

GREENWICH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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

APRIL 21, 2026

5:00 PM

PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

GREENWICH HIGH SCHOOL

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 Dr. Michael Joseph Mercanti-Anthony
Superintendent of Schools Dr. Toni Jones

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Presented by Dr. Jennifer Bencivengo, Principal, Old Greenwich School
Elementary school students represent their schools

STUDENT

Jonah Meyer
Nora McQueen
Derek Lulgjuraj
Charlotte Ranalli
Declan Krupa
Jose Rocha
Catherine Peters
Olivia Crohn
Willem Watson
Robert Pacaj
Rodrigo Ferrario Alonso

SCHOOL

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

PRINCIPAL

Kerry Gavin
Klara Monaco
Diane Chiappetta-Fox
Phil Hammack
Eduardo Calderón
Dr. Daniel Russo
Kathleen Ramirez
Jill Flood
Dr. Jennifer Bencivengo
Mary Grandville
Jason Martín

MIDDLE SCHOOLS

STUDENT RECIPIENT

Lilia Dubin
Blake Shattuck
Daniela Puchi

SCHOOL

Central Middle School
Eastern Middle School
Western Middle School

PRINCIPAL

Thomas Healy
Marc Guarino
Suzanne Coyne

HIGH SCHOOL

STUDENT RECIPIENT

May Collins
Ambika Jha
Megan Carriello
Sylvester Pecora
Ella Whitridge

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: Riona McKersie

Greenwich High School



2025 Community Service Awards took place on April 22, 2025 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 the American Heart Association, 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 Jonah Meyer exemplifies active participation in both school and community through his thoughtful involvement in a wide range of activities, always balancing enthusiasm with maturity. Jonah has raised money and participated in St. Baldrick's for the past two years and performed at the Veterans Day Breakfast, where he played the viola, led "God Bless America," and delivered a speech he voluntarily wrote. Teachers have repeatedly recognized him as a positive role model, including for standing up to and reporting bullying and for kindly supporting a classmate who was learning English by reading with him. Outside of school, Jonah has been recognized as a leader in Hebrew School, and has voluntarily shoveled neighbors' walkways on snow days. As a Student Council member, he leads by example, encouraging kindness, independence, and inclusion.

GLENVILLE SCHOOL

Glenville School representative Nora McQueen distinguished herself as a member of the Community Service Council, participating in a number of community building and fundraising projects. Nora helped lead: a school-wide Book Drive, collecting and sorting hundreds of donations of used children's books to benefit the Greenwich Alliance for Education; Project R.E.D., collecting and sorting items to support troops overseas; and fundraising initiatives such as bake sales to raise over \$2,400 for the fifth grade end of year trip, and district-wide fundraisers like PJ Day that raised \$21,000. As part of the newly launched Glenville Ambassador program, Nora and her classmates acted as role models for younger students, and worked to inspire confidence and leadership skills. She also spearheaded a recycling initiative to keep dried out dry erase markers out of the trash to promote the importance of recycling.

HAMILTON AVENUE SCHOOL

Hamilton Avenue School representative Derek Lulgjuraj has been a proud member of the Student Council for the past three years, and has consistently demonstrated what it means to lead with integrity, responsibility, and heart. As Student Council President, he has worked tirelessly to represent his peers, encourage student involvement, and help organize initiatives that strengthen school spirit and community engagement. Through Derek's participation in Student Council and his leadership as President, the HAS community has experienced increased student engagement, stronger school spirit, and a more inclusive environment. Derek's ability to motivate his peers has strengthened communication between students and faculty, ensuring that student voices are heard and valued. Most importantly, his consistent example of kindness, accountability, and dedication has inspired others to contribute positively to the school community, creating a lasting impact that extends beyond any single project or event.

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 Charlotte Ranalli has exemplified commitment to community service through various initiatives, earning her the title of a champion of kindness and goodwill at the International School at Dundee. Her dedication began early, as a member of the “Bee Kind Squad” in kindergarten, where she embraced and promoted acts of kindness among her peers. Continuing her journey of service, Charlotte actively volunteers at her church. Her involvement there not only supports the church community but also extends her influence of positivity and kindness. Through these efforts, Charlotte has consistently demonstrated a deep commitment to doing good and inspiring others to follow suit. Her actions and attitude have made her a notable representative of her school’s values, embodying the spirit of service and community engagement.

