

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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APRIL 22, 2025

5:00 PM

PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

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. Toni Jones and Board of Education Chair Karen Kowalski present awards to the elementary, middle and high school student recipients. 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

Principal Ralph Mayo, Greenwich High School

## NATIONAL ANTHEM

Performed by Greenwich High School Jazz Ensemble

## COMMENTS

Board of Education Chair Karen Hirsh  
Superintendent of Schools Dr. Toni Jones

## ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Presented by Diane Fox, Principal, Hamilton Avenue School  
Elementary school students represent their schools

### STUDENT

Arabella McKersie  
Alida Elliott-Bocassi  
Harley Diaz  
Gioia Judge  
Bella Dreves  
Gabriel Puchi  
Reese Altomaro  
Adrian Dedvukaj  
Elena Gega  
Kate Levine  
Joey Guiffra  
Avery Walker

### SCHOOL

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

### PRINCIPAL

Kerry Gavin  
Klara Monaco  
Diane Fox  
Dana Firmender  
Eduardo Calderón  
Dr. Daniel Russo  
Kathleen Ramirez  
Kathleen Ramirez  
Jill Flood  
**Dr. Jennifer Bencivengo**  
Mary Grandville  
Jason Martín

## MIDDLE SCHOOLS

### STUDENT RECIPIENT

Amanda Gulner  
Avianna Rickert  
Danna Dias

### SCHOOL

Central Middle School  
Eastern Middle School  
Western Middle School

### PRINCIPAL

Thomas Healy  
Marc Guarino  
Suzanne Coyne

## HIGH SCHOOL

### STUDENT RECIPIENT

Anna Stempien  
Thomas McKinney  
Mica Farstrup  
Ava Jackson  
Nicholas Wells

### HOUSE

Bella House  
Cantor House  
Clark House  
Folsom House  
Sheldon House

### HOUSE ADMINISTRATOR

Lucy Arecco  
Christina Shaw  
David Walko  
Andrew Byrne  
Brigid Barry

## THE FLEISHMAN SERVICE AWARD

Presented by Dr. Ernest Fleishman

Recipient: Sameera Madan

Greenwich High School



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2024 Community Service Awards took place on April 24, 2024 at GHS

## **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 recipient Arabella McKersie has a passion for community service that extends across local, national, and global causes. She played a key role in Greenwich's Marquis de Lafayette 200th Anniversary Ride, helping to design historical displays and assist with community programs. She has actively participated in Constitution Day/Week by creating study plans to help third graders learn about the U.S. Constitution. Arabella has a strong commitment to helping those in need, making meals and cards for the homeless and homebound, baking cookies for Greenwich EMS, and selling "Cookies for Heroes" to support the military. Currently, Arabella is working to organize a CCS Pet Supplies Drive and develop an Earth Week program to promote environmental awareness. Her dedication to service showcases her kindness, leadership, and unwavering commitment to making a difference in the world.

### **GLENVILLE SCHOOL**

Glenville School representative Alida Elliott-Bocassi distinguished herself as a member of the Community Service Council, participating in a number of community building and fundraising projects including: educating peers on the importance of community service, making videos to demonstrate kindness, raising money for Hats for Hurricanes, and creating light catchers for kids in hospitals through Bags of Love. Outside of school, Alida and her family helped raise more than \$8,500 in support of global primary education through Brighter Children, and have collected toys through Toys for Tots. With her church, Alida worked with Rise Against Hunger to package more than 240,000 dry soup meals, and planted vegetables and flowers for the residents of the Pilgrim Towers senior living facility. She has helped raise tuition funds for scholarships to her Allegra Dance group, and plans to travel to Kenya in July 2025 to visit Brighter Children schools.

### **HAMILTON AVENUE SCHOOL**

Hamilton Avenue School representative Harley Diaz is an active member of the HAS and local community. She is a member of the Torch Club at her local Boys and Girls Club, helping prepare after school snacks and assisting staff with tasks such as gathering supplies and working on projects that support the club and community. The Torch Club is a community service and leadership program for ages 10-13. Torch Club members work together to plan and implement activities based on four criteria: service to club and community, education, health and fitness, and social recreation. Harley, with her fellow Torch Club members, are creating a website to raise awareness and educate the community on the needs around emotional wellness. With her church, she participates in clean-up after-services. With her fellow students, Harley participated in a craft activity to support Pioneers who go out for service home visits for the church.

