

GREENWICH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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The seal of the Town of Greenwich, Connecticut, is a circular emblem. It features a central figure, likely a Native American, holding a bow and arrow. The figure is surrounded by a landscape with trees and a body of water. The words "TOWN OF GREENWICH" are inscribed in a circle around the top, and "CONNECTICUT" is at the bottom. Two stars are positioned on the left and right sides of the seal.

COMMUNITY SERVICE  
AWARDS CEREMONY

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MARCH 13, 2018

5:00-6:30PM

GREENWICH HIGH SCHOOL

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## 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. Salvatore Corda and Board of Education Chairman Peter Sherr 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, housemasters, guidance counselors, grade level teachers, and/or fellow students. 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

## WELCOME

Chris Winters, Headmaster, Greenwich High School

## MASTER OF CEREMONIES

Jill Gildea, Superintendent of Schools

## COMMENTS

Peter Tesei, First Selectman

## ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Presented by Jill Flood, Principal, North Street School

Elementary School students represent their schools

### STUDENT

#### REPRESENTATIVE

Della Blucher  
Chelsie Glines  
Chloe Rabinowitz  
Pearl Lee  
Vera Kim  
Callie Richards  
Justin Bernstein  
Camille Pedroza-Hall  
Hank van Schaik  
John Kilgallen  
Peter Vomvolakis  
Calvin Donat  
Daniel McGuire  
Ally Bauer  
Lily Roberts  
Brennan Cunnion  
Alyssa Gath  
Blake Martin  
Benjamin Tirana

#### SCHOOL

Cos Cob School  
Cos Cob School  
Glenville School  
Hamilton Avenue School  
Hamilton Avenue School  
International School at Dundee  
Julian Curtiss School  
Julian Curtiss School  
New Lebanon School  
New Lebanon School  
North Mianus School  
North Mianus School  
North Street School  
North Street School  
Old Greenwich School  
Old Greenwich School  
Parkway School  
Parkway School  
Riverside School

#### PRINCIPAL

Gene Schmidt  
Gene Schmidt  
Marc D'Amico  
John Grasso  
John Grasso  
Teresa Ricci  
Patricia McGuire  
Patricia McGuire  
Klara Monaco  
Klara Monaco  
Angela Schmidt  
Angela Schmidt  
Jill Flood  
Jill Flood  
Jen Bencivengo  
Jen Bencivengo  
Mary Grandville  
Mary Grandville  
Christopher Weiss

## MIDDLE SCHOOLS

<u>STUDENT RECIPIENT</u>	<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>PRINCIPAL/ PRESENTER</u>
Thomas Fahey	Central Middle School	Thomas Healy
Alexis Killeen	Eastern Middle School	Ralph Mayo
Angela Zarrilli	Western Middle School	Gordon Beinstein

## HIGH SCHOOL

<u>STUDENT RECIPIENT</u>	<u>HOUSE</u>	<u>HOUSE ADMINISTRATOR/ PRESENTER</u>
Flora Dievenich Braes	Bella House	Lucy Arecco
Gregory Goldstein	Cantor House	Jason Goldstein
Sadie Cox	Clark House	David Walko
Catherine Veronis	Folsom House	Dana Tulotta
Julia Merrill	Sheldon House	Brigid Barry

## THE FLEISHMAN SERVICE AWARD

Presented by Ernest Fleishman  
Recipient: René LaPointe Jameson  
Greenwich High School

## CEREMONY CLOSING

Peter Bernstein, Board of Education Chair

## RECEPTION

Immediately following the ceremony in the Galleria

## **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 provide 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 their own contributions to the community.

### **Cos Cob School**

Cos Cob School students participate in community service projects throughout the year, supporting local, national, and international causes. Students raised over \$1,500 in support of Alex's Lemonade Stand, collected Halloween candy and clothes for Veterans who reside at the New Haven Veteran's Hospital, put together Thanksgiving food baskets for Neighbor to Neighbor, and conducted their December Giving Tree to support those students in need from their school community. This fall, Cos Cob School students participated in the "Kindness Rock Project". Students, staff and parents decorated rocks with inspirational quotes and distributed them throughout the Cos Cob Community. Cos Cob School student representatives Della Butcher and Chelsea Glines also extend their community service involvement activities beyond their school.

