bedtime at 9pm. Without one-on-one student volunteers, these camp opportunities through the Friendship Circle would not be available for students with disabilities. Kendall spent one week serving one student, for over 70 hours. The next week she was assigned another student, for whom she provided support for another 70 hours. Kendall also raised funds for the Friendship Circle’s annual walk, spent seven hours working at the sensory station, aiding students through various experiences, and is involved in their Sunday Circles. In a relatively short period, she dedicated more than 160 hours to serving this organization.

Kendall's dedication to serving individuals with disabilities dates back to her elementary school years, when she volunteered daily in the Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) classroom and ensured student safety. At Berkshire, she continues her involvement as one of the LINKS students.

Olivia Goins

Berkshire Middle School, 8<sup>th</sup> grade  
Nominator: Pam Lucken—Community Service Organizer, Berkshire Middle School



Olivia Goins, in partnership with her aunt, has assembled and distributed more than 300 self-care packages for the homeless. They created packages for both women and men.

Olivia is very active in serving her school community, demonstrating leadership, long-term commitment, and reliability. As a leader in her school’s Green Club, Olivia dedicates every Monday afternoon to recycling initiatives and tending to the community garden, contributing to environmental sustainability at Berkshire. Olivia is a longtime Bagel Sales Captain, leading the school’s fundraising bagel sales every Friday morning. These funds support community initiatives, including Gleaners and the World Wildlife Fund. Olivia single-handedly managed the children’s section at Berkshire’s holiday market and tutors weekly at the district’s Saturday School. In the past year, she has dedicated more than 50 hours to community service.

Nathaniel Lev

Berkshire Middle School, 8<sup>th</sup> grade  
Nominator: Pam Lucken—Community Service Organizer, Berkshire Middle School



Nathaniel Lev has demonstrated a strong interest in serving others, both within his school and in the broader community. He has worked at his local beach picking up trash, bringing in sand, and watering trees. He serves on the Mid Action Board, which is part of the Youth Action Board of the Birmingham Bloomfield Community Coalition.

Nathaniel has also been a leader in service at his school. He co-leads the bagel sales at Berkshire every Friday morning, raising funds for nonprofits including Gleaners and the World Wildlife Fund. He is a regular weekly tutor at Saturday School and has provided academic help to many younger students. As part of Broadcast Club, he has helped create fundraisers and awareness programs to benefit breast cancer research and other causes. Nathaniel has inspired the creation of a Community Service Club at Berkshire. His excellent collaboration skills have been valuable in identifying and recruiting other service-minded students to join. Nathaniel has served 45 hours over the past year.



The Birmingham Optimist Club

The Birmingham Optimist Club is a volunteer organization of service-oriented, civic-minded women and men who represent a cross-section of the community. The Optimists’ main purpose is to work with youth and promote optimism as a philosophy of life through active service within the community.

Optimist International

Optimist International has been “Bringing Out the Best in Kids” in communities worldwide, since 1917. There are more than 3,000 clubs worldwide. Optimists conduct 65,000 service projects worldwide each year, serving six million young people. Optimists also spend \$78 million on their communities annually.

Purpose

To develop optimism as a philosophy of life, utilizing the tenets of the Optimist Creed; to promote an active interest in good government and civic affairs; to inspire respect for the law; to promote patriotism and work for international accord and friendship among all people; to aid and encourage the development of youth, in the belief that the giving of one’s self in service to others will advance the well-being of humankind, community life and the world.

2023-2024 Officers

- Eleanor Roleston, President
- Tom Longhway, Secretary
- William McConnel, Treasurer
- Pastor David Huseltine, Past President
- Linda Thompson, Michigan District Governor
- Cathy Neal, Michigan District Lieutenant Governor

2023-2024 Board of Directors

- Rose Falberg
- Jim Hayes
- Christine Lynn Lapinski
- Bob Parker
- David Walker
- Richard Stasys

For more information about The Birmingham Optimist Club, please call Tom Longhway at (248) 568-5608

the ASD students’ social circles, helped them to develop social skills, and improved the quality of their high school experience.

Owen has also served the community in other ways. He has delivered food to the needy and homebound elderly through Focus Hope and Meals on Wheels. He volunteers with the Oakland County Sheriff’s office and helps clean up yards through JARC. Owen has helped provide holiday gifts to underprivileged youth through Jack’s Place. He serves with 100+ Teens Who Care, raising money to support charities.

**Toby Waterman**

International Academy Okma, 11

Nominator: Bethany Arsenault—Teacher, North Hills Middle School



Toby assists and mentors 6<sup>th</sup> grade design students taking Design and Technology classes at North Hills Middle School. He helps them with their physical and digital computing projects. He is an excellent role model and communicator, listening to the students as well as sharing advice.

Toby also has served in a variety of community service initiatives over the past year. He has supported BuildOn by raising funds to send kids to developing countries to help build schools. He volunteers at Friendship Circle, befriending and assisting children with special needs. Toby has helped out at Eastover Elementary School, helping both teachers and students with various tasks. His commitment to community includes raking yards and shoveling snow for those in need and coaching soccer.

