

2024 Spellman Humanitarian Award Winners



West Chester Area Education Association



Alexandra Barnes

"I was given the privilege to run a program that educates and assists kids with special needs. It has been an immersive and rewarding experience. It opened my eyes to the importance of inclusion and embracing our different abilities, something I hope to inspire in others moving forward."



WC East High School



Audrey Beckman

“After volunteering in community service, I learned that it is important to take actions that help others and to share and teach the value of helping. When I reflect on my past projects, my most meaningful moments were explaining the importance of helping others to younger groups.”



WC East High School



Kathryn Boggress

"I had the privilege of volunteering and working on a home for a week. By doing this, I realized I was not just repairing their home but building a bond with the homeowner. I made so many memories, and it changed not just the homeowner's life but also my life for the better."



WC East High School



Sofie Daniszewski

"I spent time at a summer camp that helped kids improve their math, English, reading, and writing skills. The kids I helped impacted me a lot. I saw a lot of myself in them. They inspired me to continue to want to help people not just inside my community but anywhere that I can."



WC East High School



Mia DeVito

“My sister has inspired me to become a mentor for young dancers with special needs. I don't work with them for the volunteer hours or for the sake of volunteering; I work with them because the experience truly fulfills me and I love helping others.”



WC East High School



Zachary Iozzi

“During my time volunteering, I have learned that there are things bigger than myself in life, and even the smallest contribution can change for the greater good. Knowing I had a part to play in the well-being of others is something that I have come to value, which is why I focused on volunteering my time while in high school.”



WC East High School



Jessica Pinto

"I was inspired to volunteer because I know what it's like to be a young kid who needs some extra help. I wish the younger me had a place to go for some one-on-one tutoring. This is why I knew I had to be a part of the New Directions program, to help kids that are just like me."



WC East High School



Clare Rudderow

“Teaching and helping kids has allowed me to create such special bonds with them. I realized that it is so easy to brighten up someone's day by offering just a little extra help. I have learned that sometimes it is important to put others ahead of yourself if they're in a time of need.”



WC East High School



Lasya Tirumamidi

“My eight years in FIRST Robotics have given me a platform to pursue my passion for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics.) After witnessing the lack of access to STEM learning opportunities, my team and I proactively initiated programs to introduce robotics and technology education to the underserved.”



WC East High School



Winetta Williams

“Being able to create a better space for our community at East and to empower my peers to build connections brings me immense joy and gratitude. I am grateful for the abundance of support and positivity that I draw from my community, and I will continue to pay it forward.”



WC East High School



Paige Colson

“Through my volunteer work, I built a great support system with all of my mentors, who further inspired me to do the works of service I have participated in. I am so grateful for my opportunities and all who have aided me throughout this journey and helped me find ways to make a difference in my community.”



B. Reed Henderson High School



William Cortes

“Volunteering and teaching continue to cultivate my leadership abilities. It gives me the opportunity to inspire others to stay motivated and teach kids that they could potentially become leaders themselves. I have promised myself to continue to be a positive role model and work hard in all of my activities to help others stay dedicated and boost their confidence.”



B. Reed Henderson High School



Alexandru Diaconeasa

“After dealing with my own struggles when I moved to the US, I learned how meaningful support is. We all have the opportunity to make a difference. This is why I believe it is our duty to do our best for ourselves and others. I can't think of a greater accomplishment than knowing you were able to help someone.”



B. Reed Henderson High School



Rachel Gebrekidan

“Volunteering was an integral part of my development. It offered a rigorous exploration and evolution of my character. Each contributive endeavor served as an opportunity for nuanced growth. I view volunteering as a privilege and honor that broadened my perspective and endowed me with a valuable set of attributes for both personal and professional growth.”



B. Reed Henderson High School



Chesney Humphrey

“From a young age, I knew I wanted to help people. The more time I spent volunteering and working with kids, the more passionate I became about it. Through different programs, I have learned so much about what it takes to be a good teacher, leader, and team member.”