JULIAN CURTISS SCHOOL

Julian Curtiss School students are provided community service opportunities throughout the school year. Julian Curtiss School representative Declan Krupa leads by example as a member of the Julian Curtiss Service Club, collaborating with his 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. As a Julian Curtiss Student Ambassador, he has developed a strong sense of service by actively supporting his peers, welcoming new students and families, assisting during school events, and modeling kindness and responsibility. Declan and his classmates have participated in a school-wide Book Drive, collecting and sorting hundreds of donations of used children’s books to benefit the Greenwich Alliance for Education, and led a bake sale fundraiser to benefit the grade five class.

NEW LEBANON SCHOOL

At New Lebanon School, students and staff participate in numerous fundraising activities throughout the school year. New Lebanon School representative Jose Rocha is a member of the Young Marines, a national youth program for youth who want to work hard, lead with integrity, and grow into strong confident leaders. As a Young Marine and representative for New Lebanon School, in addition to the services listed above, Jose has participated in numerous other volunteer opportunities, such as Veteran’s Appreciation Day, Mount Kisco Sesquicentennial Celebration, White Plains Memorial Day Parade, Grand Opening of Playland Amusement Park, Glen Island Car Show, Ossining Fireman’s Parade, and more. Jose also dedicates his Sunday mornings to his church as an altar server. Jose’s volunteer efforts and dedication to serving others in the community exemplify the highest ideals of community service and reflect the values this award seeks to recognize.

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 representative Catherine Peters led schoolwide efforts to collect and donate fresh fruit and vegetables to families in need of healthy food, collecting more than 4,000 pounds of food. Serving as student-elected president of the Student Council, Catherine is responsible for planning meetings, meeting with Principal Ramirez, leading the membership, and coordinating events. She has helped 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.

NORTH STREET SCHOOL

North Street School's student representative, Olivia Crohn, is a dedicated member of both the NSS Student Council and Ambassador Program. She consistently demonstrates leadership, kindness and a strong commitment to helping those around her. Olivia genuinely enjoys helping her classmates and takes pride in supporting members throughout the North Street community. Olivia is always willing to assist both students and staff members and can be counted on to step in wherever help is needed. When a student is in need, she is often the first to volunteer, always showing empathy, responsibility and a natural ability to lead by example. The North Street community is grateful to have a student like Olivia in their school community. As she moves on to Middle School, NSS is confident in her ability to continue making a positive difference for those around her and to carry these leadership qualities forward.

OLD GREENWICH SCHOOL

Old Greenwich School representative Willem Watson epitomizes the commitment to community service that permeates Old Greenwich School. This year, Willem and his fellow Old Greenwich School students worked together to gather and pack items in backpacks for children in need in an effort to give back to those less fortunate. Outside of school, Willem has participated in the annual "Live Like Luke" event at Tod's Point Beach at Greenwich Point Park, in remembrance of the efforts of a former Old Greenwich School student who passed from cancer. The event, a beach cleanup, shows how something small can make a larger impact in nature. 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 US Department of Education Green Ribbon School recognized for promising practices in environmental education. Parkway representative Robert Pacaj, who was elected as the president of his 5th grade class, worked as part of the Student Council to donate approximately \$500 raised through school store sales to the CT Children's Hospital. He led his classmates in the school's participation in the annual GAE Turkey Trot, an event that earned Parkway a trophy with the highest percentage of students participating. The student body also collected and donated 190 pounds of Halloween candy to Kids in Crisis, created and delivered holiday cards to the residents of Nathaniel Witherell, and partnered with Family Centers of Fairfield County to collect and donate toys and gift cards to ensure that every kid received something special during the holiday season. These examples of giving back prove that when provided the opportunity, children are very capable of making a difference in the world.

RIVERSIDE SCHOOL

Rodrigo Ferrario Alonso exemplifies Riverside School's proud tradition of community service and his actions highlight the many acts of kindness, generosity, and caring Riverside students provide each year. Riverside students participated in Holiday Drives for both Thanksgiving and Christmas. Alongside other students and members of the community, he helped organize, collect, sort, and distribute food, gifts, and essential goods to local organizations that support families in need. Through Rodrigo's participation and the collective efforts of students and community members, food baskets, holiday meals, gifts, and essential supplies were successfully distributed to organizations that assist families in need. The activity not only provided tangible support to many households during the holiday season but also fostered a spirit of service, empathy, and teamwork among participants. Rodrigo demonstrates, by true example, how to live the District norms every day.

MIDDLE SCHOOL AWARD RECIPIENTS

CENTRAL MIDDLE SCHOOL: LILIANA DUBIN

"After completing community service, I feel proud to have contributed positively to my community. It gives me a strong sense of accomplishment, knowing I've done something meaningful. Most importantly, I feel happy realizing that my efforts have made a positive difference in the lives of others."