**Marko Zdravkovski**

Seaholm High School, 11<sup>th</sup> grade

Nominator: Katie Parker—Community School Organizer, Seaholm High School



Marko Zdravkovski has demonstrated a steadfast commitment to serving his community and school over the past year, particularly as a member of the school Interact Club. His contributions have included monitoring the line at the Shain Park Santa House, raking leaves for senior citizens, planting trees at Beverly Park, and making cards for sick children in the hospital..

In addition to supporting those in need, Marko has helped his school and district in a variety of ways. He helped with the BEF Unabashed Bash and participated in the Seaholm Multicultural Retreat. Marko also has assisted at the Pierce Elementary School STEM night and the Seaholm Cheer competition.

**Mariah Zeer**

Marian High School, 12<sup>th</sup>

Nominator: Michael Hickey—Campus Minister, Marian High School



Mariah Zeer has dedicated nearly 370 hours in the past year to meeting the needs of the homeless in Detroit, serving the organization PBJ Outreach. Every Saturday morning at 6AM she goes to her church to prepare and bag food to hand out to the homeless. Then she drives to Detroit and passes out the food, making a point of forming personal connections and friendships with the homeless. On occasion she has utilized her own money to help address their needs, including buying winter coats for a family. Food distribution takes place outdoors, but unlike many other volunteers, Mariah shows up regardless of weather conditions.

Mariah and her classmates raised more than \$15,000 to help sick children at St. Jude. She organized the St. Jude projects, including bake sales, and took responsibility for getting more than 20 girls to volunteer each weekend. Mariah also volunteers for her church’s Vacation Bible School, where she guides children in their faith journey.

**Catherine Reed**

Derby Middle School, 6<sup>th</sup> grade

Nominator: Fred Costello—Assistant Principal, Derby Middle School



Catherine Reed spends her lunch recreation time every day hanging out with and playing games with her friends—her friends in the special education program. She feels that it is important that they feel included and understood. They play tag and basic ball-bouncing games and make funny faces to try and make each other laugh. Catherine models kind and appropriate behavior and teaches them to be more independent. She also encourages other students in her school to join the LINKS program and to be a buddy to kids in the special education program. Her nominator said, “Catherine’s truly an unsung hero. She doesn't go out of her way to draw attention to her good deeds - she just does them. She's extremely dedicated to the concept of inclusion and is a shining example of what is possible when we truly care for others.” She has dedicated about 100

hours in the past year to helping these kids.

Community involvement is a priority for Catherine. During the summer she participates in the Baldwin Boosters program, a group pof volunteers who organize and support library events. Through her Girl Scout troop, she has engaged in numerous service activities including preparing “snack packs” of food for needy children, making blankets for sick children, singing winter carols for senior citizens at assisted living centers, making toys for animals at the Michigan Humane Society, and participating in Moon Beams for Sweet Dreams at Corewell Health Beaumont Hospital.

**Sophia Stefan**

Berkshire Middle School, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

Nominator: Pam Lucken—Community Service Organizer, Berkshire Middle School



Sophia Stefan is a dedicated volunteer for her school community. She recently volunteered as a Science Olympiad coach, mentoring eight 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade girls on the West Maple Rock Hound team. She used her own experience competing in this event to help the others prepare and to inspire them to pursue their interest in science. Sophia also volunteered at school events, such as the annual West Maple carnival, at which she supervised kids in grades K-5 in the bounce house.

In addition to helping younger children at West Maple, Sophia is a wonderful role model for her fellow middle school students. She has served as a Berkshire Middle School Ambassador during the 5<sup>th</sup> grade run and plans to serve in the same capacity at the 5<sup>th</sup> grade visit. She enjoys the opportunity to ease the transition for elementary students who are nervous about the move to middle

school. As a fifth grader, she exhibited the same passion for mentoring and service when she spent her lunch and recess periods helping kindergarteners. She also served on Service Squad, helping a teacher every Friday morning prepare for her students.

**Alen Ter-Azaryan**

Berkshire Middle School, 8<sup>th</sup> grade

Nominator: Pam Lucken—Community Service Organizer, Berkshire Middle School



Alen Ter-Azaryan has served his community in a variety of ways, totaling more than 180 hours in the past year. He spent three full weeks of the summer volunteering at Friendship Circle’s Day Camp. While there, Alen provided 1-on-1 or 1-on-2 support for students with disabilities, helping them become comfortable in the camp setting, enjoy themselves, and make friends. He also raised more than \$1,100 for Friendship Circle’s annual fundraising walk. As a member of the Baldwin Public Library’s Teen Advisory Board, Alen helps advise on programming, make decorations, and run events. He created craft kits to support the Birmingham Youth Assistance Touch a Truck event and helped organize a food drive that collected more than 800 cans of food for the needy.



Alen also is an active volunteer at his school. He is a much sought-after tutor at the district’s Saturday School who has been able to help even reluctant students by taking the time to forge relationships that lead to productive sessions. Alen is a Berkshire Ambassador who has helped at the Halloween Hoot and 5<sup>th</sup> grade run. He also has supported other initiatives such as making Easter baskets, holiday stockings, and care packages for the needy. Alen is described by his nominator as a student volunteer who always “is the first to sign up, the first to arrive, and the last to leave. He’s extremely responsible with all assignments and a leader in service and responsibility.”