### **Glenville School**

Glenville School representative Chloe Rabinowitz played in integral role in Glenville School's community service efforts. Glenville School Student Council organized a Pajama Day fundraiser to benefit Circle of Care, raised funds that were donated to the Texas Diaper Bank to help those devastated by Hurricane Harvey, and held a "pie-face" challenge to raise money for Vanishing White Matter research, a disorder that impacts a Glenville second grade student. The three events raised over \$4,500. Chloe and her classmates ran a "store" in their classroom, raising \$2,300 for Circle of Care. With her family, Chloe annually makes and distributes Christmas cards through the Bowery Mission, volunteers at dog shelters and provides meals to the homeless.

### **Hamilton Avenue School**

Hamilton Avenue School students participate in a variety of community service activities throughout the year; exemplify the Hamilton Avenue spirit of the giving of time and talents and helping children realize that helping, even in the smallest of ways, can make a huge difference in the lives of others. Additionally, Hamilton Avenue School representatives Pearl Lee and Vera Kim served as a positive role model for their classmates, practicing good citizenship, kindness, and trustworthiness. They spearheaded an effort by their ALP Language Arts classmates to organize a can and bottle drive to raise funds for the Water for South Sudan clean water organization.

## **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.” Students have held food and coat drives for Neighbor to Neighbor, donated, wrapped, and delivered holiday gifts to children with the assistance of Greenwich Social Services, and held a Veterans Day ceremony, honoring local veterans. This year, the students raised money through completing chores and errands at home, then donated nearly \$1000 to AmeriCares to benefit those impacted by the hurricanes in Florida, Texas, and Puerto Rico. International School at Dundee student representative Callie Richards embodies the vibrant spirit of school service activities that exists at ISD.

## **JULIAN CURTISS SCHOOL**

This year, Julian Curtiss School students held a winter clothing and food drive for Neighbor-to-Neighbor, and participated in a coin collection drive to benefit Rucker Elementary School in Houston, which was devastated during the hurricane, enabling the school to donate a \$1000 gift certificate to Scholastic to buy books. In addition, the JC PTA gave Rucker Elementary all of their Scholastic Points. The JC Service Club rallied behind the Willow Project to support a JC student undergoing chemotherapy, read to K, 1 and 2 students in the early morning program, and participated in the Safety Patrol and school grounds cleaning efforts. Julian Curtiss School student representatives Justin Bernstein and Camille Pedroza-Hall are compassionate and considerate volunteers, and are academic and social role models.

## **NEW LEBANON SCHOOL**

A CHAMPS Connecticut Founding School, New Lebanon School is pioneering efforts in Connecticut to support training for land mine detecting dogs in worn-torn countries. This year, they expanded the program, regularly Skyping with students in landmine-impacted countries such as Bosnia, Iraq, Afghanistan, and Yemen. Students participated in activities to support charitable organizations including UNICEF, Neighbor to Neighbor, Pencils of Promise, Kids in Crisis, and Heavenly Hats Foundation. The New Lebanon Student Council organized a collection drive to buy Girl Scout cookies from a local Girl Scout Troup and send those cookies overseas for our troops. As Student Council officers, New Lebanon School student representatives Hank van Schaik and John Kilgallen played an integral role in the school's service activities.

## **NORTH MIANUS SCHOOL**

North Mianus School students participated in the school's annual Turkey Shoot Basketball Tournament, collecting food and donations for Neighbor to Neighbor, which totaled over \$5,000. They held a Veterans Day assembly and breakfast for local veterans, and continue to support CHAMPS land mine detecting dogs through their annual walk, a Bar-b-que and through the donation of proceeds from the Spring Art Show. Students collected Pennies for Patients which supports the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society and, this year extended community service beyond the school walls as student and parent volunteers came in before school to make bagged lunches for the Stamford homeless community. North Mianus School student representatives Calvin Donat and Peter Vomvolakis help carry on the school's tradition of service for others.

## **NORTH STREET SCHOOL**

North Street School students planned and held events for organizations such as Neighbor to Neighbor, Read to Feed, and the Pajama Program, held a Veterans Day assembly to honor for local veterans, created cards with special messages that were delivered to a local senior living facility and partnered with Greenwich High School's HEROES club to send cards to local military hospitals and veteran associations. North Street School student representatives Ally Bauer and Daniel McGuire are Student Council members and are civic minded and share their concern about the world and NSS community, both with their classmates and on their own. Their admirable leadership skills are tapped to motivate their peers to participate in service projects.

