Greenwich Public Schools



APRIL 25, 2022 5:00 PM Greenwich High School

IT IS THE MISSION OF THE GREENWICH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

- to educate all students to the highest levels of academic achievement;
- to enable them to reach and expand their potential; and
- to prepare them to become productive, responsible, ethical, creative and compassionate members of society.

GREENWICH PUBLIC SCHOOLS COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS PROGRAM

Greenwich Public School students are presented with Community Service Awards for participation in service activities that help to improve both their school and community. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Toni Jones and Board of Education Chair Kathleen Stowe present awards to the elementary, middle and high school student recipients. State Citations are also presented to each award recipient. Former Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Ernest Fleishman presents the Fleishman Award for Community Service to a high school student that has made outstanding contributions to the community and to the high school.

Students are nominated and/or selected by their principals, house administrators, guidance counselors, and/or grade level teachers. Each school has their own selection process. The criteria used to determine the award recipient varies, but generally includes the following considerations:

- evidence of participation in and a commitment to school/community service,
- demonstration of good citizenship both in and outside of school,
- the leadership ability to motivate others to action to benefit the community,
- a good scholastic record, and/or
- participation in student government

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS CEREMONY PROGRAM

PROCESSION

Accompaniment by Greenwich High School Jazz Ensemble

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

Ralph Mayo, Greenwich High School Principal

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Performed by Greenwich High School students Stephanie Busani, Dawson Clark, Jackson Gailes, and Alexis Killeen

COMMENTS

State Senator Ryan Fazio Board of Education Chair Kathleen Stowe Superintendent of Schools Dr. Toni Jones

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Presented by Teresa Ricci, Principal, International School at Dundee Elementary School students represent their schools

STUDENT

OTODENT		
REPRESENTATIVE	School	PRINCIPAL
Maria Nonato Ramos	Cos Cob School	Gene Schmidt
Michael Acerbo	Glenville School	Klara Monaco
Sam Buck	Glenville School	Klara Monaco
Gianni Saba	Hamilton Avenue School	Shanta Smith
Donato Impellizzeri	International School at Dundee	Teresa Ricci
Ava Moien Afshari	Julian Curtiss School	Patricia McGuire
Lester Perez Rosario	Julian Curtiss School	Patricia McGuire
Danna Dias	New Lebanon School	Alexandra Michaelson
Jessica Orozco	New Lebanon School	Alexandra Michaelson
Quinn Roy	North Mianus School	Angela Schmidt
Harper Roy	North Mianus School	Angela Schmidt
Abby Winig	North Street School	Jill Flood
Tyler Chopra	North Street School	Jill Flood
David Lusman	Old Greenwich School	Jennifer Bencivengo
Adelaide Duxbury	Old Greenwich School	Jennifer Bencivengo
Tyler Esterkin	Parkway School	Mary Grandville
Amanda Guliner	Parkway School	Mary Grandville
Ethan Allen	Riverside School	Christopher Weiss

MIDDLE SCHOOLS

PRINCIPAL/

House

		I MINGILIE
STUDENT RECIPIENT	<u>School</u>	PRESENTER
Riona McKersie	Central Middle School	Thomas Healy
Abigail Meyers	Eastern Middle School	Jason Goldstein
Dayanna Diaz	Western Middle School	Gordon Beinstein

HIGH SCHOOL

		ADMINISTRATOR/
STUDENT RECIPIENT	<u>House</u>	PRESENTER
Ella Moore	Bella House	Lucy Arecco
Karen Maldonado	Cantor House	Christina Shaw
Stephanie Busani	Clark House	David Walko
Alexa Nakanishi	Folsom House	Andrew Byrne
Alexis Killeen	Sheldon House	Brigid Barry

THE FLEISHMAN SERVICE AWARD

Presented by Dr. Ernest Fleishman Recipient: Prathit Kurup Greenwich High School

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SERVICE PROJECTS

The Greenwich Public Schools elementary students consistently demonstrate a commitment to serving others through building awareness, raising funds, volunteering their time, and caring for those in need. GPS Elementary Schools support local service organizations such as Neighbor to Neighbor, Meals on Wheels, and Kids in Crisis, as well as local seniors, veterans, hospitals, and many more. On a national and global scale, students support UNICEF, the American Heart Association, Pencils of Promise, CHAMPS, and numerous other organizations. Each of our schools is committed to service learning and providing multiple opportunities for involvement in support of those in need.