## **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.” Student representative Gioia Judge, along with her fellow students, helped collect more than 200 toys for Toys for Tots this holiday season. This January, the local Girl Scout Troop collected coats to donate to Inspirica Homeless Shelter in Stamford, and most recently, the ISD kindergarten classes held a food drive on the 100th day of school. Outside of school, Gioia ran a lemonade stand on July 4 on her grandparents driveway as people were on their way to the Port Chester Fireworks. She raised \$125, which was donated to St. Jude Children’s Hospital. Inspired by the success of her lemonade stand, Gioia and her friends organized a bake sale in October 2024, raising another \$500 for St. Jude Children’s Hospital.

## **JULIAN CURTISS SCHOOL**

Julian Curtiss School students are provided community service opportunities throughout the school year. Julian Curtiss School representative Bella Dreves leads by example as a member of the Julian Curtiss Service Club, collaborating with her peers to run the annual Souper Bowl Drive to donate canned goods, and as well as the ongoing campaign to collect and donate items to benefit Neighbor to Neighbor. She also assists in the coordination of the annual Cards for Police Officers initiative, which fosters positive relationships between students and law enforcement while expressing gratitude for police officers’ service to the community. In addition, Bella participates in the JC Safety Patrol, which helps students stay safe at school crossings and bus stops, and is a driving force behind the JC Breakfast Buddy Reading program, where older students read to younger students before school.

## **NEW LEBANON SCHOOL**

At New Lebanon School, students and staff participate in numerous fundraising activities throughout the school year. New Lebanon School representative Gabriel Puchi has played a lead role in the New Lebanon School Community Cleanup initiative with his fifth grade class. Besides the result of a cleaner school campus, the larger Byram community continues to enjoy the outdoor spaces on evenings and weekends free of garbage and debris. With his fellow parishioners at Sacred Heart Church, he participated in holiday events for younger students during the holiday season, which increased opportunities for younger students to bond and deepen relationships with their faith community. Gabriel also provided great leadership during a myriad of fifth grade fundraising events which enabled the class to participate in culminating activities.

## **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 Reese Altomaro and Adrian Dudvakaji led schoolwide efforts to collect and donate fresh fruit and vegetables to families in need of healthy food, collecting more than 5,000 pounds of food. The duo, who serve as student-elected co-presidents of the Student Council, help carry on the school’s legacy of caring for and supporting others with a plethora of events in support of Kids in Crisis, including the Socktober and Giving Tree fundraisers. NMS students also helped organize a school-wide hot chocolate fundraiser for the California Fire Foundation for the wildfire and disaster relief.

## **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 and student representative Elena Gega, the North Street School student body donated more than 150 new pajamas to assist Fairfield County children in need as part of their annual participation in the “Pajama Project,” and participated in the annual Veterans Day ceremony and breakfast, in addition to creating cards for local veterans. NSS students also participated in the district-wide PJ Day fundraiser for cancer research, raising nearly \$900. Also a member of the Student Ambassadors program, Elena helps foster a positive culture within our school community which promotes leadership skills. The program connects our younger students to those in the upper grades in a variety of ways. Most importantly, the program helps all students feel cared about and valued.

## **OLD GREENWICH SCHOOL**

Old Greenwich School representative Kate Levine epitomizes the commitment to community service that permeates Old Greenwich School. This year, Kate and her fellow Old Greenwich School students worked together to raise relief funds for the SoCal Fire Fund through a “Hat Day” event, and through “Operation Santa,” organized supplies and filled backpacks for students in need. Outside of school, Kate has participated in the annual “Live Like Luke” beach cleanup at Greenwich Point, and has raised money and awareness to support the rescue of animals in Texas. She also helped to provide more than 50 heart sun catchers to bring joy to children in need through Circle of Care’s “Bags of Love.” The civic minded Old Greenwich School 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 representative Joey Guiffra led his classmates in the school’s participation in PJ Day for pediatric cancer awareness. Parkway students collected money at drop-off as well as online, raising nearly \$1,000 in support of the GHS student organized event. Parkway students also collected cans of food as part of their “Souper-Bowl” event, collecting cans while making Super Bowl predictions, which resulted in a sizable donation to Neighbor to Neighbor. The student body collected and donated coats for Greenwich’s Department of Human Services, donated Halloween candy to Kids in Crisis, donated toys and gift cards to Family Centers, and created and sent cards to veterans as part of Congressman Jim Himes’s “Valentines for Vets” initiative. These examples of giving back prove that when provided the opportunity, children are very capable of making a difference in the world.