## **OLD GREENWICH SCHOOL**

Old Greenwich School students conduct numerous community service events throughout the school year, participating in both school and community based service projects benefitting groups including Neighbor to Neighbor, Jump Rope for Heart, senior citizens, and veterans. Students participate in School Spirit Days raising funds for a myriad of charitable organizations. Student Ambassadors fill backpacks at holiday times for students in New York City, gather books and winter clothing for children in Bridgeport, raise funds for various local and national service projects and support beach clean-ups at Tod's Point. Old Greenwich School representatives Brennan Cunnon and Lily Roberts are the epitome of Old Greenwich School community service.

## **PARKWAY SCHOOL**

Parkway School is a U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon School recognized for promising practices in environmental education. This year Alyssa Gath and Blake Martin have been selected as the Parkway School representatives. In response to the hurricane in Puerto Rico, students gathered and donated nearly 300 pounds of Halloween candy for the children of Puerto Rico. Another fundraising effort resulted in more than 2000 pounds of fresh produce donated to Neighbor-to-Neighbor, more than doubling their goal. Parkway students created artwork that was displayed at Stamford Hospital and valentines that were distributed at Bridgeport Veteran's Hospital. The enthusiasm and careful planning for these projects resulted in successes not only measured in dollars collected for the cause but in community building for Parkway School.

## **RIVERSIDE SCHOOL**

Riverside School students have conducted a stuffed animal/toy collection for the Smilow Cancer Center, organized Valentines for Veterans, participated in a Pennies for Patients fundraiser, and held a food drive for Neighbor-to-Neighbor. This year, the students organized a light coat drive for West Elementary School in Texas, which was impacted by the hurricane. Fifth grade students volunteer to help with lessons for children learning English at the Neighbors Link Community Center and participate in the Riverside Rangers program, helping younger students in the school. They also work with the Robinhood Foundation to provide toiletry bags to children in homeless shelters. Riverside School student representative Benjamin Tirana enhances Riverside's proud tradition of citizenship and respect demonstrated by students both inside and outside of school.

## MIDDLE SCHOOL AWARD RECIPIENTS

### CENTRAL MIDDLE SCHOOL: THOMAS (TJ) FAHEY

*"When I am older I won't care about social class or hanging out at a friend's house, I will just want to know that I made a positive impact on others and helped to make my community a better place to live."*

As a member of Central Middle School's (CMS) Student Council, Thomas (TJ) Fahey helped to organize and sell school supplies before school to support the Epilepsy Foundation and in an effort to build empathy for others, raise awareness about epilepsy, and provide a financial donation to the foundation. He also worked with the Council to organize a food drive, collecting over 4,000 non-perishable food items to donate to Neighbor to Neighbor, a local food bank.

TJ helped organize a toy drive with his peers to collect donations for Toys for Tots, and they gathered items for activity kits they created to donate to Maria Fareri Children's Hospital, named for a former CMS student. The activity kits were designed for children hospitalized with serious medical conditions, providing peer support and activities to divert attention, even momentarily, from their conditions.

TJ also sold bracelets to raise awareness and funds, donating \$1,000 to benefit Williams Syndrome, a genetic condition present at birth and characterized by medical problems, developmental delays and learning challenges.

CMS Principal Tom Healy said, "TJ has been a true ambassador for CMS and our community service efforts. His leadership of and commitment to our student council has been integral to our many successful drives and efforts to help those in need."

### EASTERN MIDDLE SCHOOL: ALEXIS KILLEEN

*"I enjoy giving back to the community in order to help others in need who may not be as fortunate as I am. Engaging in community services also teaches me to be more compassionate and understanding toward others."*

Alexis Killeen volunteers with the Kids Helping Kids Club in Stamford, an organization founded by a young student who believed "If we can continue to have lots of kids do just a little, we can really make a difference for those in need!" Alexis has organized and run bake sales in order to benefit this organization, and traveled to Kentucky on a service trip with the club to work at a food bank and to deliver food to children in need. She describes it as a "life-changing experience."

Alexis volunteers her time weekly at Hill House serving lunch to and socializing with the senior residents. She also worked with her classmates at Eastern Middle School (EMS) in organizing a school-wide clothing drive benefitting Neighbor to Neighbor.

EMS Principal Ralph Mayo said, "Alexis is an amazing young woman who displays all the characteristics of a positive leader. Her service to our school and the community has been nothing short of outstanding. She is a highly capable student and a talented actress as she was our lead in Cinderella. Many people have commented that this may have been our finest production, a great deal of the credit for these accolades are due to Alexis' performance."