Listed below is just a sampling of the many acts of service that each elementary school has participated in this year. Elementary students receive awards on behalf of their schools' service activities as well as in recognition of their individual contributions to the community.

Cos Cob School

Cos Cob School students participate in many community service projects that support local, national, and international causes. Cos Cob School student representative Maria Nonato Ramos exemplifies the efforts of her classmates, who collected essential items such as deodorant, toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo & conditioners, socks, T-shirts, etc. to donate to patients at West Haven Veterans Hospital. Care packages were also distributed to local Cos Cob veterans. The packages consisted of a mug with a Dunkin' Donut gift card, thank you letters from our students, and a DVD of our students singing, speeches, and artwork. Cos Cob students collected non-perishable food items and gift cards at local grocery stores. A group of students then sorted the items and made Thanksgiving baskets to benefit local residents and Neighbor to Neighbor.

GLENVILLE SCHOOL

Glenville School representative Michael Acerbo distinguished himself as a member of the Fifth Grade Student Community Service Council, where he helped lead school-wide initiatives benefiting the Home of the Brave organization, Kids in Crisis and Memorial Sloan Kettering Hospital. As a Boy Scout, Michael volunteered at The Nathaniel Witherell and at Don Bosco Center. Fellow Glenville representative Sam Buck was involved in the creation of the Best Day Ever Hat Project to raise money and awareness for research for the Vanishing White Matter Families Foundation. Sam also inspired the Pie Face Challenge at Glenville, and participates in events to raise money and awareness for Make-a-Wish, Baking Memories for Kids, and the Hole in the Wall Gang Camp.

Hamilton Avenue School

Hamilton Avenue School students annually participate in the HAS Math-a-Thon to support St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital in the fight against childhood cancer. Donations generated through the hard work of Hamilton Avenue School representative Gianni Saba and HAS scholars and families will help cover the cost of wagons that the hospital supplies to all of their patients to help them get from one treatment room to another comfortably. Hamilton Avenue School students have raised nearly \$66,000 since beginning their participation in the program. Gianni exemplifies the Hamilton Avenue School spirit, giving of his time and talents and helping children realize that giving back, even in the smallest of ways, can make a huge difference in the lives of others.

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL AT DUNDEE

As part of the International Baccalaureate program at the International School at Dundee, students participate in numerous service activities supporting the concepts of "taking action" and "giving back." This year, among other activities, International School at Dundee students collaborated with Neighbor to Neighbor to fill numerous bags and boxes of food to donate to local families. The students also collected much needed items to ship to those impacted by the humanitarian conflict in Ukraine. Student representative Donato Impellizzeri is an active participant in a myriad of school service activities and his leadership is an example for his classmates to follow.

JULIAN CURTISS SCHOOL

Julian Curtiss School students are provided community service opportunities throughout the school year, and collect donations to support organizations such as Neighbor to Neighbor, Horizons, and the Boys and Girls Club. The Julian Curtiss Student Ambassadors are involved with the school's younger students in a variety of ways, providing mentoring and friendships. Julian Curtiss School representatives Ava Moien Afshari and Lester Perez Rosario lead by example, collaborate well with their peers, and exemplify the school norms as Student Council co-presidents and members of the Julian Curtiss Service Club. As co-presidents, Ava and Lester helped spearhead initiatives to create school appropriate recess games and playground norms as well as a campaign to respect and take care of school property and facilities.

NEW LEBANON SCHOOL

At New Lebanon School, students and staff participate in numerous fundraising activities throughout the school year. New Lebanon School representatives and Student Council members Danna Dias and Jessica Orozco have played a lead role in school-wide fundraisers, collecting a significant monetary sum centered around Valentine's Day to donate to the American Heart Association. The duo also spearheaded two NLS food and clothing drives to benefit Neighbor to Neighbor, creating posted, securing collection boxes, and completing public service announcements for the school to rally support and contributions. As student liaisons to the NLS PTA, Danna and Jessica participated and volunteered in a number of PTA initiatives, including an Election Day Bake Sale, Teacher Appreciation Week and Penny Wars.

