GREENWICH PUBLIC SCHOOLS



APRIL 14, 2009 5:00-6:30pm Western Middle School Greenwich Public School students are presented with Community Service Awards for participation in service activities that help to improve both their school and community. The ceremony is held at Western Middle School in the auditorium. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Betty J. Sternberg and Board of Education Chairman Nancy Weissler present awards to the elementary, middle and high school student recipients. State Senator L. Scott Frantz presents State Citations 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.

PROGRAM

Music

The Western Middle School Chamber Orchestra under the direction of Mercy Valliancourt

WELCOME

Dr. Stacy Gross, Principal of Western Middle School

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

Dr. Betty J. Sternberg, Superintendent of Schools Mrs. Nancy Weissler, Chairman, Board of Education State Senator Scott Frantz

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Presented by Ms. Nancy Carbone Elementary School recipients represent their schools

RECIPIENTS	Schools	Principals/ Presenters
Jacques Seavey	Cos Cob School	Kimberly Beck
Matthew Rogers & Joseph Lanni	Glenville School	Marc D'Amico
Jennifer Roberto	Hamilton Avenue School	Damaris Rau
Elizabeth Jones	The International School at Dundee	Teresa Ricci
Alba Fernandez & Jessica Lagano	Julian Curtiss School	Nancy Carbone
Juan Garzon	New Lebanon School	Gene Nyitray
Lucas Dell'Abate & Clare Loughran	North Mianus School	Bonnie Butera
George Crist	North Street School	Charles Smith
Ryan King & Rebecca Powell	Old Greenwich School	Patricia Raneri
Joshua Socher	Parkway School	Paula Bleakley
Margot DeRiemer	Riverside School	John Grasso

MIDDLE SCHOOLS

PRINCIPALS/

RECIPIENTS	Schools	PRESENTERS
Victoria Jukic	Central Middle School	Carol Walsh
Hale McSharry	Eastern Middle School	Ralph Mayo
Agustina Garabedian	Western Middle School	Stacey Gross

HIGH SCHOOL

Presented by Mr. Alan J. Capasso, Headmaster

RECIPIENTS	Houses	Housemasters/ Presenters
Christine Barnum	Bella House	Lorraine Termini
Paul Finkelstein	Cantor House	David Ross
Amanda Grond	Clark House	David Walko
Gia Vaccarezza	Folsom House	Martha Zornow
Alison Karp	Sheldon House	Joseph Russo

THE FLEISHMAN SERVICE AWARD Presented by Dr. Ernest Fleishman

RECIPIENT: Matthew Pluta

RECIPIENT: Matthew Pluta Greenwich High School

COMMENTS

State Senator Scott Frantz

CEREMONY CLOSING

Mrs. Nancy Weissler

RECEPTION

 $Immediately \ following \ the \ ceremony \ in \ the \ gymnasium$

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SERVICE PROJECTS

The Greenwich Public Schools' elementary students have participated in food, clothing and book drives, fund raising events and programs, awareness building campaigns, and random acts of kindness. Their efforts have supported countless organizations that work in the service of others including, Neighbor to Neighbor, Kids in Crisis, Jr. League, CT Food Bank, PAWS Animal Shelter, Red Cross, Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, Alzheimer's Society, American Heart Association, UNICEF, and CHAMPS, Our students have great respect for our senior citizens and the men and women in the armed forces. Students spent time creating and sending cards, letters, and care packages and/or visiting with these adults that have given so much to their communities. Elementary students have helped raise awareness about and/or research funds for cancer, Alzheimer's disease, Leukemia, measles, heart disease, orphans, and saving our environment. Elementary students have given selflessly and generously to their school, local, national and global communities.

Listed below is just a sampling of the many acts of service that each elementary school has planned and executed this year:

<u>Cos Cob School</u> – Students conducted a clothing drive, collecting and delivering two truckloads of coats and clothing to Bridgeport and Fairfield County shelters.

<u>GLENVILLE SCHOOL</u> – During Glenville's "Change for Change" program, students collected a week's worth of change to support literacy in Rwanda, donating the money to the Children's Room at the local library for textbooks and leisure reading books.

<u>Hamilton Avenue School</u> – Hamilton Avenue School students participated in a school-wide service project that raised \$1,200 for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

International School at Dundee – Students collected and sent Music CD's and Movie DVD's to soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan. They made and sent Holiday cards to residents of Edge Hill Nursing Home and to Meals on Wheels recipients.

<u>Julian Curtiss School</u> – Julian Curtiss students entertained senior citizens at the holidays, sent cards and letters to soldiers, and visited area preschools to read to the students.