### **WESTERN MIDDLE SCHOOL: ANGELA ZARRILLI**

*"I help people because it feels good to be able to give back to people who don't have the same life and opportunities as you do. A lot of people don't realize this, but you are only as strong as your weakest player. If you want to make a difference, you have to start by changing how you see this. Weak doesn't necessarily mean they are less than anyone."*

Angela (Angie) Zarrilli initiated and coordinated The Sudell Sprint, an event to benefit a classmate suffering from cancer, raising \$8,000 to support her classmate and her family in the challenges of addressing this disease. Angie's generous spirit led her to create a Star Wars calendar to sell to raise funds for Abilis, a local organization that provides supports and services to individuals with special needs and their families. She donated \$2,000 from the sale of her self-designed calendar.

Angie is a member of the The Western Middle School Theatre Club. Noting that some of her peers could not afford the annual trip to New York City to experience a Broadway play, she sold ads for the Theatre program to raise funds for their tickets and expenses.

Guidance Counselor Jennifer Hill said, "The staff sees Angie as not just an intelligent and thoughtful student, she is one of the most caring, quality human beings that most have ever seen. Her genuineness and desire to help others is what the world needs, Angie has the determination to take action when needed while remaining modest and kind."

## GREENWICH HIGH SCHOOL AWARD RECIPIENTS

### **BELLA HOUSE: FLORA DIEVENICH BRAES**

*"I think it is important to participate in service activities because it gives me an opportunity to use my skills and my passions to help others in order to make a positive impact on the community around me."*

Flora Dievenich Braes has been a member of the Greenwich Emergency Medical Services (GEMS) Explorer Post for three years, most recently serving as Secretary of the club and a member of the executive committee. She has had the opportunity to ride along and assist on 911 calls, worked at various Town events to support public awareness of health and safety issues, and helps to plan and run weekly meetings for the club. Her passion for the field of medicine led to her selection to participate in the Perry Initiative Outreach Program hosted by the University of Connecticut Medical School. This program provided students with an opportunity to connect with orthopedic surgeon mentors through lectures and a hands-on workshop. She participated in two medical internships at Klinikum Lippe in Detmold, Germany (summer 2017), and Tribeca Pediatrics in New York, NY (summer 2016), taking patient vital signs, charting medical histories, and assisting in preoperative procedures. Flora is a member of Greenwich High School's Roots and Shoots Club, actively participating in food drives and other service activities in support of the community. She also volunteered at Norwalk's Grassroots Tennis program, a community organization and tennis camp where she taught young people the life sport of tennis (summer 2016). As an Innovation Lab student, Flora's group performance project was selected as a National History Day National Finalist two years running. In 2016, the group's project received the Outstanding Entry Award for Connecticut at the National competition. An avid skier, she received the 2015-16 Bill Morgan Memorial Sportsmanship Award as part of the Thunder Ridge Ski Race Team. Guidance Counselor Danielle Nash said, "Flora is authentic, passionate, and humble. She understands that using her talents for the benefit of others is a meaningful way to repay the many 'gifts' in her life."

### **CANTOR HOUSE: GREGORY GOLDSTEIN**

*"Participating in service activities not only creates a direct effect on the group you are helping, but also creates a sense of community that can not be matched in any other way."*

Greenwich High School (GHS) Student Government Association President Gregory Goldstein has provided strong and effective leadership in support of service to the school and broader community throughout his years at GHS. As a leader in student government, he launched a kindness campaign, reminding peers that words matter; participated in numerous fundraising events; and helped to organize a blood drive that broke State records. He is President and Founder of the Youth Equipment Sharing (YES) Club, organizing sports equipment drives in order to ensure that lack of equipment does not prevent a student from participating in school or town sports. He and his team have collected over 4,000 pieces of equipment over the last two years for peers that may not otherwise have been able to access the equipment needed to participate in sports programs. After a boating accident claimed the life of a classmate, Gregory founded and leads the GHS Safe Boating Club. He created an "On the Water Safe Boating Class" to teach students to safely operate power boats, marketing the program to peers, and recruiting certified instructors to teach the class. He received the USPS Merit

Mark Award twice and was named the Greenwich Student Ambassador by the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. Gregory is also President of the GHS Division of Mothers for Others; club members assist in fundraising efforts to support services for mothers and families in need, and a Link-Up Mentor, mentoring underclassmen and facilitating lessons on transition to high school. Greg's Guidance Counselor Colleen Mayo said, "Greg is a passionate and committed leader to many organizations both in and out of school. He is a poised, confident, and well-spoken young man, but it's his integrity that sets him apart from others. He has good moral values and is simply a kind and considerate person who only cares to give back to others."

