



26th Annual Spellman Humanitarian Awards

April 3, 2024

**Spellman Education Center
Exton, PA**

West Chester Area Education Association
and
West Chester Area School District

proudly present the

2024 Spellman Humanitarian Award Recipients

EAST

Alexandra Barnes
Audrey Beckman
Kathryn Boggess
Sofie Daniszewski
Mia DeVito
Zachary Iozzi
Jessica Pinto
Clare Rudderow
Lasya Tirumamidi
Winetta Williams

HENDERSON

Paige Colson
William Cortes
Alexandru Diaconeasa
Rachel Gebrekidan
Chesney Humphrey
Danielle Hung
Morgan Jackson
Hannah Lamancusa
Elizabeth Stahelek
Lauren Zisk

RUSTIN

Brianna Ambrosine
Kailey Barry
Jake DeMarco
Cara Gleason
Lexi Harrison
Alexa Hellyer
Angela Lin
Olufela Osimokun
Caroline Rendell
Tyler Troutman

Congratulations students!

We are very proud of you. We thank and praise the families of these students. You are their first and best teachers and have done an outstanding job parenting these fine students.

PROGRAM

Greetings and Introduction

Mr. Chris Reyna

West Chester Area Education Association

Welcome

Dr. David Christopher

Superintendent, West Chester Area School District

Remarks

Mrs. Karen Flemming

President, West Chester Area School District School Board

Spellman Legacy

Shannon Tiernan Davis

Presentation of Awards

Mr. Chris Reyna

West Chester Area Education Association

Closing Remarks

Mr. Chris Reyna

West Chester Area Education Association

Special thanks to our talented student musicians from
Henderson High School for their music!

Belle Dugan, Leo Dugan, James White

**We proudly present the
2024 Spellman Humanitarian
Award Recipients**



We would like to thank Mr. Chris Reyna for the 15 years of work with the Spellman Humanitarian Awards. Congratulations on your retirement. You deserve to relax and take it easy for a change. Enjoy it, and we will really miss you!

East High School

Alexandra Barnes



Inspired by her positive experiences in Saints Peter and Paul's after school PREP program, Alexandra realized she did not want to leave the program after sixth grade so she became a volunteer. What started as just assisting teachers once a week soon turned into many rewarding opportunities. Alexandra has committed many hours to the PREP program and has helped several young people in our community.

Audrey Beckman



Audrey recognizes the importance of taking actions that assist others and sharing and teaching the value of helping. In her daily routine at school and church, she can be found organizing student council fundraisers for breast cancer research or stocking cans of tomato sauce and peanut butter and jelly. She believes spreading and sharing the meaning and ideas behind the service and helping others is just as important as the service.



Kathryn Boggess



Kathryn volunteers for many activities from choir singing at a nursing home to Artwork for Church. However, working with the Appalachian Service Project Organization is the most rewarding for her as she worked with others to repair homes with the Appalachian Service Project.

Sofie Daniszewski



Sofie's extensive volunteering includes diverse roles, from pen-palling with seniors to assembling college care packages. However, her most profound impact came through Youthworks Community Service. During a summer trip to Philadelphia, she worked at The Children's Mission, a camp fostering education and positivity for underprivileged children.

Recognizing similarities with the kids, Sofie found deep inspiration. These experiences drive her to help both locally and globally.



Mia DeVito



Mia's dedication to volunteering is boundless. She crochets and donates blankets to veterans in hospice and for chemotherapy patients in hospitals, as well as scarves for the homeless. Additionally, she organizes school supply drives and packs backpacks for needy children. Mia also volunteers as an ambassador at Chester County Hospital's front desk and assists in filing slides in the lab.

However, her most fulfilling role is as a dance mentor for students with special needs at Leaping with No Bounds.