<u>New Lebanon School</u> – Students led the 3rd Annual New Lebanon School Fitness Walk to promote school, family, and community spirit and wellness.

NORTH MIANUS SCHOOL – North Mianus students have an active Student Council that planned and implemented a service activity to collect canned goods to donate to Kids in Crisis.

NORTH STREET SCHOOL – North Street students collected almost 200 pairs of sneakers and more than 150 pounds of school supplies for the Hogares Luz y Vida Orphanage in Bogota, Columbia.

<u>OLD Greenwich School</u> - Students recycle, "Jump Rope for Heart," and sing for the senior citizens at Edge Hill. Modeling service work for their students, OGS Staff volunteered for Habitat for Humanity renovating houses for those in need.

Parkway School – Parkway's "Kids With A Porpoise" service club raised \$1,300 for "Stand Up for Cancer" and stuffed two SUV's full of clothing for the Children's Collective.

<u>RIVERSIDE SCHOOL</u> – Riverside's Student Council led the school in collecting food for Neighbor to Neighbor, the "Stuff the Duffle" program for Kids in Crisis and an Election Day Bake Sale.

MIDDLE SCHOOL AWARD RECIPIENTS

CENTRAL MIDDLE SCHOOL: VICTORIA JUKIC

"Tori is an amazingly, kind, empathic student who is a friend and a giver to all students, especially those with special needs," said Sue Stoga, school psychologist. Victoria (Tori) Jukic has committed countless hours to helping others, raising funds for research, and building awareness about the needs of others. She has been an active member of Central Middle School's service club, "Just Cause," for each of her three years in the school. As part of this club, Victoria has participated in beach clean-ups, food drives, and events and programs that support classmates with disabilities. "Just Cause" delivers food to over 100 families each year. Victoria has participated in the ARC/abilis Walk each year for the last three years, raising over \$1,000 to support developmentally disabled citizens. For the last two years, Victoria has helped run an annual tag sale in support of Dana's Angels Research Trust (DART). This effort has resulted in donations of over \$5,000 to support research. medical care, and awareness of Niemann-Pick Type C disease. Victoria has been a dedicated volunteer with her school's "Circle of Friends" program for three years, creating peer relationships between disabled and non-disabled students. As one of her teachers said, "Victoria models by her example and leads other students to demonstrate kindness and compassion."

EASTERN MIDDLE SCHOOL: HALE McSHARRY

Hale McSharry was selected by his teachers in sixth grade as one of only two students in that grade to serve on Eastern Middle School's "Service for Others" Committee. In the last three years, Hale has been an active and dedicated member of the school's service programs, including raising funds for cancer research and for students from an inner city school, and collecting CD's for our military. Representing the Red Cross, Hale was the driver for the United Way of Greenwich's All-American Soap-Box Derby. Racing down Greenwich Avenue in September 2008 in celebration of the 75th Anniversary of the United Way of Greenwich, each car represented a charity partner of the organization. Hale volunteered

his time at Old Greenwich School's annual "Pumpkin Patch," the school's major fund raising event last Fall. He has also supported the Red Cross Blood Drive, making Health Bags for the blood donors. Hale is a student member of the Greenwich Public Schools' Secondary Schools Review Committee (SSRC). This is one of the District's priority initiatives, established to explore changes to programs and services offered in Grades 6-12 in order to ensure that all students graduate well prepared to enter an increasingly complex and challenging world. Hale offers the important student perspective to the work of this committee. Jim Shukie, Assistant Principal of Eastern Middle School, said, "Hale is a unique young man who looks upon helping others as just a natural thing to do. He is a doer, one who leads and takes action to get positive results in his community."

WESTERN MIDDLE SCHOOL: AGUSTINA GARABEDIAN

Agustina Garabedian is a committed and enthusiastic member of her community. She readily participates in Western Middle School's service opportunities, such as the Thanksgiving Food Drive. This year the school collected enough food to fill two trucks and a van with food to bring to Neighbor to Neighbor. Agustina helped to organize her school's "Pennies for Patients" project, raising almost \$3,700.00 for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Agustina helped collect, organize and tally donated books in Western's Read Across America Day Book Drive. Over 4.000 new or gently used books were collected to donate to organizations in Greenwich. Agustina is also an active member of her church, the Greenwich Baptist Church. She participates in various projects to help the community through the church including, picking up litter from parks and neighborhood streets, delivering food to people in need, and cleaning homes for elderly church members. She also participated in the church's "Fast for Famine" to raise money for starving people in the Republic of Somalia, Liberia, and Zimbabwe, completing the 30-hour fast. Agustina's guidance counselor, Jennifer Hill, said, "Agustina is a student who always shows C.L.A.S.S. She is known amongst the teachers as someone who is willing to volunteer to help with a school activity or with a peer during class time. Agustina is an exceptional young lady and we are proud of her accomplishments."