B. Reed Henderson High School



Danielle Hung

"I have been helping young children learn basic artistic techniques and principles, explore new mediums, and help them be confident in their work for the past four years. Working with kids has put me in their shoes and made me realize how impactful my role as a teacher, mentor, and counselor can be."



B. Reed Henderson High School



Morgan Jackson

“After volunteering, I have developed a passion for providing a safe and fun environment for kids. I think it's important for kids to know they can make mistakes and find learning to be fun and unrestrictive.”



B. Reed Henderson High School



Hannah Lamancusa

"I hold my memories of volunteering very close to my heart. These memories and the people I have worked alongside have taught me the value of acts of service. They serve as a reminder of the impact I not only had on others but also myself."



B. Reed Henderson High School



Elizabeth Stahelek

"I volunteered as a camp counselor and had the privilege of building a bond that changed my perspective forever. It made me truly realize the impact that I have on the kids just by spending time with them and making the effort to get to know them."



B. Reed Henderson High School



Lauren Zisk

“Being involved in a community so rich in history and diversity has truly inspired me. My experiences have made me a more patient, informed, and confident individual. The opportunity to assist an often underserved community has been one of the most rewarding aspects of my high school career.”



B. Reed Henderson High School



Brianna Ambrosine

"I care deeply about my community and making it the best it can be. I have been involved in several organizations. I believe honor and service go hand in hand. In pursuit of ROTC/military service, I want to dedicate my life to my country to ensure its safety and success. The last four years are only a small chapter in what I hope will be a lifetime of service."



Bayard Rustin High School



Kailey Barry

“As co-president of SPARK Club, I made it my mission to aid in fundraising for a sixteen-year-old with Burkitt's Lymphoma. I organized a hot chocolate sale for Valentine's Day that was a huge success and then gifted the teenager's family with the money. I have been inspired by the rewarding experience of raising money for great causes and wish to foster that passion throughout the rest of my life.”