NORTH MIANUS SCHOOL

North Mianus School students participate in numerous annual events to embody the school's efforts of service to others through simple acts of kindness and contributing to the community. Activities include the school's continued support of Marshall Institute CHAMPS, raising money to support the training of land mine detecting dogs. NMS representatives Harper and Quinn Roy participated in a holiday giving tree to benefit Neighbor to Neighbor, are helping organize an outdoor Memorial Day/Veterans Day assembly next month, and assisted in raising over \$1,000 to support those diagnosed with pediatric cancer. The twins help carry on the school's legacy of caring for and supporting others by joining their family as part of the Caring Ministries which include delivering meals, flowers, and essentials to people who are homebound.

North Street School

North Street School students hold events throughout the school year to raise funds and awareness for numerous local and national organizations. Led by the Student Council, the North Street School student body donated over 200 new pajamas to assist Fairfield County children in need and donated food items to Neighbor to Neighbor as part of their "Super 'Souper' Fun Week." North Street School representative Abby Winig, along with her scout troop and family, spent time at a shelter in Stamford serving Thanksgiving dinner to homeless people. Fellow NSS representative Tyler Chopra, along with his family, organized clothing donations for shelters and made and distributed gift bags for families who are in the hospital or visiting someone in the hospital.

OLD GREENWICH SCHOOL

Old Greenwich School representatives David Lusman and Adelaide Duxbury epitomize the commitment to community service at Old Greenwich School. David championed the cleaning up of all Old Greenwich School property, working on the weekends and at recess, and encouraging his classmates in fourth and fifth grade and others to keep the school clean and safe for all students. Adelaide helped clean up Tod's Point as part of Live Like Luke and, entirely on her own time, created a bake sale to raise funds for further research by the National Scleroderma Foundation. These civic minded students hope to better their community and the world through their acts and the acts of their classmates.

PARKWAY SCHOOL

Parkway School is a United States Department of Education Green Ribbon School recognized for promising practices in environmental education. Parkway School representatives Tyler Esterkin and Amanda Guiliner lead their classmates as Student Council co-presidents, and organized several events to benefit Inspirica, including a coffee sale, a bake sale, and a fifth grade vs. staff kickball game. A fresh food drive by Parkway students resulted in over 1,800 pounds of fresh fruit and vegetables being donated to Neighbor to Neighbor, and several hundred books were donated to the Greenwich Alliance for Education for its annual Children's Book Drive. These examples of giving back prove that when provided the opportunity, children are very capable of making a difference in the world.

RIVERSIDE SCHOOL

Ethan Allen exemplifies Riverside School's proud tradition of community service and his actions highlight the many acts of kindness, generosity, and caring Riverside students provide each year, benefiting the Holidays for Haiti program, the Neighbor to Neighbor Food Drive, the Run for Life, and Alex's Lemonade Stand. In addition, the fifth grade Student Council held a drive collecting donations and materials for Lucky Dog Refuge and supported efforts to further improve Riverside's recycling and green initiatives. In addition, Ethan has helped those in need through the Salvation Army, helped his father's veterinary practice to rescue and support abandoned and lost pets and livestock following a major hurricane in the Bahamas, and also to support people in need at that time with food and care packages through his church.

MIDDLE SCHOOL AWARD RECIPIENTS

CENTRAL MIDDLE SCHOOL: RIONA MCKERSIE

"Community service has always been a part of my family, from our family's O'Meara Foundation to my parents always giving back to the community. I love doing community service because I enjoy helping those who may need it, brightening someone's day."

As a member of Student Council, Riona has been an active participant throughout the past two school years, currently serving as vice president. In the fall seasons of 2019 and 2021, she supported the fundraising efforts to raise over \$300 for the Epilepsy Foundation to help spread awareness, and organized a Thanksgiving canned food drive to benefit local food pantries.

Riona has helped to spread awareness about breast cancer, down syndrome, and mental health. During the winter of 2019, Riona worked collaboratively with a group of her peers to help children in need, collecting items for Toys for Tots. Riona also helped to organize the school's second involvement in collecting funds for the American Childhood Cancer Organization in March 2022.