GREENWICH HIGH SCHOOL AWARD RECIPIENTS

Bella House: Christine Barnum

Christine (Chrissy) Barnum is "a mover and a shaker who has the ability to lead people with a gracious passion...She is an intelligent young woman who thinks deeply about important issues and takes action where she sees it is needed," said her Guidance Counselor, Danielle Nash. Chrissy is an accomplished student, a varsity swimmer, a talented singer, and a devoted volunteer. Chrissy is a three-year member of Y-Net, and has been Co-President for the last two years. Y-Net is aligned with YWCA's Domestic Abuse Services and is a high school service group dedicated to promoting awareness and advocating for legislation about teen dating violence. In her senior year, Chrissy is co-founder and co-president of Imagine Peace, a high school club that provides students with an opportunity to come together to find venues for political activism and outlets for their concerns on national and global issues. As a member of Trinity Church, Chrissy traveled to the Dominican Republic on a mission and service trip, acting as Team Leader for one of the teen groups. She also volunteers for Meals on Wheels, delivering meals to citizens that are elderly, disabled, sick or homebound. Chrissy is captain of the Greenwich High School Varsity Swimming Team and a four-year member. She was a three-year member of Greenwich High School's Concert Choir and as a senior auditioned for and was selected as a member of the Madrigals choir. She is a lifeguard and/or swim instructor in the summers, a National Merit Scholar, a member of the National Honor Society, and was nominated for the Connecticut Girls' State Commission. Chrissy's Y-Net advisor adds, "(she) is a dynamic young woman whose passion for this (Y-Net's) cause is well matched by a strong intellect and a grounded sense of humor."

CANTOR HOUSE: PAUL FINKELSTEIN

"Paul is a quality individual who has distinguished himself with his passions, talents and meaningful contributions. His genuine presence, leadership skills, and musical gifts have contributed greatly to our community," said his guidance counselor, Suzanne her tutee throughout the school year to help with homework, study skills, and time management. Amanda is a Red Cross Safe Rides volunteer, providing safes rides home for students on weekend nights throughout the year. She has been a GHS Cheerleader, a member the Madrigals and Chamber Singer choirs, and participates in school theater productions. Amanda has helped plan and organize Greenwich High School's "Names Day" in each of her four years at the high school. As a senior, she was a member of the Steering Committee. Amanda is an honor roll student, a Clark House Scholar, and a member of the Spanish Honor Society. Her guidance counselor continues, "One of the most thoughtful young women, I have ever met, Amanda goes above and beyond what is expected of her in terms of her academics, clubs, and outside of school responsibilities while always respecting others and thinking of their feelings first."

FOLSOM HOUSE: GIA VACCAREZZA

Gia Vaccarezza "is a bright, musically talented, insightful, and compassionate young woman who has demonstrated strength of character and leadership during her four years at Greenwich High School," said her guidance counselor, Brenda Friedler. Gia has been a dedicated volunteer with the American Red Cross of Greenwich since her middle school years. She was a pilot member of the Junior Youth Council and then moved up to the Youth Council. Red Cross Director, Jessica Chapman, noted, "due to her impeccable service, positive attitude, and strength of character, Gia was nominated for and served as Vice President in her junior year and President in her senior year." In addition, Gia has held the youth position on the Greenwich Red Cross Board of Directors for two years. She is a Red Cross Safe Rides volunteer and has been trained to teach HIV/AIDS education to health classes as part of the Open Eyes program. In addition to these Red Cross programs, Gia has participated in the Red and White Ball (Grades 10, 11), March for Measles (2004-present), and the Nathaniel Witherall Healthy Heart and Senior Prom (Grades 10. 11, 12). Gia is Editor-in-Chief for Compass, the Greenwich High School yearbook and has contributed to the yearbooks for each of her four years at the high school. She is a viola and self-taught guitar player, a member of the GHS Orchestra for four years, and a member of the GHS String Ensemble. Gia is an active member of the Italian Club, President of the Italian Honors Society and a member of the National Honors Society. Gia has taken advantage of and excelled in a rigorous academic program, participated in music, club, and yearbook activities at school and devoted much of her time and enthusiasm to her community in her many acts of service.