**Arno Ter-Azaryan**

Berkshire Middle School, 7<sup>th</sup> grade

Nominator: Pam Lucken—Community Service Organizer, Berkshire Middle School



Arno Ter-Azaryan has been an active supporter of Friendship Circle, notably volunteering to help special needs children for one week of their summer day camp. With one-on-one support, Friendship Circle campers are able to experience camp and the campus safely and at their own pace. Arno was matched with one student each day during his week there. He also raised more than \$1,100 for their annual fundraising walk and helped at that event by manning one of their fun stations.

Arno also has served on the Baldwin Public Library’s Teen Advisory Board, advising on youth programming and selecting books for their book club. He volunteered at the Birmingham Youth Assistance Touch a Truck event, which was particularly helpful in light of record-breaking attendance. At St. John Armenian Church, he has assisted by serving Thanksgiving dinners and packaging meals. Arno also has been an active volunteer at Berkshire, helping at Halloween Hoot and putting together Easter baskets for the Redford Brightmoor Initiative.

**Claire and Olivia Yandora**

Derby Middle School, 8<sup>th</sup> grade

Nominator: Harrison Kakkuri—Dutton Farm, Programming Assistant/Launch Director



Over the summer Claire and Olivia Yandora volunteered for one week at Dutton Farms, a non-profit that supports and empowers the disabled through adult education, community involvement, and workforce development.

Clair assisted about 30 people with special needs who were being trained to work as farmers. She welcomed new farmers into the community and helped them to get adjusted. She also helped the direct support professionals complete their daily tasks with the farmers. This included helping the special needs individuals take care of the farm’s many animals, preparing their lunches, and planting a lot of flowers.

Olivia’s efforts were focused on the adult education program, helping about 25 individuals with special needs to learn new skills. Part of her goal was to help the program participants get out into the community so they could engage with others. She also helped them learn to care for animals on the farm.



At Derby Middle School, Claire and Olivia both volunteer in various capacities at school events as members of the National Junior Honor Society. Olivia has helped pack lunches for the homeless at her church.

**Sydney Pereira**

International Academy Okma, 11<sup>th</sup> grade

Nominator: Alex Bingham—City Clerk, City of Birmingham



Sydney Pereira has dedicated more than 200 hours in the past year to volunteerism supporting various organizations. She was a steward at Bowers Farm Day Camp and Winter Camp, engaging with the children and organizing activities. Sydney serves on the HAVEN Youth Action Board as a member of the Education and Fundraising Committees. There, she was instrumental in a book drive that collected 70 boxes of books. Sydney also sold refreshments at Arts, Beats, and Eats, raising \$600 for Build On, a nonprofit dedicated to building schools in underdeveloped countries. In addition to these contributions, Sydney participated in a school group that supported the Beyond Basics literacy program by creating more than 100 book covers each month for students who wrote their own books. She also has helped to look after kids at the Pierce Elementary after-school Kids’ Club. Finally, as an intern in the Birmingham City Clerk’s Office, Sydney has assisted voters during elections and performed other office functions.

**Sophie Piotrowicz**

Groves High School, 11<sup>th</sup> grade

Nominator: Lynne Zacharias—Family Friend



Sophie Piotrowicz dedicated her time to supporting Birmingham Youth Assistance several times over the past year. She assisted participants and helped manage crowds at Breakfast with Santa at the Townsend Hotel and Touch a Truck at Bingham Farms Elementary. Sophie’s participation helped to ensure a smooth and enjoyable experience for all. Sophie also serves on the Board of 100+ Teens Who Care About Detroit, contributing to the organization’s donations to Save the Children, The Gary Burnstein Clinic, the Elderly Housing Development and Operations Corporation community action program, and the Charity Water organization. Sophie independently undertook a collection of gently used books and was able to donate about 250 books to Oakland County Children’s Village.

**Ethan Rass**

Groves High School-11<sup>th</sup> grade

Nominator: Krystal Dunlap—Juvenile Diabetes Foundation, Senior Development Director



Ethan Rass has been a dedicated Youth Ambassador for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF) for eleven years, since his diagnosis with Type One Diabetes when he was five years old. Ethan and his family participate annually in the JDRF One Walk and cumulatively have raised more than \$160,000 for diabetes research. In addition to fundraising, Ethan is an active spokesperson, advocating passionately for diabetes research and support. Several years ago, he visited Washington as a member of the JDRF Children’s Congress to advocate successfully for the renewal of the Special Diabetes Program. He continues to interact regularly with policymakers and legislators, as well as major donors, about the disease and how it affects his life, persuading them that education and awareness as well as research funding are critical. Ethan is active at his school as well, mentoring incoming freshmen through the Groves Big Brother, Big Sister program. He tutors at the district’s Saturday School and volunteers at his church.