Riona most recently assisted with collecting cash and item donations for Ukraine. For all of these school events, Riona contributed to creating advertisements, announcements, delivering items to classrooms, counting cans for the food drive and collecting funds for our fundraisers.

"Her positive attitude, commitment to her studies and community service, along with her ongoing desire to help others, makes her deserving of this award," Student Council Advisor Ms. Maria Woodward said. "She is always determined to succeed and is able to rise to any challenge."

EASTERN MIDDLE SCHOOL: ABIGAIL MEYERS

"Community service is important to me because I am able to have a positive impact on individuals and the world. My service projects have helped educate me about important issues our country is facing and allowed me to spread that knowledge. Providing service to others also gives me a sense of community and purpose."

Abigail, along with her friend Heidi, made an Environmental Pledge Stand during local beach cleanups at which people pledged to do things that help the environment. While they are making pledges, she provided education and materials on environmental protection. She and her family also designed and built, with the Town's approval, a permanent beach bucket station at Tod's Point that she maintains. Visitors to the beach can use the buckets to collect trash year-round.

During her three years at EMS, Abigail was the top achiever by raising over \$3,000 during the school's annual fundraiser for school activities and programs. She has spent many hours going door-to-door and sending letters to people in her neighborhood to raise this money.

She is a member of Open Arts Alliance, a theater and community service nonprofit organization with the goal to help people in poverty and to bring warmth to senior citizens. This year, they organized food drives and participated in many projects for the elderly.

"When I think of a student that exemplifies service for others, I immediately think of Abigail," School Counselor Ms. Meghan Moore said. "She is an amazing, service-oriented, and wonderfully talented young woman who we are lucky to have at Eastern."

WESTERN MIDDLE SCHOOL: DAYANNA DIAS

'It is important to participate in service activities because when we give something to the community, we learn that we will not always get something in return. Our community is our home, and where the people we love live. It is never too late to make a difference and the difference all starts with you."

Dayanna has been involved in community service since she was a little child, beginning with the annual cleanup of local beaches with her family. In addition, she tutors elementary-aged children and works with her church in food and clothing drives.

She is quite vested in school service as well. As an AVID student, she has provided tours for incoming students and their families and has actively participated in the popular Thanksgiving fundraising event, the Turkey Trot for the Greenwich Alliance for Education that had more than 1,600 people registered and raised \$73,000. As a member of the Environmental Club, Dayanna has been active with a recent clothing drive for Ukraine and she has been a leader in the Neighbor to Neighbor food drive.

"Dayanna is a conscientious student, hard working, soft-spoken student who has added to the community in our school," School Counselor Ms. Karina Magana said." She leads by example."

GREENWICH HIGH SCHOOL AWARD RECIPIENTS

Bella House: Ella Moore

"Participating in service activities not only benefits others, but allows people of all ages and backgrounds to foster relationships, creating a stronger, more connected community."

Ella volunteered at Stamford Hospital as a junior volunteer where her responsibilities included conversing with and cheering up patients who had recently undergone cardiovascular surgery.

She participated in Greenwich Emergency Medical Service Explorer Post and earned her EMT certification while participating in weekly meetings and volunteering at events such as Touch-A-Truck, first aid demonstrations, and blood pressure screenings. They help younger children learn more about medicine and consider a career in the medical field.

Ella is the co-president of the Free Standardized Test Tutoring Club where they prepare juniors for the SAT. Her responsibilities include recruiting and training new tutors, matching tutors with tutees, organizing a tutoring schedule, and managing coursework/supplies.

With her crew team, she participated in "Erg for a Cure" to raise more than \$25,000 in 2018 and 2019 for cancer gene therapy research.

As a volunteer for Neighbor to Neighbor, she unloaded donated groceries from vans, stocked shelves, and organized supplies for underprivileged families in our community.

"Ella has demonstrated her commitment to her education and serving her community through her endless work," School Counselor Ms. Danielle Carrizzo said. "She has provided others with opportunities to better their learning and has also provided the GHS community with her outstanding findings in her science research work. Her passion and drive to better the world and community around her is unmatched and an inspiration."