SHELDON HOUSE: ALISON KARP

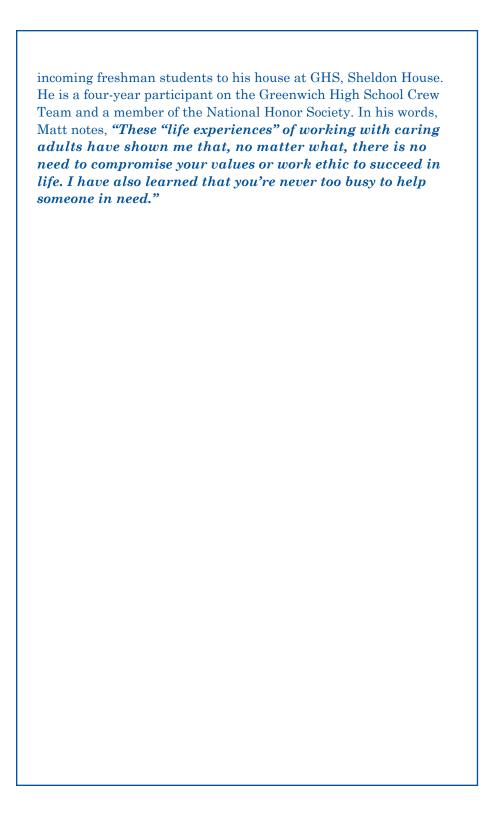
Alison (Ally) Karp is "a terrific young lady. There is a goodness about her that permeates her interactions with those around her. She has a magnetic personality and an outstanding sense of humor," notes her guidance counselor, Evan Dubin. Ally is a valued member of the American Red Cross Safe Rides program where she is a Team Leader and a Training Officer. She is adept at her responsibilities, which include organizing her team, arranging for adult supervision on premises at the Red Cross Office during weekend nights, ensuring that the calls are handled in a safe and effective manner, and enforcing all policies while keeping motivation for the program high. Ally has been a member of the Greenwich High School Community Service Committee and a Homeroom Representative for the last three years (Grades 10, 11, 12). In both positions, she participates in and supports various service projects and student government activities throughout the year. Ally is an accomplished singer and has been a member of the Greenwich High School choral program for each of her four years in high school. As a junior, she auditioned and was selected for the GHS Madrigals; and as a senior she auditioned and was selected for the GHS Chamber Singers. Ally has volunteered for Art from the Heart since her freshman year, helping to raise money to re-decorate rooms for children with terminal illnesses. As a sophomore, Ally became involved with the Friendship Circle, assisting families with children with special needs through the creation of peer relationships. Ally has taken a challenging program of study at Greenwich High School and has been recognized for her civic and academic accomplishments by being selected as a member of the National Honor Society. Her guidance counselor adds, "She is fair, honest and judicious and likes to get involved in helping out people in any way she can.

THE FLEISHMAN SERVICE AWARD

RECIPIENT: MATTHEW PLUTA

Matthew (Matt) Pluta is "a leader with passion and vision, someone willing to roll up his sleeves to excel or to work cooperatively with others. What separates Matt is his internal motivation and drive...he is an active and positive role model for others," said his Housemaster, Joseph Russo, Matt is an eager. hard-working and enthusiastic student, athlete, employee and volunteer. He has been involved with Companions in Courage (CiC) for twelve years, an organization dedicated to raising funds for and setting up game rooms ("Lion's Den") in children's hospitals. Matt participates in the foundation's annual golf outing to raise funds; assisting with everything from planning and organizing the event, and preparing the gift bags to registering the attendees, identifying auction winners and cleaning up at the end. Matt has also visited the hospitals and children that have benefited from the work of CiC, providing a first hand view of the impact of his efforts and inspiring him to continue to help those in need. Jim Johnson, Executive Director of Companions in Courage said, "...we have watched Matt mature into a fine young gentleman. I have relied on him to be courteous and dependable with our guests at our charity events and to help us prepare for successful awareness building activities."

Matt has been involved with Dana's Angels Research Trust (DART) for four years in support of research, education and medical care for the treatment and cure of Niemann-Pick Type C disease. He has helped to plan, organize and run celebrity hockey clinics for local children to raise funds and awareness of DART. He acts as assistant coach and helps run the drills, tie skates and serve food to the children participating. Matt also uses his ice hockey skills in his work with the Boys and Girls Club as a summer counselor at Camp Simmons and in coaching youth hockey at the club for the last five years. He has also served as assistant to the Director of the Town of Greenwich's Youth Hockey Program. In addition to his duties as a Peer Mentor, Matt has devoted a portion of his last two summers assisting his Housemaster in planning and preparing for orientation for



The Greenwich Public Schools is committed to complying with federal, state and local equal opportunity and nondiscrimination 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.

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.