## **RIVERSIDE SCHOOL**

Avery Walker exemplifies Riverside School’s proud tradition of community service and their actions highlight the many acts of kindness, generosity, and caring Riverside students provide each year. Riverside students participated in the “Plunge for Elodie,” a cold plunge to raise money and awareness in support of epidermolysis bullosa (EB). The Riverside community also supported Neighbor to Neighbor by collecting more than 900 food items for the Neighbor to Neighbor food pantry, supported Danita’s Children Orphanage & School with their annual Holidays for Haiti fundraiser, and collected more than 200 unwrapped toys for the Marine Corps Toys for Tots program. Avery demonstrates, by true example, how to live the District norms every day. She is respectful, kind, and selfless, and shows up to all in-school activities, after-school events, & fundraisers, with a huge smile on her face and love in her heart.

## MIDDLE SCHOOL AWARD RECIPIENTS

### CENTRAL MIDDLE SCHOOL: AMANDA GULINER

*"Helping CMS's community throughout my time here has been a great experience. I have helped with epilepsy and childhood cancer awareness, food drives, kids in crisis, and much more. Being a part of these things has not only been fun to help others, but also fun making so many experiences with different people."*



As a member of the CMS Student Council, Amanda has been an active participant in community service activities during her tenure at CMS. She has helped lead Student Council Awareness Days throughout the year, raising awareness and funds for various organizations that support communities in the research and support for those with epilepsy, Down syndrome, breast cancer, and mental health afflictions.

During Student Council Kindness Month, Amanda and her fellow council members organized events where students wore themed colors in support of positive school climate, and organized the collection and posting of kindness notes.

As part of the Student Council Thanksgiving Food Drive, she spearheaded the collection of non-perishable food items and money to donate to Neighbor to Neighbor to help provide meals for those who are food insecure around the holidays.

In addition, Amanda and the Student Council organized and ran a Save the Children fundraiser through the sale of snacks around school, with the proceeds going to Save the Children, an organization that helps children in hunger.

"On a daily basis, Amanda sets an example in her classroom by participating in lessons with positive energy and enthusiasm," School Counselor Ms. Maria Woodward said. "Her positive attitude, commitment to her studies and community service, along with her ongoing desire to help others makes her deserving of this award. She is always determined to succeed and is able to rise to any challenge. For all of the schoolwide community service events, Amanda contributed by creating advertisements, delivering items to classrooms, counting cans for the food drive, reading morning announcements and collecting funds for our fundraisers, all with a smile on her face."

### EASTERN MIDDLE SCHOOL: AVIANNA RICKERT

*"With all of the challenges in the world today, I feel a responsibility to do whatever I can to improve my community and encourage positive change."*



As a founding member of the EMS Give Back Club, Avanna has taken on a leadership role since joining during her sixth grade year. The students in the club work together to select and plan projects using the GPS school norms. Events have included: Kindness Week, School Wide School Supplies Drive, Teacher Appreciation, Reading to Elementary students, and Filling in the Blanks Fundraiser.

She is also an active member in the EMS Student Council. EMS SCA promotes caring and responsibility through a "gatorworthy campaign", which rewards students who have gone above and beyond to be helpful, respectful and kind.

Avianna has also represented her grade each of the last two years in the EMS Safe School Climate Committee. The Safe School Climate Committee is responsible for creating and maintaining a safe and positive school environment as well as addressing issues related to bullying.

Outside of her school groups, Avianna, inspired by having food allergies, wanted to help younger students understand and then support their friends with food allergies. She researched books and materials to develop a lesson plan to educate students on how to support their friends with food allergies. She taught the lessons to multiple preschool classes.