Zachary Iozzi



Zachary devotes his volunteer time to many organizations such as the East Whiteland Fire Department by working on fundraisers (Breakfasts and Community events), Toys for Tots Charity Auction, Tender Grassroots, and Good Day for a Run 5k race. He has also volunteered with Habitat for Humanity to help building or renovating houses for others.



Jessica Pinto



Jessie generously gives her time to the Melton Center's New Directions program. Throughout her high school years Jessis has helped other students to share her knowledge, skill and inspiration with others. On top of this, Jessie is a Viking Leader at East High School and is an assignments coach for Lionville Lightning Softball.

Clare Rudderow



Clare has volunteered in school and the community through the Fresh Food Foundation, the Melton Center, Best Buddies, and Viking Leaders. Through volunteering, Clare has become someone willing to put her dreams on hold to help someone in need.



Lasya Tirumamidi



Lasya's involvement with Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh (HSS) USA, a non-profit organization dedicated to social, educational, and cultural initiatives, has significantly shaped her personal and cultural journey. Her HSS service includes volunteering at the Safe Harbor food shelter in West Chester, biannual highway cleanups, and contributing to the wellness of local parks by participating in spring cleanups.

Through her involvement in FIRST Robotics, Lasya, and her teammates observed a lack of access to STEM learning opportunities in local communities and school districts. As a result, her team took proactive steps to initiate programs aimed at introducing robotics and technology education to the underserved.

Winetta Williams



At school, Winetta works with the Minding Melton Committee to organize tutors for the Melton Center's New Directions program. She also volunteers as a tutor for the Melton Center's New Directions program. As a Viking Leader, she works with freshmen to help them acclimate to high school.



Henderson High School

Paige Colson



Paige volunteers to help the food insecure in the Borough of West Chester, through serving meals on weekends and in her construction of a “Blessing Box”—an outdoor pantry at her church. In addition, Paige has volunteered to work at various running events that benefit other charities in the community. As a Girl Scout who earned a Silver Award.

William Cortes

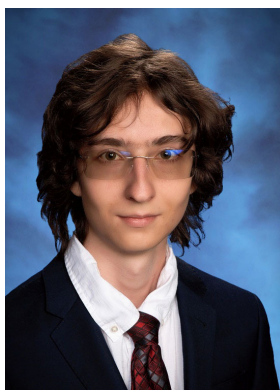


William, a martial artist and volunteer on his dojo’s teaching team, also serves his community through the Magnus Foundation, a non-profit associated with his karate dojo that allows those in need to learn and grow from karate. Will provides karate training for Melton Center children in the summer and has helped raise money through drives like Kick-a-Thon to provide scholarships for those students to

continue karate year round. Will feels that these opportunities allow him to “inspire others to stay motivated and potentially become leaders themselves.”



Alexandru Diaconeasa



Alexandru's service efforts expand across the globe, including volunteering with the Ambulance Corp Junior Program as a junior EMS, serving a medical clinic in Romania, and working with the Institute for Korean-American Studies. When he moved to the United States, he felt called to help those in need because it is "our duty to do our best for others." He has served over 200 hours combined, just in his junior and senior

years alone.

Rachel Gebrekidan



Rachel volunteers both locally and globally, recognizing our personal responsibility to serve others, as she feels "volunteering...[is] a privilege and an honor." Locally, she serves Bryn Mawr Rehabilitation Center and Community Volunteers in Medicine, helping to provide medical care. She has also expanded her service efforts globally, serving the Wegene Ethiopian Foundation to help provide education and housing to

disadvantaged children and families in Ethiopia.



Chesney Humphrey



Chesney's service work is far-reaching, as she has logged over 1000 volunteer hours in her high school career, including work as a youth counselor in her church's Vacation Bible School and preschool classroom; work with Garrett Williamson, a nonprofit dedicated to providing recreational opportunities for children; and the Girl Scouts, where she earned her Silver Award by creating a fine motor skills "busy board" that was donated

to the Head Start program.