Lilia is an exemplary member of the CMS community. Since entering Central Middle School as a sixth grader, she has gone above and beyond to connect with her classmates and pays special attention to those who might not feel as confident or comfortable in school. She does this in an understated manner, never seeking acknowledgement or praise for her actions. Lilia simply does the 'right thing' and conducts herself with maturity, showing genuine care for everyone she interacts with on a daily basis.



Within CMS, Lilia and her classmates participated in the Student Council Thanksgiving Food Drive, collecting thousands of non-perishable food items as well as money to donate to Neighbor to Neighbor to provide meals for those who are food insecure around the holidays. The Student Council also led a Save the Children Fundraiser, selling snacks around CMS with the proceeds going to fight childhood hunger. The event raised awareness as well as hundreds of dollars.

Outside of school, Lilia volunteers as a teacher's helper at her Hebrew school, assisting the younger children to learn Hebrew. She also collected new and unused toys to provide to sick children in hospitals around the holiday season with Toys for Tots.

"On a daily basis, Lilia 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, Lilia 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. She participated in our first ever Greenwich Middle School Leadership Summit in November and was a great contributor."

EASTERN MIDDLE SCHOOL: BLAKE SHATTUCK

"We all need to give back to the community, not because it benefits us, but because it benefits everybody."

Blake is extremely active in his Boy Scouts of America troop, one of the oldest youth organizations in the United States. Blake embodies the main tenets of Scouts BSA: character development, citizenship training, and leadership. These tenets are visible in the many community



service activities he has undertaken during his time as a scout.

In collaboration with the Stamford JCC, Blake and his troop built a fire pit at the community center for use by the community. They also built an activity/play structure “whale watch platform” at the Stamford JCC.

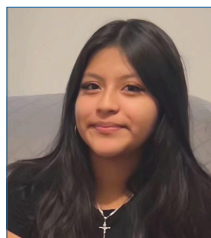
He also volunteered his time at Tod’s Point, clearing invasive ground cover vegetation and planting trees near gathering areas at the Point, helping to restore the native ecosystem.

Finally, Blake and his fellow troop members took their talents to Pomerance Park, again helping to restore the native ecosystem by clearing invasive “burning bush” and other vegetation from the public park in Cos Cob.

“Blake’s passion, enthusiasm, and engagement for these various scout projects have left a significant impact on our community,” School Counselor Ms. Susan Mac Isaac said.

WESTERN MIDDLE SCHOOL: DANIELA PUCHI

“I really like doing community service by helping others. I am more motivated to continue to do more within my community and being a part of new experiences.”



A member of the Student Council, Daniela 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.

As a part of the volunteer activities of the AVID school wide initiative at Western Middle School, Daniela and her peers participated in a beach cleanup event, helping to improve the native ecosystem and beautifying the beach and surrounding areas.

Outside of school, Daniela is active in volunteering in Torch Club, a leadership and community service club for youth by the Boys & Girls Club focusing on character development, leadership skills, and community involvement through projects in service, education, health, and recreation, teaching responsibility and fostering good citizenship. With her church, she participates in food drives, children plays, and altar serving. In church, Daniela also volunteers to read one of the readings at mass. She is also planning to volunteer at Neighbor to Neighbor once she is eligible.

“It has been a pleasure to watch Daniela’s commitment to her Western community and the Boys & Girls Club of Greenwich during the past three years,” School Counselor Ms. Rebecca Moraiz said. “Her kindness, leadership, and dedication have made a lasting impact on those around her. We are very proud of her.”

GREENWICH HIGH SCHOOL AWARD RECIPIENTS

BELLA HOUSE: MAY COLLINS

"Service is utilizing your passions and talents to do good for others, discovering that purpose is found not in personal achievement, but in lifting others up."

May is deeply involved in community service and giving back to her community. She serves as a lead teacher in weekly dance classes as part of the Flower Petals Adaptive Dance Company, helping design class structure and choreography while creating accessible movements. Flower Petals makes dance accessible to individuals of all abilities while fostering meaningful relationships through shared passion and inclusive instruction. As a Flower Petals volunteer, May aims to create an environment where participants experience self-expression, confidence, and a sense of belonging regardless of physical or cognitive limitations. She also provides individualized support for children with physical, sensory, and behavioral needs. She works closely with nonverbal students and those with limited mobility, teaching body awareness and movement.