CANTOR HOUSE: KAREN MALDONADO

"Those of us who have the ability to give back should always make the effort, because there are others who need our support."

Karen is the treasurer of the Boys and Girls Club's Keystone Club, a leadership development opportunity where participants engage in activities to enhance academic success, career preparation, and community service.

She has participated in numerous service activities around town, including food and toiletry drives, "green" events, and provided support at the annual Muddy Up 5K run put on by the Boys & Girls Club of Greenwich at Camp Simmons. Their current project is to raise money to buy Oculus for children's hospitals.

She tutors elementary school students after school at the Boys and Girls Club and tutored children of Greenwich Hospital employees for the past two-plus years, keeping them up-to-date on their school work and teaching new concepts.

"Karen has spent her high school career juggling part-time employment as well as a strong commitment to community service, especially as a member of the Keystone Club with the Boys and Girls Club and the Greenwich Hospital," School Counselor Ms. Arianne Haley said. "She truly believes in the importance of giving back to others."

CLARK HOUSE: STEPHANIE BUSANI

Stephanie works with the Off Beat Players, a theater organization in Fairfield County for typical and atypical students that develop musical theater productions and support atypical peers in performing.

She participated in Greenwich Emergency Medical Service Explorer Post where, after receiving her EMT license, rode on ambulance routes and provided educational lectures to the public about healthcare related topics.

Stephanie assisted in organizing food, clothing, and pantry items for Neighbor to Neighbor. She also assisted customers in finding items they needed in both English and Spanish and often mentoring new volunteers.

She participated in "The Monthly Mission," a program that collects and supports organizations in increasing access to feminine products to Inspirica, Neighbor to Neighbor, and RAMP.

Stephanie is an active participant with the Rocking Appalachian Mom's Project, an organization that supports several hunger relief programs in Martin County, KY, including Backpack Program, community food pantry, school salad bars and community gardens, nutrition education, and emergency relief.

"Stephanie is a resilient and remarkable young woman who has spent her high school career not only improving herself, but dedicating her time to support the individuals most in need within our Greenwich and lower Fairfield County communities," School Counselor Ms. Kristina Sapienza said. "She is a truly bright light within our community and is a young woman with a beautiful soul."

FOLSOM HOUSE: ALEXA NAKANISHI

Alexa is the creator of the Rising Artists Mentorship Program, a nonprofit entity designed to connect volunteer high school mentors to younger elementary and middle school students in music, theater, dance, and the visual arts. She understands that she can utilize her love of music to reach out to individuals who need this free service to spend their home time in a very productive and creative manner.

She is the co-president of the Candles Club, where students bake and deliver

cakes for those in homeless shelters who cannot afford to celebrate big occasions. Alexa is a member of the Help for the Homeless Club, supporting the homeless and homeless shelters, with warm food and hot meals, and is a member of the Performer's Showcase Club, spreading cheer through her love of music and playing the violin to elderly residents.

Alex has volunteered at the Cos Cob Library, a place where she often went as a child, assisting children in a summer reading program, helping visiting patrons locate books, select books, and offering book recommendations.

"It is abundantly clear that Alexa has an enormous heart for giving back and supporting her community," Guidance Counselor Mr. Brian Dayton said. "She takes great pride in helping others by way of music, a hot meal, or a warm smile. She realizes how even just one person can make an impact by striking up a conversation with someone who never really gets that chance or teaching a young student how to play an instrument for the first time."

SHELDON HOUSE: ALEXIS KILLEEN

Alexis is a youth board member at Abilis, a nonprofit organization that provides services and supports for over 800 individuals with special needs and their families. Abilis has been a leader in providing state of the art services for the special needs community in Lower Fairfield County for 70 years.

She co-taught ballet classes for girls ages 5-7 with autism, with Boston Ballet's Adaptive Dance program, creating techniques that allowed students to maximize their unique abilities.

Alexis is a performer with the Off-Beat Players, an inclusive theater company for young adults that features performers and production staff with and without disabilities. The Off-Beat Players believe that creative expression through musical theater production should be available to all young adults, regardless of disability.