Danielle Hung



Danielle's volunteer experiences focus on helping the younger generation discover themselves and develop self-confidence. She has volunteered with the Chrysalis Art Camp as a volunteer counselor, as a teaching assistant at her karate dojo, and as a volunteer swim teacher. She feels that her service work has allowed her to discover how "impactful [her] role as a teacher, mentor, and counselor can be" as she works to instill confidence

and developmental skills in children.



Morgan Jackson



Morgan has spent countless hours volunteering with the Melton Center, in addition to her work as a food pantry volunteer. Through her work with children, Morgan focuses on making children feel “safe and inspired to make mistakes.” Morgan organized a STEM fair at the Melton Center’s summer camp, which allowed students to explore various scientific concepts and branches of science. She designed activities that were hands-on and allowed children to learn in a fun way.

Hannah Lamancusa



Hannah has served others in many different capacities: as a Grace Kids Academy volunteer, an Operation Christmas Processing volunteer, a Devon Horse Show volunteer, and most notably, as a member of the Young Life Work Crew, where she spent a month away from home during both the summer before her junior and senior years to serve at Rockbridge Alum Springs Camp.



Elizabeth Stahelek



Lizzy has volunteered over three hundred hours at The Barn, a camp for children with special needs. Lizzy not only volunteers for The Barn's summer camp, but she also serves with their fall and spring programs. In addition, Lizzy has also offered her time to assist the Chester County Chamber of Commerce, the Chester County Library, and as a guidance aide in her own high school. Lizzy also raised over \$1000 to support the

Best Buddies chapter at Henderson.

Lauren Zisk



In addition to serving as a YMWIC (Young Men and Women in Charge) Academic tutor and an essay judge and awards evaluator for the Future City program, Lauren has spent over three hundred hours (and counting!) volunteering with the Melton Center as a New Directions Success Coach, where she has had the opportunity to provide tutoring, mentorship, and enrichment for students from low-income backgrounds in our own community. She feels this service has

been one of the most rewarding aspects of her high school career.



Rustin High School

Brianna Ambrosine



Brianna believes that her volunteer work at Rustin and in the community are part of her goal to live a life of honor and service. Brianna plans to join the military and dedicate her life to our country. She spent many hours contributing to various Rustin volunteer activities including Unite for Her, Walk Her Home and Bringing Hope Home. Brianna is also a Girl Scout and has volunteered for St. Maximilian Kolbe Church.

Kailey Barry



Kailey volunteers for many activities at West Chester United Methodist Church. She is a Vacation Bible School volunteer and has done a mission trip to Puerto Rico. In addition, she has supported fundraising for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society helping her group to raise over \$200,000. On top of all this Kailey also volunteers for numerous activities at Rustin.



Jake DeMarco



Jake devotes his volunteer hours to the Lions Club of West Chester. Jake also volunteers to help at the polls in Delaware County. In addition, he works with young kids with the Healthy Kids Running Series. Jake views his volunteer service as a way to pay back all the other people in his life who have gone above and beyond to make his community the best it can be.

Cara Gleason



Cara is a theater stage crew expert. She has offered her lighting and stage design assistance to Grove Church in Downingtown. Cara has volunteered her time for other Churches as well. In addition, Cara cares for rescue cats for a service called Forgotten Cats.



Lexi Harrison



Lexi has volunteered for numerous West Chester organizations. Lexi helps to hang greens for the holidays in West Chester. She has helped with the Westtown Township Easter Egg hike. Each year she also coordinates packaging lunches for the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service. Lexi told us that “whether you are the giver or someone has been kind to you, the positivity felt is the same.”

Alexa Hellyer



Alexa volunteers at Goshen Baptist Church and the Providence Church. Every week throughout her high school career Alexa has cared for young children and helps teach Vacation Bible School in the summer. Alexa brings a positive attitude and great spirit to each of the students that she cares for.