**Owen Reibschoid**

Seaholm High School, 12<sup>th</sup> grade

Nominator: Michele Wogaman—Executive Director, Bound Together

Owen Reibschoid is a valued volunteer at Bound Together, an organization that provides tutoring, friendship, and community to children and their families in Pontiac. He helps out several times a week, supervising gym activities and serving meals to the students in addition to tutoring them in various subjects. His nominator says, “[Owen] has proven himself to be dependable, personable, and deeply generous with his time and attention.” He often brings extra treats for special occasions. Last year, Owen volunteered one class period every day in an Autistic Spectrum Disorder classroom at Seaholm. The time he dedicated greatly expanded the span of



**Gabriella Nastovski**

Seaholm High School, 12<sup>th</sup> grade

Nominator: Samantha McKenzie—Teacher, Seaholm High School



Gabriella Nastovski has dedicated her time and significant leadership skills to benefitting her school community, as well as worthwhile local causes. As a leader of the Student Congress, she has planned and executed multiple school events. Under her guidance, Gabriella’s team promoted Charity Week events so that students and staff would get excited about donating. As a result, her school raised more than \$10,000 to donate to Common Ground in Pontiac. She has served as a school ambassador, welcoming incoming high school families, and also helped many students study for finals. Gabriella has taught student-led electives and seminars within the Flex community. Among other contributions, she has created holiday gift bags for the underprivileged, encouraged sick kids during Moonbeams for Sweet Dreams, and encouraged runners during the annual South Oakland Shelter 5K.

**Hiren Patel**

Seaholm High School, 9<sup>th</sup> grade

Nominator: Kathleen Grobbel—Child Life Services Director, Beaumont Children's Hospital and Andrea Scheid, Pediatrician, Team Wellness Center

Hiren Patel has dedicated his service efforts to advancing literacy in young children. Partnering with a peer and Team Wellness Center, he helped create a vision for a literacy program for underserved children in Detroit in collaboration with Reach Out and Read. They trained as off-site coordinators, raised \$800 through platforms including GoFundMe, and received 600 books in additional donations. With the funds, Hiren and his friend have so far acquired more than 200 developmentally appropriate books for children. They are planning virtual and in-person sessions in which volunteers can read aloud to the children. Hiren undertook a second major service initiative, making a positive difference in the life of hospitalized children by creating arts and crafts kits to give them some enjoyment during a difficult time. He dedicated about 50 hours to purchasing and organizing the crafts, including raising the money himself doing odd jobs and babysitting. For each of three age groups, he prepared 47 bags with contents including toys, coloring books, and playdough. The bags were clearly labeled to make it easy for staff to distribute them to the correct patients. Hiren’s generosity with his time and funds made an enormous impact on the lives of the children receiving his gifts.



**Milan Patel**

Seaholm High School, 11<sup>th</sup> grade

Nominator: Alex Petrylka—Volunteer Coordinator, World Medical Relief



Milan Patel has supported the community for nearly two years by volunteering at World Medical Relief, a nonprofit with the mission of distributing surplus medical resources to hospitals and clinics in need locally, nationally, and internationally. In the past year, he has served about 200 hours and has packaged more than 50 containers that have been shipped out, containing a variety of medical resources including surgical supplies. In his role as Team Leader, Milan has the added responsibility of guiding and overseeing new volunteers as they learn to sort and package medical supplies for distribution locally and internationally. Milan's commitment to service extends beyond his work at World Medical Relief. He volunteers his time at Eton Academy after school, assisting children with homework and supporting teachers as needed. Milan also has organized toy drives to benefit Beaumont Hospital.

**2024 Youth in Service Honorees — High School**

**Beckett Bambrough**

Groves High School, 11<sup>th</sup> grade

Nominator: Melissa Griggs-- Family Friend/Athlete Parent



Beckett Bambrough's commitment to volunteering as a coach for a middle school flag football teams has had a profound impact on about 10-12 seventh and eighth grade athletes in the Birmingham area. Beckett, along with two assistant coaches he recruited, taught the team valuable skills while also serving as positive role models, fostering a culture of sportsmanship and dedication. Beckett’s leadership, maturity, and dedication led to the team's improvement and success, both on and off the field. Beckett and his two colleagues also coached a team in the Game On charity flag football tournament at Ford Field, which raised several thousand dollars for cancer research. Throughout the two fall seasons, Beckett dedicated about 40 hours to coaching and game planning, demonstrating his commitment to the team's development and success. Beckett also has served our community by helping, as part of the Groves Varsity Football team, to set up and take down for events at Beverly Elementary and Beverly Park.

**Vittorio Bevione**

Seaholm High School, 11<sup>th</sup> grade

Nominator: Katie Parker—Community School Organizer, Seaholm High School

Vittorio Bevione has demonstrated strong commitment through his high school years to supporting events and organizations celebrating his Italian heritage. He has dedicated about 110 hours to supporting the Dante Alighieri Society of Detroit, a cultural organization that serves as a center for Italian language classes and culture. In particular, last September he volunteered at Love IT Detroit, an event organized by the Consulate of Italy and the Dante Alighieri Society to highlight Italian design through various installations, events, and speakers. Vittorio served as an usher and docent, welcoming up to 3000 people and providing them information about the exhibits. He also has served the Dante Alighieri Society by helping them move to a new office and tutoring middle school students. Vittorio’s service was inspired by the assistance his family received from the Society when they immigrated from Italy. His dedication to the organization and its initiatives not only strengthens connections among individuals of Italian descent in the Detroit area, but also fosters a sense of community and cultural identity in our diverse metro area.