### **CLARK HOUSE: SADIE COX**

*"I believe that it is important to participate in service activities relating to the achievement gap in order to combat the most menacing and pressing issue in our educational community and invest in our most impressionable and vibrant echelon of society, children."*

Sadie Cox is passionate about closing the achievement gap and works diligently to do her part in reaching that goal. She is an Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) Tutor, working with her peers in the program at Greenwich High School (GHS). Her AVID advising teacher said, "Arriving early and staying after the bell... Sadie's presence in the classroom made the class feel like it was benefitting from another teacher. Her range of academic strengths allowed her to work with any subject area... Her patience with students and respect for them was evident from bell to bell." Sadie is a Math Honor Society Tutor at GHS, helping peers with challenging math concepts, assisting in math exam review, and providing resources and studying techniques for students needing support. Last summer she volunteered at the Family Centers Summer School as a teacher's assistant supporting students at the summer preschool program. She has volunteered at North Street School's Afters Program, Cos Cob School's Science Outreach Program, and as a tutor at Central Middle School in all math subjects (math 6 to geometry) and in reading comprehension, reinforcing positive studying techniques, test-taking skills, and organization to engage and encourage students. She was also a Youth Advocate Volunteer at DOMUS in Stamford in 2016, making healthy and nutritious dinners at the group home, promoting a healthy lifestyle, and supporting the annual DOMUS Niner Event. Guidance Counselor Kristina Vaio said, "Sadie's commitment to service is unlike most students. She is a selfless young lady who always looks to see how she can support others. She always has a smile on her face and an inspirational message to share. She is a natural in the classroom consistently providing others with the tools they need in order to reach the solution to their problem."

### **FOLSOM HOUSE: CATHERINE VERONIS**

*"It is important for students to engage in service activities because it benefits both the well-being of their community and also their personal realization of social responsibility, and allows students to grow from impactful experiences and new relationships."*

Catherine Veronis dedicates much of her time to supporting youth and her peers as a mentor, tutor, volunteer and leader. Catherine is Vice President of Communications for GHS Student Government and an Executive Board Member of the First Selectman's Youth Commission of Greenwich. Catherine's civic engagement interests also led her to her role as an intern for the re-

election campaign for the 144th District Representative Caroline Simmons. As a Greenwich High School Role Model Mentor, she tutors elementary students to improve academic performance, and also successfully helped with the marketing of this new program to recruit peer tutors. She volunteered with the Boys and Girls Club assisting with various activities for this afterschool program, and as a coach for a fourth grade Odyssey of the Mind Club. As a coach organizing activities to challenge this fourth grade team, she worked the students on creative problem-solving and critical thinking skills, learning basic engineering concepts and preparing for a state wide competition. In the summers, she volunteers with the Greenwich Public Schools Summer School program to help with grading, testing, and explaining concepts to students, and helping the teacher with organizational needs. In the summer of 2017, Catherine volunteered with the Chief Ophthalmologist at Harlem Hospital, initiating and designing a senior internship/observer-ship program to be used in the future, and helped the senior resident take medical histories. Guidance Counselor Louis Quinn said, "Catherine has consistently displayed the highest regard for those around her and actively seeks to be helpful in a variety of volunteer activities. She does so in order to make a difference in her community."

### **SHELDON HOUSE: JULIA MERRILL**

*"Community service not only helps people around us, but it also fulfills us in a way that continues our drive to change the world."*