Bayard Rustin High School

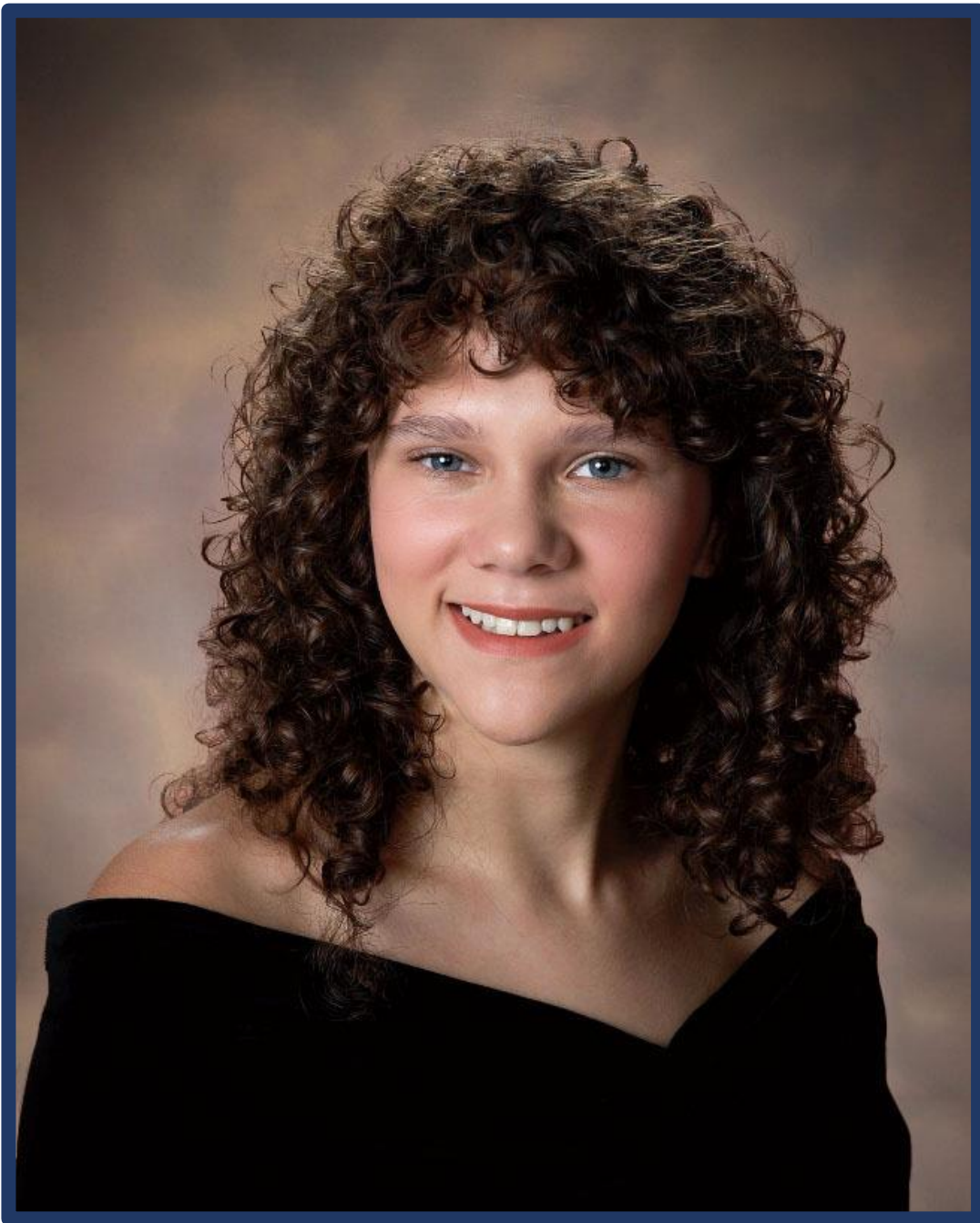


Jake DeMarco

"I have devoted much of my life to volunteerism. Not for personal gain but what I believe is an obligation to the West Chester community. To thank and repay everyone who puts in the extra effort not required of them, I have put in almost 300+ hours into doing thankless work like providing accessible voting procedures for the elderly and handicapped, caring for young children, and much more."



Bayard Rustin High School



Cara Gleason

"I am a dedicated and responsible student who works well with others. I handle stressful situations with grace and adapt to whatever the situation requires, whether it is a lead role or behind the scenes."



Bayard Rustin High School



Lexi Harrison

“Volunteering in my community has shown me the great impact of being kind. Kindness which can also be holding the door for someone or giving a stranger a compliment can often be overlooked but I have learned is just as important. Participating in acts of service throughout my community has also taught me the importance of effective communication and teamwork. I will forever remember the feeling of making a real difference in someone else’s life.”



Bayard Rustin High School



Alexa Hellyer

“No one ever prepares you for the transformation you experience after working with children. It was and still is such a blessing to meet kids where they are and provide them with someone who cares about them or what they go through and is simply present in their lives. I was able to grow a deeper understanding of emotions and broaden my consideration from all different perspectives and this is thanks to all of my kiddos I have served.”



Bayard Rustin High School



Angela Lin

“With English being my second language, it feels like a privilege to help those who are interested in Asian Culture. During my four years of high school, I volunteered as a Chinese tutor and helped others find the joy of learning. I was also able to exercise my own speaking skills and gain experience in my future career.”



Bayard Rustin High School

Olufela Osimokun

“My experiences just really solidified my belief in service to your community. I think that we were put on this earth to help others, and this experience serves as a reminder of the impact you as an individual can have on others, even if that task may be difficult to perform.”



Bayard Rustin High School



Caroline Rendell

"I transferred to Rustin my sophomore year after a lifetime of homeschooling. Volunteering at the SPCA and my church gave me opportunities to become involved in my community while also creating a community for myself. I am now in leadership roles at my school clubs, and I find joy in giving back to the clubs that have given so much to me."



Bayard Rustin High School



Tyler Troutman

“As most of my service hours come from my tenure with Scouts, I have gained an immense amount of leadership and organizational skills. I believe that despite all of my struggles, big or small, I have molded him into a far more resilient and well-rounded person. I hope the skills that I developed will serve me well in college and beyond.”



Bayard Rustin High School