**Becca Burnstein**

Groves High School, 11<sup>th</sup> grade

Nominator: Mary Lewis—CEO, Gary Burnstein Community Health Clinic



Becca Burnstein's volunteer actions addressed essential needs within her community, particularly focusing on hygiene care. Working with the Birmingham Public School District, Becca organized a drive for donated hygiene products, resulting in the creation of 60 care packages. Building upon this initial success, Becca established a GoFundMe campaign, which raised over \$3,500. With these funds, and in partnership with the national organization Dignity Grows, Becca and her team were able to produce an additional 300 hygiene care packages. In total, an impressive 360 care packages were assembled and delivered to the Gary Burnstein Community Health Clinic, where they were distributed to visiting patients of this Pontiac clinic that serves low-income individuals without insurance. Becca has also served this clinic by performing office tasks, helping with food drives, and raising \$33,000 by requesting donations to the clinic in lieu of Bat Mitzvah gifts. For the past two summers, Becca has also volunteered at the weekly Mercado outdoor market at the Community Health and Social Services Center (CHASS) in Detroit. She helped the staff set up and take down the booths and outdoor attractions and engaged children from the Hispanic community in activities including meal preparation and cleanup. Becca found it highly rewarding to teach the children important life skills such as healthy eating and responsibility.

**Alberto Corrales**

Seaholm High School, 11<sup>th</sup> grade

Nominator: Alex Petrylka—Volunteer Coordinator, World Medical Relief



Alberto Corrales supports the community by volunteering at World Medical Relief, a nonprofit with the mission of distributing surplus medical resources to local, national, and international hospitals and clinics in need. Alberto’s work involves sorting and packaging donated medical supplies for shipment, ensuring that expired items are separated so only useable supplies are shipped. Alberto has served about 40 hours in the past year.

As a World Medical Relief volunteer, Alberto’s work has benefited countless people, providing support to countries including Syria, Lebanon, and Ukraine while also assisting individuals in his own community. In addition to his work at World Medical Relief, Alberto is actively involved in Seaholm's STEM leadership program, helping elementary students learn about science. He also has been teaching skills to younger children in Seaholm soccer clinics for three years.

**Nia Daniels**

Groves High School, 12<sup>th</sup> grade

Nominator: Elizabeth Sak—Community School Organizer, Groves High School



In the past year, Nia Daniels has consistently contributed to her school community through mentoring initiatives. As a Berkshire Middle School Honors Orchestra mentor for two years, she has facilitated early morning weekly sessions to help middle school musicians master challenging pieces and techniques. Nia and other mentors set up and lead early morning rehearsals, provide technical guidance, and play alongside the younger students during concerts, ensuring their confidence on stage.

In addition to supporting the middle school orchestra, Nia is dedicated to building strong ties within her school community with a passion for mentorship. She is a Co-President for the Groves Class of 2024, an officer for African Americans Changing Tomorrow, and a member of the Big Brother Big Sister (BBBS) Executive Board. Through these and other groups, and on her own, Nia has helped to mentor both Groves and Berkshire students. In her junior year, Nia served as a BBBS mentor for incoming freshmen, helping these new students feel welcomed and acclimated to high school. As a senior this year, Nia serves as a leader and guide for other Groves BBBS mentors. To further help rising 9<sup>th</sup> graders, she co-founded the “For the Girls” program which is geared to helping 8th grade girls “strengthen the female support system and build empathy between the girls” before they enter high school.

**Dylan Day**

Seaholm High School, 11<sup>th</sup> grade

Nominator: Michele Wogaman—Executive Director, Bound Together



Dylan Day has served the Pontiac-based Bound Together program as an after-school tutor twice a week since October 2023 for a second-grade student. Thanks to the tutoring, the student saw improvement in his basic addition, subtraction, and multiplication skills. He also made significant progress in reading speed and comprehension, vocabulary, and grammar. Dylan’s contributions went beyond honing academic skills. Relationships are essential to tutoring work, and Dylan has developed a bond with his student on which the younger child has come to depend.

According to his nominator, “Dylan's quietly supportive demeanor and encouragement have helped the student earn recognition for his efforts in phonics from the Oakland County Intermediate School District and have also helped him during moments of stress. Dylan has been a role model in any number of ways.” In addition to tutoring with Bound Together, Dylan volunteered for eighty hours last summer as a camp counselor at the Detroit Zoo.

**Nathan Lucken**

Groves High School, 12<sup>th</sup> grade

Nominator: Elizabeth Sak—Community School Organizer, Groves High School



Nathan Lucken’s heart for service and leadership have left their mark on Groves, the school district, and our community. He has served as a Groves Ambassador and as a Big Brother, Big Sister Captain. He supports new students by welcoming them, helping them to classes, and encouraging them to make connections. During his four years in Student Congress, he consistently has sought opportunities to build spirit and inclusivity. For several years, he has served as the school mascot (Freddie the Falcon), donning the costume for many community events. Last year, he and his class co-president planned a groundbreaking Prom at Eastern Market. They also planned a field day for the students at Berkshire that included not only students with physical disabilities, but also those in the autistic community. As a member of the Interact Club, Nathan has participated in monthly service projects. He has supported Trunk or Treat and the Halloween Hoot and has served as a tutor at the district’s Saturday School. Nathan is a member of the Susan G. Komen 3-Day Youth Corps Team.