Finally, Avi is a teacher's assistant at Temple Shalom in Greenwich. She helps the main kindergarden teacher with various needs in the class weekly.

"I have had the pleasure of knowing Avi since she approached me in sixth grade with her friends to start our EMS GIVES BACK CLUB," School Counselor Ms. Meghan Moore said. "She is an amazing leader, very organized, service oriented, and driven to make a difference. I have no doubt that she will continue to make an impact in the lives of others in high school and throughout her life."

### **WESTERN MIDDLE SCHOOL: DANNA DIAS**

*"It is important to participate in service activities because it does not only better our community, but it also unites us as a whole. By doing these activities it helps us grow as people, and it helps us socialize and make new friendships. Overall making it the best experience you can have."*

A member of the Student Council, Danna has taken a leadership role at WMS, helping the Student Council decide on Spirit Week themes, initiating and facilitating various food drives, and promoting an uplifting school climate. She also assisted in spearheading the 8th Grade End of Year Washington D. C. Fundraiser, raising funds through a bake sale to buy water and snacks for students, pay for the T-shirts they will all receive, and towards scholarships for families who need help paying for the trip.

Outside of school, Danna has, for the past eight years, volunteered her time to clean the beaches in Greenwich for two hours each day over the summer through "Greenwich Green and Clean" and "Friends of Byram," and has raised hundreds of dollar with her family through her participation in the "Making Strides Against Breast Cancer" event.

Additionally, she teaches local children in her neighborhood the violin, and has tag sales to raise money for people in need in Ukraine, Guatemala and Peru. Danna has also donated her hair three times to St. Baldricks and Wigs for Kids.

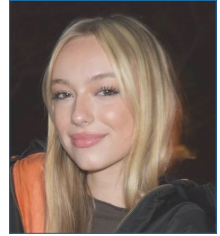
"Danna shows excellence in serving her community both in and out of school," School Counselor Ms. Karina Magana said. "Danna is an excellent student; she is responsible, collaborative, and earns high marks, making honor roll every quarter since sixth grade."



## GREENWICH HIGH SCHOOL AWARD RECIPIENTS

### **BELLA HOUSE: ANNA STEMPIEN**

*"Even if it may not seem like it at times, our actions hold the power to improve someone's day and even make a lasting impact on their life."*



Anna is deeply involved in community service and giving back to her community locally and beyond. At Greenwich High School, she has served as president for four GHS clubs, including; the "Help the Homeless" club, cooking and serving meals for numerous homeless shelters, such as Inspirica as well as Kids in Crisis; and the "Dream On" club, providing high school students an opportunity to connect with palliative and hospice patients by granting their final wishes.

Anna has participated in events such as "Game Days" and arts and crafts activities with residents at The Nathaniel Witherell senior care facility, fostering connections with the elderly. During the COVID pandemic, Anna contributed to "care-a-van" drive-by events, visiting members of Abilis and The Nathaniel Witherell. As a key organizer of the annual "Together We Shine" red carpet event, she helped create a memorable evening of dinner and dancing for guests with special needs. Anna also played a crucial role in a partnership project with Greenwich Hospital, participating in a video campaign to raise awareness about the importance of youth and teen mental health services. Her volunteer efforts extend to pet adoption events, diaper packing and distribution, and toy and goods drives, showcasing her commitment to various causes.

In addition to those initiatives, Anna has also participated in the "STEM to STERN" tutoring program, teaching middle schoolers STEM, hosting interactive labs, creating curriculum outlines, and extensively preparing students for upcoming science fairs. She also volunteered her time and skill to the Off Beat Players, coordinating and discussing with Off Beat Player staff members to create a video to advertise Off Beat Players to potential marketing sponsors.

"Anna values opportunities to offer help to her community," School Counselor Ms. Kelly Dwyer said. "She selflessly dedicates much of her time to leading service clubs and volunteering in school and the greater community, devoting her energy to causes she's passionate about. Anna will continue to make significant contributions; I cannot wait to see where her talents take her."

### **CANTOR HOUSE: THOMAS MCKINNEY**

*"While community service is more than what you do, it is also the tangible impact you make; every time I see the joyous faces of the people at places I volunteer; from my community litter cleanups around town to food pantries and children's camps, I am reminded of how donating just a little time can mean so much to our world."*



Thomas goes out of his way to improve the world around him, whether it is thanking a teacher after each class, hours spent on clean-ups, or babysitting children at his church, he is always looking for a way he can make a difference.