She was a server at Hill House Senior residence, serving meals to residents, preparing the salad bar, and cleaning the dining hall and kitchen, and is an active participant with the Rocking Appalachian Mom's Project, an organization that supports several hunger relief programs in Martin County, KY.

"Alexis makes the most of opportunities at GHS and in the community and approaches them with a smile and spirit that is infectious amongst not only her peers, but adults as well," Guidance Counselor Mr. Evan Dubin said. "Her passions are ignited by her love of performing and her need to help others. She is a shining star at Greenwich."

THE FLEISHMAN SERVICE AWARD

RECIPIENT: PRATHIT KURUP

"Participating in service activities in high school allows students to cooperate with others to make positive change and give back to their community."

Prathit is a young leader who believes that he can help change his community and our society for the better. All of his volunteer hours - over 400 and counting - are targeted toward making a difference. He started small and now is willing to take on the fight that is needed. He is humble, smart, compassionate and totally genuine.

As a member of the First Selectman's Youth Committee, he spearheaded an initiative to bring science fairs to town middle schools, encouraging greater student involvement and understanding via academic exposure; co-led the Student Diversity and Leadership Conference to enhance cultural exposure; and he worked toward creating a middle school "branch" of the FSYC, which works on projects benefiting youth in town.

As a result of his work, 50 middle school students participated in the 2021 science fair, participants of the Diversity Leadership Conference explored their unique identities and reflected on how to impact and effect change on our community, and the middle school branch of the FSYC is creating future leaders for the commission.

As the founder of Writing Pals, Prathit organized and ran writing workshops during the summer after ninth grade. The young writers eventually published their stories – the book is available on Amazon. The club continues its outreach efforts and recently raised \$700 to send school supplies to a village in India.

As a volunteer for DIVE (Diversity, Inclusion, Values, Equity), Prathit helped to develop a curriculum that teaches diversity, equity, inclusion, and anti-racism to younger students in our community, and specifically, the YWCA's programs.

As a participant at Chester Addison Community Center's Domus program, he helps build loving relationships with young people facing adversity, empowering them to pursue their path to self-sufficiency, and as a volunteer for Neighbor to Neighbor, he bagged food, helped customers, and participated in clothing drives for underprivileged families in our community.

"Prathit walks the talk, understanding that individual actions can have a profound impact on improving the lives of others," School Counselor Arianne Hale said. "His passion for his work through the First Selectman's Youth Commission, his numerous volunteer hours with our at-risk communities, and his initiative in creating the Writing Pals Project, stand as examples for all of us."

Greenwich Public Schools Safe School Climate District Norms



Be Here
Be Safe
Be Honest
Care for Self and Others
Let Go and Move On

The Greenwich Public Schools is committed to complying with federal, state and local equal opportunity and non-discrimination laws that prohibit that school district from making any employment decision, excluding any person from any of its educational programs or activities, or denying any person the benefits of any of its educational programs or activities, on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or genetic information, ancestry, age, religion, sexual orientation, marital status, economic status or any other basis prohibited by applicable law, except in the case of a bona fide occupational qualification and/or subject to conditions and limitations established by law. Inquiries regarding the Greenwich Public Schools' nondiscrimination policies should be directed to the Chief Human Resources Officer, Greenwich Public Schools, 290 Greenwich Avenue, Greenwich, CT 06830.

VISION OF THE GRADUATE

The Greenwich Public Schools are committed to preparing students to function effectively in an interdependent global community. Therefore, in addition to acquiring a core body of **knowledge**, all students will develop their individual capacities to:



Academic Capacities

Pose and pursue substantive questions

Critically interpret, evaluate, and synthesize information

Explore, define, and solve complex problems

Generate innovative, creative ideas and products



Personal Capacities

Be responsible for their own mental and physical health Conduct themselves in an ethical and responsible manner

Recognize and respect other cultural contexts and points of view

Pursue their unique interests, passions and curiosities

Respond to failures and successes with reflection & resilience



Interpersonal Capacities

Communicate effectively for a given purpose

Advocate for ideas, causes, and actions

Collaborate with others to produce a unified work and/or heightened understanding

Contribute to community through dialogue, service, and/or leadership