Angela Lin



Angela volunteers her time teaching Chinese language and culture. Angela is a native Chinese speaker and says that it is “a privilege to help those who love learning Chinese or are interested in Asian culture.” In all the hours that Angela has spent volunteering, she says that she has shared with her students the joy of learning.

Olufela Osimokun



Among his many talents Fela is a very active volunteer for the Charles A. Melton Arts and Education Center. Fela serves as a counselor for the Melton Center’s New Directions summer program. He teaches children conflict-resolution strategies, leadership skills and social-emotional skills. Fela also serves as a Board Member for the Melton Centers. He works to build fundraising strategies and event planning.

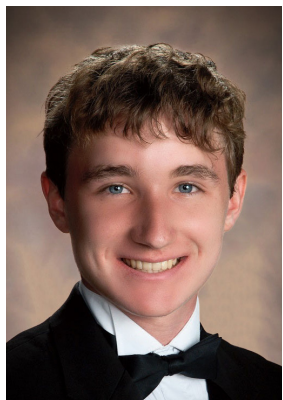


Caroline Rendell



Caroline has volunteered hundreds of hours at the Brandywine Valley SPCA and Meadowcroft Presbyterian Church. As a leader in her Church Youth Group and as a veteran volunteer at the SPCA, Caroline told us that “it is a joy to give back to the clubs” that gave her the opportunity to share her passion for community service. She tries to make younger volunteers as welcome and comfortable as she felt when she joined over four years ago.

Tyler Troutman

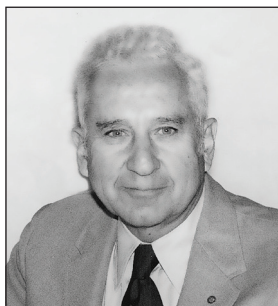


Tyler is an Eagle Scout in Troop 225. Tyler has worked on many service projects with his Troop. Tyler’s Eagle Scout project involved collecting books for the KenCrest organization which serves families in need in the Philadelphia area. Tyler told us that working on these projects increased his organizational and leadership skills which will help him be an even stronger social servant in the future.



Dr. Elwood M. Spellman

School Board Member & President 1951-1969



Dr. Elwood M. Spellman

Known as “Ossie” to his friends, Dr. Elwood M. Spellman epitomized the spirit of volunteerism and citizenship that is the basis of the Spellman Humanitarian Award. Much of his volunteer service centered on the West Chester schools, but he was active in other community causes as well.

In 1951, Dr. Spellman was first elected to serve on the West Chester Borough School Board. That board oversaw the operation of what were then elementary schools in the borough, serving borough residents only.

Similarly, the townships that are part of the district today elected their own school boards and operated their own separate elementary schools.

Dr. Spellman served as Borough Board President from 1958 to 1966. He also headed a Joint High School Board, which oversaw the operation of junior and senior high schools attended by students from both the borough and the townships.

In 1966, all elementary and secondary schools in the borough and the townships were consolidated into the West Chester Area School District. Dr. Spellman was the first President of the Area School Board. He stepped down as Area Board President in 1968 and retired from all Board service in 1969.

Dr. Spellman led the various municipal school boards through the many difficult decisions that accompanied the 1966 consolidation. There were serious financial issues created by the need to combine the debt service and budgets of eight school systems into one. There were building and staffing issues as all of the schools became the responsibility of a centralized administration. The curriculum in the various elementary schools also needed to be standardized.

At the same time, the district was experiencing a period of increasing racial tensions. Just before and after consolidation, Dr. Spellman responded to substantial charges of discrimination against African-American students in the secondary schools. He put into place a framework upon which the district has built as it has worked to ensure equitable treatment of all students.

In addition to his School Board service, Dr. Spellman was active in the Boy Scouts, Rotary Club, YMCA, and Westminster Presbyterian Church. He was a respected area dentist. He was retired from the dentistry when he died on April 16, 1993, at the age of 77.