Julia Merrill received the Dartmouth Book Award, recognizing her for academic achievement, community impact and extracurricular involvement for good reason. Julia is the founder and President of the Greenwich High School (GHS) Spreading Smiles Club, dedicated to raising awareness and funds for children with facial deformities and promoting a positive self-image and acceptance in their school community. A service trip to Colombia extended her reach in supporting this cause, bringing 'smile bags' full of stuffed animals and cards to give to children about to have facial reconstructive surgery. In the Junior League of Greenwich's Positively More program, Julia works with 6th grade girls promoting self-esteem and positive body image. She is an ideal role model for this program's goals to build on the strengths of adolescent girls and understanding that, "when young girls exhibit self-confidence and resilience and feel supported by an array of adults, they are more likely to set high educational goals, express strengths such as self-discipline, and engage in activities that are beneficial to their physical, social, emotional, and intellectual development." Julia is a GHS Peer Mentor, escorting new students to classes on their first day and serving as a mentor throughout the year to ease students' transition and make them feel welcome and comfortable in their new school. As a USA Water Polo Academic All American (2016), a two-time Connecticut Swimming Scholar Athlete (2016, 2017) and Captain of the GHS Varsity Swimming and Diving Team, Julia extended her youth mentorship last summer as an assistant swim coach at Greenwich Country Club. She also volunteered with the GHS Generation to Generation Club for two years, entertaining senior residents at The Mews in Greenwich. Guidance Counselor Evan Dubin said, "Julia is a positive, steady, generous spirit in our school and community. Her commitment to service is impressive."

## THE FLEISHMAN SERVICE AWARD

### RECIPIENT: RENÉ LAPOINTE JAMESON

“It is important for people to look beyond their individualistic concerns and participate in service activities because service fosters greater compassion and understanding amongst different people. In a world where many find it easier to build walls rather than bridges, to avoid and deny issues rather than resolve them, service interconnects people, sparks communication, and challenges people to creatively address issues.... When doing service, individuals learn that we each have an impact on the world around us and through service you are simply choosing for your impact to be positive.”

René Jameson has clearly dedicated her life in the service of others, locally and on a global scale. As Ambassador for the Roots and Shoots National Youth Leadership Council of The Jane Goodall Institute, she has collaborated on global service projects and aided with efforts on conservation, environmental education, and sustainability. Recognizing her contributions and commitment, she was featured as a “Global Face” and “Compassionate Young Leader You Should Get to Know” and received a Certificate of Recognition. René also acts as President of the GHS Roots and Shoots Club, organizing a team of over sixty high school students to identify and alleviate community issues through service projects.

René has won numerous grants to improve her community, including being selected as one of 50 girls from over 4,500 applications to attend the HerLead (ANNPower Vital Voice) Leadership Forum, receiving a \$2,500 grant toward a self-directed project to alleviate food insecurity by building a community garden.

René is also an Abilis Youth Board member, supporting community members with developmental and intellectual disabilities through this organization, and has volunteered with Greenwich Community Gardens, Neighbor to Neighbor, At Home In Greenwich, Inc., and the Byram Shubert Library.

A testament to her life-long commitment to service, René was selected to receive the GPS Community Service Award as an elementary student in 2011, as a middle school student in 2014, is now receiving the preeminent service recognition the Greenwich Public Schools offers – The Fleishman Award. Additional recognition of her service contributions include, receiving the GHS Social Studies Human Relations and Global Citizenship Award in 2015, 2016 and 2017, and the President of the United States Community Service Award in 2016.

A peer service volunteer beautifully summarizes René's inspirational service leadership, "René never let the mission of Roots and Shoots move to the periphery of her priorities. No matter how stressful the week, René brought her true self to the club. In watching her dedication, I realized for the first time that a 'role model' does not have to be someone who is older than you are. She was logistically organized, always setting long-term schedules; she was encouraging, using her own positivity to recruit new members; she was creative, using extensive research and welcoming suggestions from other club members to structure new projects. In hindsight, what amazes me most is that René's strength as a leader is that her genuine love of the work and for the club made her a purely inspiring peer.

I worked with René for two years, and the more of her I came to see, the more I began to strive for her skills and vigor. I questioned myself more: What did I stand for? The more I followed her lead, the more I found myself empowered to take a greater role in organizing projects. Growth, I learned, is the ultimate challenge; I pushed myself, as I saw her do; I spoke my mind on issues as I saw her do. In forcing myself toward the boundary of my own comfort zone, I felt myself propelled towards an area of surprising strength which I learned to enjoy thanks to René."

Editor's Note: Ms. Jameson's impressive service contributions are far too many to detail in this program. We have included only a very cursory summary of the numerous projects and programs she has participated in and/or initiated.

**Greenwich Public Schools  
Safe School Climate  
District Norms**



*Erlynn Nunez*  
© 2012 ErlynnArt

**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 Director of Human Resources, 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**

Master a core body of knowledge

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 and 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

