

Editors,

The Northshore School District is pleased to share that 68 Northshore students who exemplify humanitarian traits were honored on the evening of May 14 during this year's C.P. & Dorothy Johnson Humanitarian Award ceremony.

The logo for the event is attached for your use.

Please let us know if we can be of further assistance.

## **NEWS RELEASE:**

CONTACT: Lisa Youngblood Hall  
(O) 425.408.7671  
(M) 425.375.3221  
lyoungbloodhall@nsd.org

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Northshore Honors Students Exhibiting Leadership Through Community, Acceptance and Advocacy**

Bothell, Wash. – On the evening of May 14, family members, friends, community members and educators joined this year's C.P. & Dorothy Johnson Humanitarian Award ceremony virtually to support and celebrate the 68 student recipients from schools and programs across the Northshore School District. The award was established in honor of two late educators who dedicated their lives to improving the lives of all children in our community.

“On behalf of the board, we are so honored to have been part of the ceremony where we were able to recognize our student recipients,” said Northshore School Board President Bob Swain. “These students each have embodied humanitarian traits that were noticed by their classmates, teachers and principals. The actions they've taken have made a difference in their school communities and that's admirable.”

During the ceremony, awardees were recognized for exemplifying humanitarian qualities. Students were selected based on three criteria:

1. Community: Students who demonstrate the ability to promote and foster collaboration toward a common goal, fairness, freedom of expression and effective communication within a group.

2. Acceptance: Students who promote the value and celebration of their peers' strengths, abilities and identities.

3. Advocacy: Students who support the needs of and encourage equitable opportunities and resources for their peers.

"I've been hearing so many amazing stories from classmates and teachers and community members about the importance of acceptance, community and advocacy at this time," said Superintendent Michelle Reid, Ed.D.

"As a community, you are realizing that even though we can't be there together physically that we're still building community - you with your classmates, your teachers, your principals, families and the rest of our community. Even though you're working from home, we are still a community. You're figuring out how to make this work and are a shining example to all of us. Under advocacy you've seen something that needs improving and you know what, each of you that we're honoring tonight, has done just that: you've figured out a way to make a situation better when we desperately have needed ways to make situations better."

In honor of their recognition, students received a medal and three pins representing the three criteria for selection. Students and their principals also received three additional pins to give to students they see exemplifying humanitarian qualities at their school.

"You are not just the leaders of tomorrow, you in fact are the leaders of today," said Reid. "You are resilient and caring and thoughtful and so much more. And that's the spirit, our Northshore spirit, that's so important right now and it's the spirit that spreads through each of your actions large and small. So keep going, stay strong. This evening, you are joining a group of ambassadors who are going to be the change that supports and brings our communities to health and safety."

Student recipients' names will be added to the plaques that are hung at each school, as each year, new recipient names are added for all to recognize and celebrate these humanitarian ambassadors. The medals and plaques were made possible through the generosity of the Northshore Schools Foundation and Northwest Trophy.

This award, formerly called the C.P. Johnson Humanitarian Award, was presented to students in the Northshore School District for 20 years by the school board, with the final presentation in spring 2008.

The award was named after C.P. because he brought the Northshore community a new awareness of the values of ethnic diversity. He spoke often of the responsibilities schools and communities have to understand the contributions of all people.

With the ongoing work the District is doing around Positive Behavior Intervention Supports (PBIS) and equity & diversity, the District chose to relaunch the award program, beginning in the 2018-19 school year.

“We knew this was something that could make a difference in our schools, across our district and our community - and boy has it, said Reid. “Never has there been a time more important to demonstrate humanitarian traits as now.”

The relaunch of the program included the renaming of the award to include Dorothy Johnson, C.P.'s wife, who historically presented the medals to the students at the annual ceremony. She too was an educator who advocated for students with special needs across the state. She has since passed, but her legacy continues today in the state of Washington and in the city of Bothell where the couple resided with their family.

“My uncle and aunt C.P. and Dorothy Johnson would have been deeply touched that so many students in Northshore schools are doing humanitarian actions every single day,” said Amber Braxton, great niece of C.P. & Dorothy Johnson. “Being humanitarian is when you are concerned with the well-being of other people, so every single one of you students who is being honored has shown great concern for the well-being of other people around you and I commend you for that.”

View the **[list of this year's recipients](#)**, the full nomination for each student, and a photo, as well as watch the ceremony.

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