However, Thomas has made his most lasting impact due to his ongoing cleanup efforts at Greenwich park and beach cleanups. Organized and sponsored by Thomas, beginning in middle school, Thomas, friends, community members, and Town and State officials gather regularly to clean up debris and trash at several

locations around town, including Bruce Park and Cos Cob Park. An ambassador for a litter-free ocean, Thomas has also partnered with Greenwich Green and Clean on cleanup projects and was recently named a Sustainability award winner by Waste Free Greenwich founder Julie DesChamps at the ReThink Waste Fair.

“Thomas is a young man who absolutely walks his talk. This has been most evident in his four-year commitment to keeping Greenwich’s public parks and beaches clean, which involves recruiting volunteers, and navigating the red tape of permits and permissions,” School Counselor Ms. Arianne Haley said. “Due to his efforts, 3,600 pounds of trash have been diverted from entering the ocean.”

### **CLARK HOUSE: MICA FARSTRUP**

*“Being involved in community service is one of the most powerful tools a person can have as it allows the individual to foster compassion, unity, and positive change with every act of service, no matter how small, while strengthening communities and inspiring others to do the same.”*

Mica is an extremely dedicated volunteer. She has dedicated her time and efforts to the Friendship Circle, Jewish Family Services, United Jewish Agency, JSA Club, Help our Heroes Club, Tiny Homes Big Hearts Clubs, the Yoga Club, and the Help for the Homeless Club. Her time and commitment to these organizations have awarded her the Weitzman Youth Award at the United Jewish Appeal - Teen Change-makers in addition to many academic awards.



At the United Jewish Appeal Mica raised funds for social action initiatives, assisted in the allocation of the funds, and now runs a volunteer program to pack 13,000 meals in addition to training and mentoring younger volunteers. She has also participated in a service trip to Israel, where Mica helped out at some agricultural fields helping to cut crops and produce. She also helped at an organization that helped impoverished kids, mostly from Africa, receive life-saving heart procedures.

She also is a Counselor in Training at the summer camp she has attended since she was eight years old.

“Mica is a student who always considers the thoughts and needs of others before she acts,” School Counselor Ms. Kristina Sapienza said. “She is a kind and genuine student who cares for the world and the people within it. With global views and a passion to support others, she is a well deserving recipient of this award.”

### **FOLSOM HOUSE: AVA JACKSON**

*“Not only does participating in service activities allow me to engage with my community, but it also gives me the opportunity to make a tangible impact on others, something I love to do as I feel more connected to the issues I address and people I work with.”*

As a senior commissioner for the Greenwich First Selectman’s Youth Commission (FSYC), Ava develops and facilitates programs that address youth concerns. She organized and ran a college campus safety panel last spring at the Rowan Center, where she volunteers and is a member of the organization’s youth group. She educates middle schoolers about science research and assists them with their research as a co-leader of the STEM to Stern program. As a volunteer for the Mangold Music Foundation, she helps fundraise and organize the purchase of musical instruments for children hospitalized with cancer. She helps grant patients in hospice their final wishes as vice president of the Dream On club. As co-president of the Empowerment club, she organizes activities for students to learn coping skills



and improve their self-esteem.

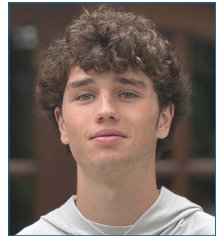
In September 2024, Ava served as a co-Director of Conscious Coping, a youth mental health summit where teens were given the opportunity to develop skills focused on recognizing and managing stresses that impact their lives. Ava encouraged normalizing conversations about teen mental health so that youth would be empowered to access resources and advocate for themselves. Conscious Coping encouraged participants to consider how their mental health is impacted by academic and social pressures, substance misuse, and peer relationships. This event included the participation of 15 community mental health professionals and youth advocates who facilitated conversations and served as resources for youth.