At Greenwich High School, May is the President of the Student Policy Initiative (SPI), a student-led, nonpartisan political interest group. SPI exists to give students a voice in local government and policy conversations. Members advocate for issues they are passionate about while fostering informed dialogue, civic responsibility, and collaborative leadership. Under May's leadership, SPI has strengthened student civic engagement and expanded youth representation in municipal decision-making. She promotes safer bike lanes and expanded student mental health resources. By fostering collaboration, empathy, and thoughtful debate, May has empowered students to take action and demonstrated how collective student voices can drive meaningful community change.

"May has been involved with Flower Petals almost since its inception," Flower Petals Adaptive Dance Company Founder Ms. Katherine Reynolds said. "She has been a dedicated and compassionate volunteer who shares her love of dance with children and young adults throughout the community who might not otherwise have an opportunity to experience the joy of participating in dance classes."

CANTOR HOUSE: AMBIKA JHA

"Community service matters to me because it strengthens my community while shaping who I am, helping me understand my community more deeply, discover the role I want to play in it, and connect with people from all backgrounds who share a genuine commitment to making change."

Ambika leads by example in her community service initiatives, founding two programs focused on empowering youth. First, she founded Open Doors Tutoring, a free academic tutoring program serving underserved students with learning differences, including dyslexia, dysgraphia, ADHD, and related challenges. She leads a team of tutors, providing individualized academic support using a three-tier model: confidence-building, sustained mentorship, and targeted homework help.



Second, she founded and leads Pathfinders, a career exploration program connecting 100+ middle and high school girls with STEM and business professionals through corporate site visits and mentorship events. Ambika organized field trips to SAP, KPMG, NatWest, Netflix, Citibank, and other leading companies featuring panel discussions, and direct mentorship with female executives. She also partnered with YMCA of Greenwich to host

multiple on-site STEM and business career workshops for underserved youth.

At Greenwich High School, Ambika serves as the president of Girls Who Code, a club aimed at building an inclusive community encouraging girls to pursue STEM pathways, and is a member of the First Selectman's Youth Commission, providing student perspective on Town policies and initiatives, and collaborating on projects improving youth services and civic engagement opportunities.

"Ambika truly defines "Service Leader." Her forward-thinking volunteer efforts have helped young women in our area dare to dream big and believe in themselves," School Counselor Ms. Arianne Haley said. "She saw needs in several areas and stepped up as mentor, leader, and visionary. Her volunteer hours do not fit the typical high school model, but as her resume shows, Ambika is no ordinary teen."

CLARK HOUSE: MEGAN CARRIELLO

"I believe that as humans, we have a responsibility to look after one another. It is important to participate because service opportunities not only encourage people to step outside their circumstances and gain a more nuanced perspective on life, but also help break down social barriers to foster a connected community."

Megan volunteers weekly to prepare second grade students for their First Holy Communion (at 8:30 AM every Sunday) and is involved in Generation Impact. As a member of Generation Impact, she works with a team of students to decide which company should receive their grant of \$10K. Megan is also on the Teen Board for Abilis which is an organization who supports neurodivergent young adults and families. Megan's most significant contributions have come from a variety of volunteer and leadership roles which allow her to make meaningful differences within the community. In addition to Generation Impact and Abilis, she is the President of Community Centers Club, which organizes holiday events and service projects for local children, and the Head of Membership for Hats4Healing, a Greenwich High School club that crochets hats for cancer patients at local hospitals. Throughout her high school career, she has dedicated more than 200 hours to the Greenwich High School varsity football team, supporting 75 players and a number of coaches managing their logistics and game-day preparations ensuring a smooth and organized environment.

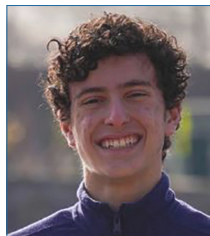
"Megan is a student whose commitment to volunteering within our community goes unmatched," School Counselor Ms. Kristina Sapienza said. "Megan's commitment to service goes far and wide, touching a diverse group of organizations within the Town of Greenwich. What is most impressive about Megan's service is that she has dedicated more than 200 hours to the same five organizations, not one-off opportunities."



FOLSOM HOUSE: SYLVESTER PECORA

"It's vital to participate in service activities to provide those without the basis to learn themselves with a foundation to continue their education. Community service is about recognizing the conditions people need to grow, and giving them the chance to succeed."

Sylvester serves as the executive director and co-founder of Dollars to Scholars, a 501(c)(3) organization that introduces elementary to high school students to introductory financial literacy content through concise lessons in order to facilitate students' first steps in becoming financially independent.