**Bailey Mingus**

Groves High School, 12<sup>th</sup> grade

Nominator: Elizabeth Sak—Community School Organizer, Groves High School



Bailey Mingus serves her community by providing opportunities to build language skills, cultural awareness, and international connection. She founded an online exchange program, called Activa Tu Speaking, connecting students learning Spanish at her school with students learning English at a school in Jalisco, Mexico. Students communicate by sending videos through What’sApp chats and occasional Zoom meetings. Bailey independently teaches English virtually to students in Uganda and the Ukraine, and she is working on her ESL certification.

Bailey approached school administrators two years ago with her desire to help the people of Ukraine. She formed a fundraising plan and, in collaboration with the school Interact service club, raised \$1000 for UNICEF Ukraine by selling ribbons and baked goods. As co-president of the Groves Interact Club for the past two years, Bailey has led many service initiatives. She is a teacher’s assistant and song leader at her temple’s Sunday School.

**Luca Mollo**

International Academy Okma, 11<sup>th</sup> grade

Nominator: Megan Mitchell—Teacher, International Academy Okma



Luca Mollo is a dedicated volunteer with the Friendship Circle, a nonprofit serving individuals with special needs. He has served the Friendship Circle, working with children, for three years. Luca presently has responsibility for recruiting volunteers, ensuring they have positive experiences. His recruiting campaign was so successful that there now is a waitlist for those who wish to serve.

As a member of the Student Senate at his school, Luca was concerned about incidents of harassment and bullying of students, so he decided to lead the revitalizing of the No Place for Hate Campaign. He has helped to organize seminars to educate students on issues pertaining to the climate and culture in the building. Luca collected close to 600 pledges from students, and administration has indicated there have been fewer behavior referrals since he began promoting the assemblies. Luca is the school therapy dog program ambassador, in charge of organizing the volunteers who visit with dogs and monitoring the success of student-dog interactions. He has helped to raise more than \$7,000 in support of the school’s goal of getting its own full-time therapy dog.



**Lily Liss**

Seaholm High School, 9<sup>th</sup> grade

Nominator: Shane Sperling—Volunteer Coordinator, Yad Ezra Food Pantry



Lily Liss demonstrates her love of service through her work to address food insecurity in the Jewish community. She is an active volunteer at Yad Ezra, Michigan’s only Kosher food pantry. As a shopper, she picks out items for the pantry’s clients based on requests on their shopping lists. Lily also has supported Focus Hope in Detroit by delivering Thanksgiving meals to clients homes. Beyond serving these organizations, Lily has made considerable contributions on her own initiative. She spent \$400 of her own money to make twenty bags of essential items, which she handed out in underprivileged areas of Detroit. In lieu of receiving gifts for her Bat Mitzvah, she directed donations to the Allergy Research Center at the University of Michigan, raising nearly \$2,000.

**Sara Litkowiec**

Groves High School, 11<sup>th</sup> grade

Nominator: Elizabeth Sak—Community School Organizer, Groves High School



Sara Litkowiec organized an event that enabled her school to mobilize in support of the Canine Companions dog rescue. She developed the idea of creating braided dog toys out of recycled t-shirts. In partnership with the Groves Interact Club, of which she is a member, Sara organized a drive that collected more than 500 t-shirts. She then organized an evening event, featuring a speaker from Canine Companions and a visit from the Corewell Health Beaumont therapy dogs, at which the community created more than 200 dog toys.

Sara also is an ambassador for Groves Big Brother, Big Sister, a group which helps facilitate incoming freshmen with a successful transition to high school. She assists various teachers with Freshmen Finals Review, a day dedicated to helping freshmen with their first final exams. Sarah is a

manager for the Groves football team, providing help ranging from filling buckets with water to helping the trainer treat injuries. As part of the Women’s Empowerment Club, she liaises with the PTA and ensures a supply of feminine hygiene products in the school bathrooms. Sara also serves the Friendship Circle, helping children with special needs pursue their love of sports.

**Hailey Lossia**

Seaholm High School, 11<sup>th</sup> grade

Nominator: Katie Parker—Community School Organizer, Seaholm High School



Hailey Lossia has consistently served her community during her high school years, including participating in all events for Interact Club and Club SOS, Seaholm’s two service organizations. Haley is a role model for student volunteerism because of her commitment, reliability, and dedication. She constantly encourages her peers to join in the service projects. As part of the leadership team, she has organized activities including leaf raking for seniors, making meals for those in need, organizing an annual fundraising 5K race, and more. Other initiatives have included making soup kits with Metro Food Rescue and decorating placemats for a Veteran’s Day brunch.