“Ava has dedicated countless hours supporting and advocating for the youth in our community. Some highlights of her commitment to community service include facilitating Learn Before You Leave, a panel of professionals to educate parents and college bound students about college campus safety,” School Counselor Ms. Brbara Gong said. “As senior commissioner of the First Selectman’s Youth Commission, Ava co-directed Conscious Coping, a mental health youth summit to encourage her peers to access resources in the community.”

### **SHELDON HOUSE: NICHOLAS WELLS**

*“I feel that participating in community service is important because it is an opportunity to not just give back to your community, but foster relationships that you otherwise may not have in other Mediums.”*

Nick is a phenomenal tutor and mentor. Last year, he was asked to be a “Stand By Me” mentor to a struggling ninth grader. He had such a great experience that he went above and beyond the required hours and asked if he could use other open blocks in his schedule to help out in an Academic Lab. In the Academic Lab, Nick made a genuine connection with students who previously had not connected with anyone. He took the initiative to build relationships with students, engaged them in topics of common interest, such as football, and used that to relate to the area they needed help in. He did not give answers, but gave them the tools to figure it out for themselves.



Outside of school, Nick serves on the Abilis Youth Board. Abilis is a non-profit that provides life-long services to residents with special needs. The board supports the work of the organization, organizing and participating in events with individuals they serve, and looks for ways to engage other teenagers. Nick particularly enjoyed helping with the Together We Shine dance, a prom for the special needs community.

Additionally, Nick gives back to the Greenwich Youth Football League (GYFL), volunteering to help in numerous ways to provide opportunities to youth athletes that he had once been.

“Nick is a phenomenal tutor and mentor. Multiple teachers have reported that he is the best student tutor they have ever worked with,” School Counselor Ms. Jennifer Lynch said. “He connects easily with others and uses that connection to help them with school. He has a gift for drawing out peers who are reluctant to accept help. Nick genuinely enjoys his service, he always has a smile on his face and takes part enthusiastically.”

## THE FLEISHMAN SERVICE AWARD

### RECIPIENT: SAMEERA MADAN

*“Community service offers us the opportunities that are essential for being catalysts for change. By reminding us that even the smallest actions, rooted in purpose, allow us to create a legacy, service inspires us to dream, act, and transform the world around us.”*



She is a student ambassador to the Connecticut Climate Education Advisory Committee, a Co-Chair of the Greenwich Sustainability Committee Youth Sector, a board member of the Generation Impact, and an intern at the Bruce Museum Seaside Center and with Waste Free Greenwich. With the Greenwich Sustainability Committee Youth Sector, Sameera helped mobilize youth support for the proposed CT Environmental Rights Amendment by instituting procedures for composing and sending letters to policy makers. This amendment would ensure all government officials prioritize environmental protection from the start of all planning and decision making.

Her work with the Bruce Museum Season Center began as a volunteer, evolved into the Center's first high school intern and culminated with the experience being the foundation of her passion for sustainability and ultimately inspired her to start “Leaders of the Next Generation”. For her work with these organizations and more, Sameera has been awarded the Town of Greenwich Sustainability Award, which recognizes individuals for commitment to environmental stewardship, sustainable development, and community collaboration.

She is a passionate advocate for causes she believes in, with a strong focus on feminism and women's empowerment. As the founder of her nonprofit, “Leaders of the Next Generation”, Sameera has demonstrated her entrepreneurial spirit and her passion for environmental action and educational access. Through organizing

events, leading collection drives, raising funds and awareness, overseeing tutoring programs for low-income families and advocating for sustainable practices, Sameera has influenced the daily lives of many residents in Greenwich. Her ability to inspire others to join her cause speaks volumes about her leadership and her drive to foster positive change.

As if these associations do not leave her with little free time, Sameera is also a member of the GHS Environmental Action Club and Every Child's Opportunity, all of which led to her being nominated for the Greenwich YWCA's Women Who Inspire Award, that recognizes as a woman who has excelled in philanthropic, professional, and volunteer pursuits.

"Sameera is a passionate advocate for causes she believes in, including but not limited to feminism, women's empowerment and a sustainable future," School Counselor Ms. Megan Snyder said. "I have been impressed by her work since the moment I met her. Not only is her work as a student, a leader, and her commitment to giving back to her community impressive, but above all else she is kind. Sameera is very deserving of this recognition!"

**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