Dollars to Scholars has worked with local schools and organizations through its

curriculum, which follow the GROWTH (Gains, Risk, Occupation, Wealth, Tax, and How To) acronym The course consists of videos regarding topics including saving, investing, credit, debt, budgeting, and more. Dollars to Scholars has an active social media presence, with Instagram reels and posts on topics that are not present in the course, and a blog with advanced topics that connect to what is taught in the course. Dollars to Scholars has created an interview series, “Dollar Discussions,” in which the team interviews those in the business sphere.

In addition to his amazing work with Dollars to Scholars, Sylvester’s passion for piano has led him to teach piano to numerous local students. He has volunteered his time in a myriad of musical events, including the Essentially Ellington Jazz Festival, being a pit musician for several Greenwich High School theater program shows, and performing at local charities to support their causes- including Kids in Crisis, Filling in the Blanks, and Christmas pageants at St. Mary’s Church.

“Sylvester Pecora, like many students at Greenwich High School, leads an exceptionally busy life,” School Counselor Mr. Brian Dayton said. “Beyond school hours, Sylvester dedicates countless hours to homework and is actively involved in volunteering both at GHS and within the local community.”

SHELDON HOUSE: ELLA WHITRIDGE

“I think it is important to participate in service activities because it allows people to develop leadership, responsibility, and empathy while working hard to leave a person or place better than they found it - strengthening both communities and those who serve them.”



Ella has championed veteran causes with a vigor that endears her to all those who have served in our armed forces. As a member of the Teens Answer the Call club, she fundraised \$9,000 to support veterans and repair their building, Post 29. This involves speaking at American Legion events and writing op-ed articles and conducting interviews with local press. Ella, as an intern with the American Legion Post 29 Commander, helped to develop the “Institute for Learning,” a series of lectures for the youth in town to learn about events in American history from those who lived through them.

Ella is a board member of Generation Impact, a local organization made up of young women who learn about and practice philanthropy and ultimately work together to award grants to local charitable organizations. She helps organize meetings, research nonprofit organizations, visit nonprofits and meet with their leadership.

As a member of the Swim Across America Junior Advisory Board, Ella spreads awareness for cancer research and about the Swim Across America event. She runs fundraisers, attends charity events and volunteers at events, including the yearly “Big Swim” event, for which she personally raised \$2,500 towards the overall total of more than \$400,000. Ella also participates in the Stand By Me mentoring program at Greenwich High School.

“Ella Whitridge has served our community in many ways, but her relationship with the veterans in the American Legion Post is especially impactful,” School Counselor Ms. Jennifer Lynch said. “After studying the Vietnam War and attending an event at Post 29, Ella was moved to become involved. She has given the veterans hope that future generations may have a resurgence in patriotism and will tell these heroes’ stories to keep their legacy alive.”

THE FLEISHMAN SERVICE AWARD

RECIPIENT: RIONA MCKERSIE

“Serving others is a way to return the support, kindness and encouragement that I have had from countless individuals through the years and I endeavor to share that same sense of hope and belonging that I have gratefully received.”



Riona's commitment to service is impressive. Her involvement with the Girl Scouts began when she was in the first grade and highlights her dedication and passion for service. Through the years, Riona has not only participated in countless events and projects, but also assumed the role of a member on the Board of Directors of the Girl Scouts of Connecticut. Her contributions have been invaluable, from advising the CEO on state-wide Girl Scout events to providing feedback that has shaped the organization at both local and state levels. Her Gold Award project, The Positivity Project, focused on the positive aspects of social media for middle and high school students. Riona collaborated with various student organizations and the GHS health department. Currently, her workshop has been incorporated into the ninth grade health curriculum and she runs a social media themed club at a local middle school. Riona's materials are also being used in the content development of a company's app focused on creating safe social media spaces for young girls. Her long-standing service as an altar server at her church further exemplifies her dedication to her community and her role as a mentor and leader for others.

Riona also served as a mentor and tutor to a ninth grader as part of the Greenwich High School Stand By Me program. In this role, Riona met weekly with her mentee and was responsible for goal setting, monitoring and assisting with work. Additionally this year, Riona assists 2-3 times in an 8-day cycle in a ninth grade Biology

class. She provides support to students who need assistance during independent work.

“This award represents the culmination of Riona’s lifelong commitment to service,” School Counselor Ms. Kelly Dwyer said. “Whether facilitating club meetings, representing members of the Girl Scouts of Connecticut, or tutoring peers, Riona is deeply involved in serving others. A passionate advocate, she shows up, listens, and leads with care. Through these experiences, Riona has learned that small, consistent actions can create meaningful and lasting impact within her community.”

**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