Hailey’s volunteerism extends beyond her work with these two clubs. She has supported the Spanish Honor Society through both tutoring and fundraising. Hailey has helped at the Seaholm blood drive and organized the canned food drive on Field Day. At Spring Hill Summer Camp, she is part of the Teen Service team that helps the younger campers.

**Lara and Maya Hammoud**

Detroit Country Day School, 10<sup>th</sup> grade

Nominator: Dr. Katie Schafer—Managing Partner, Bloom Pediatrics



Twin sisters Lara and Maya Hammoud have formed a nonprofit organization called The Perception Foundation, which works to build awareness for children with neurodivergent conditions by raising money to build sensory rooms in schools and other locations that serve children. To date, they have built seven sensory rooms, with new ones planned to open in the future, and have raised \$15,000. Through Lara and Maya’s dedication, hard work, and unique awareness, they have been able to make a real difference in the lives of children with neurodivergent conditions, including those on the autism spectrum. The fact that they created the Foundation while still in elementary school and now, as tenth graders, are continuing to build momentum speaks to their incredible dedication. Over the past year, their work has impacted an estimated 10,000 individuals. Together they have committed more than 300 hours of service in the past year, with a cumulative total of well over 1,000 hours.

Lara and Maya work to create safe and welcoming spaces that help kids with neurodivergent conditions to thrive. With help from their family and community, they were able to build their first sensory room in a local school. Featuring soft lighting, comfortable seating, and a variety of sensory tools and toys, the room was designed to help sensory-overloaded children feel at ease. Since then, they have been instrumental in the creation of six more rooms. Recently, the twins worked alongside the Michigan Autism Alliance to design a sensory room in the new facilities of Bloom Pediatrics. A unique aspect of The Perception Foundation is Lara and Maya’s focus on inclusivity and serving kids in under-

privileged areas whose needs might otherwise go unnoticed. They have donated more than 150 sensory kits to special education classrooms in low-income areas.

Over the past year, Lara and Maya have planned and executed more than 15 engaging sensory-friendly events, including ice cream-making sessions and a back-to-school fair in Detroit, to foster community engagement and enjoyment for families with special needs children. Autism advocacy is an important focus for these young ladies, including strategic collaboration with organizations like Community Mental Health Associations and the Detroit Wayne Integrated Health Network. Their impactful Blue Out Game at their school raised awareness and funds for Title I classrooms, and they’ve encouraged the establishment of Perception Clubs in high schools throughout Michigan and beyond.

**Gabrielle Hillman**

Seaholm High School, 12<sup>th</sup> grade

Nominator: Michele Wogaman—Executive Director, Bound Together

Gabrielle Hillman has been a dedicated tutoring volunteer at Bound Together, helping underprivileged children in the Pontiac area. In this role, she helps students stay on track academically in subjects like reading, writing, and math, while also nurturing their social skills. She has had the opportunity to work with some of the same children through her church’s youth ministry.

Gabby has exhibited tremendous leadership, warmth, and skill in mentoring young students and serves as an important role model. She also contributes to her community by organizing Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets and participating in food and coat drives through her church.

**Alexa Hugel**

Groves High School, 11<sup>th</sup> grade

Nominator: Jim Sherman—Government Teacher, Groves High School



Alexa Hugel created, organized, and conducted a massive toy drive for the Oncology Unit at Corewell Health. One of her teachers challenged students to identify a community need and devise a plan to address it. To say Lexi overachieved would be an understatement. As a pediatric cancer survivor, Alexa Hugel remembered receiving toys while in the hospital for procedures or long stays. She collected money and toys, using the funds to purchase gift cards for the teens and additional toys for the children battling cancer. In all, she presented to the clinic \$800 in gift cards, 280 toys and a \$700 donation made in her name to a scholarship for children fighting cancer. The donation was so extensive that the oncology clinic requested permission to share the proceeds with the entire hospital. Her teacher and nominator described her actions as “the most amazing act by a young person I have witnessed in thirty years of teaching.”

Alexa also volunteers in the preschool classroom and summer vacation bible school (VBS), at her church. While she was volunteering at VBS, she collected an additional 80 toys that she donated to Kids Kicking Cancer, an organization that supported her through her cancer journey.

**Saydee Jaboro**

Marian High School, 12<sup>th</sup> grade

Nominator: Michael Hickey—Campus Minister, Marian High School



Saydee Jaboro has been an active contributor to her community throughout her high school years, engaging in various endeavors such as leading vacation bible school and coaching middle school volleyball all four years. She recently organized a “Hoodies for the Homeless” drive, which collected more than 100 hoodies and pairs of sweatpants for those in need in Detroit. She also helped with a school fundraiser that yielded more than \$10,000 for St. Jude’s Children’s Hospital, demonstrating her dedication to making a difference despite her busy schedule with school and work.

Saydee participates in annual sandwich-making drives at her church. She personally donates money to International Samaritan to pay for a student’s tuition in Honduras. As a board member of Chaldean American Student Association, she was instrumental in implementing a service requirement to help instill a love of service in others. Saydee has committed many hours to her service endeavors – about 200 in the past twelve months and 750 during her high school years.

**Dina Kamal**

Seaholm High School, 11<sup>th</sup> grade

Nominator: Sherree Wilson—Wellness and crisis counselor, Seaholm High School



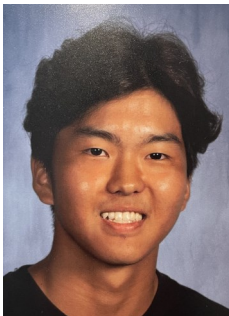
Dina Kamal has been instrumental in fostering positive mental health at Seaholm High School through her founding of the UMatteer Club in November 2022. Under her ongoing leadership, the club has undertaken initiatives including distribution of Tootsie Roll Pops with encouraging messages during exams, creating welcome back messages with sidewalk chalk, placing affirmations on bathroom mirrors, and posting positive messages throughout the school. Dina also organized a hot chocolate day in which arriving students received hot beverages in cups that featured positive messages and helpline information. Under her leadership, the club rallied many students to write kind, appreciative notes to teachers and staff and organized an event that raised \$100 for CARE House, a child advocacy center in Pontiac.

Dina took the initiative to extend the influence of the UMatteer Club beyond Seaholm’s walls. The club now leads a weekly “Choice Hour” after school class at Birmingham Covington School, providing education on mental health and promoting a more positive outlook on life among the younger students. Dina is a board member for 100+ Teens Who Care, a group focused on charitable giving. Two days a week, she assists a class of young students at her dance studio.

**Leo Kim**

Seaholm High School, 11<sup>th</sup> grade

Nominator: Alex Petrylka—Volunteer Coordinator, World Medical Relief



Leo Kim supports the community by volunteering at World Medical Relief, a nonprofit with the mission of distributing surplus medical resources to hospitals and clinics in need locally, nationally, and internationally. Leo has been supporting World Medical Relief for three years; in the past twelve months, he has served about 200 hours on Saturdays, school breaks, and during the summer. He sorts medical supplies and readies them for shipment around the world. In addition, as a team leader, he introduces new volunteers to the work and provides them with guidance. He also supports promotional events. Leo is proud of his role in providing “miracles of mercy” shipments to those in need; specifically, he was part of the team providing lifesaving essentials to Turkey and Syria after their earthquake in 2023. In addition to his work at World Medical Relief, Leo serves on the Student Council for the St. Andrew Kim Korean Catholic Church, planning and implementing activities for the church’s Sunday School and Vacation Bible School. He also is an assistant teacher at the Woori Korean school and teaches

the language and culture of Korea to younger students. As part of the Seaholm STEM leadership team, Leo tours the district bringing science demonstrations and lessons to elementary schools to help spark a passion for the sciences.

**Lauren King**

Seaholm High School, 11<sup>th</sup> grade

Nominator: Michele Wogaman—Executive Director, Bound Together



Lauren King is serving in her third year as a tutor at a Pontiac-based organization called Bound Together. She has worked with about ten children in a variety of subject areas. While working with the youngest children, Lauren has been instrumental in creating a positive, secure environment in which they could perform at their best. Her nominator says, “Lauren has been a leader, mentor, and guide to the students she has tutored in our program. She is a role model, particularly for our girls, and sets expectations for performance and behavior during her tutoring hours.

In addition to tutoring, Lauren has begun volunteering at Corewell Health Beaumont Hospital weekly in the pharmacy, learning more about the medical field while also helping others.

**Luke Linovitz**

Seaholm High School, 11<sup>th</sup> grade

Nominator: Alex Petrylka—Volunteer Coordinator, World Medical Relief



Luke Linovitz supports the community by volunteering at World Medical Relief, a nonprofit with the mission of distributing surplus medical resources to hospitals and clinics in need locally, nationally, and internationally. He has served the organization for two years, including 220 hours of service in the past twelve months with responsibility for sorting and distributing medical supplies to homeless shelters and communities in need. Luke's promotion to Team Leader has expanded his role in ensuring the quality of supplies being shipped out. It has also enabled him to help with expansion of the organization’s fundraising efforts to enhance healthcare access, promote wellness, and alleviate suffering globally.

Luke is inspired by supporting an organization that has responded in a critical role to natural disasters and humanitarian crises in more than 100 countries. Luke's commitment to community service extends beyond World Medical Relief, as he and his friends initiated a fundraiser in 2022 for the war in Ukraine, collecting supplies and raising funds for those affected.

**Reid Linovitz**

Seaholm high school, 9<sup>th</sup> grade

Nominator: Andrea Scheid—Pediatrician, Team Wellness Center



Reid Linovitz has dedicated his service efforts to advancing literacy in young children. Partnering with a peer and Team Wellness Center, he helped create a vision for a literacy program for underserved children in Detroit in collaboration with Reach Out and Read. They trained as off-site coordinators, raised \$800 through platforms including GoFundMe, and received 600 books in additional donations. With the funds, Reid and his friend have so far acquired more than 200 developmentally appropriate books for children. They are planning virtual and in-person sessions in which volunteers can read aloud to the children.

Reid believes that providing books to these children will enable them to develop a passion for reading. He and his peer believe that reading books throughout their childhood was very impactful to them and would like to enable less privileged children to get the same positive start.

Through their fundraising campaign, they have sought to raise awareness about the importance of literacy and community involvement.