



**Do The Right Thing**



**of Rochester, Inc.**



**2023-2024 Annual Report**



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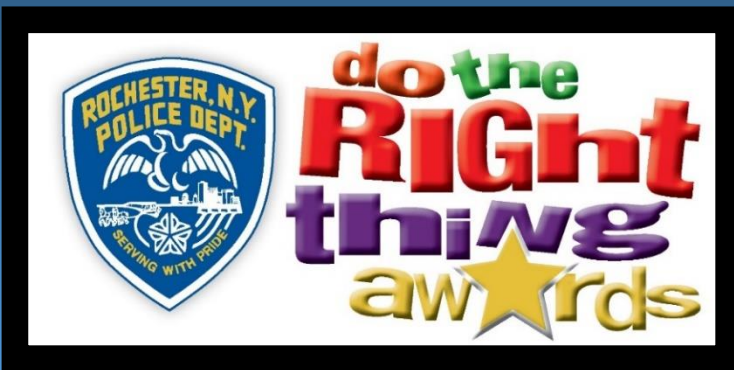
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# PROGRAM HISTORY AND OVERVIEW

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## **About the Program**

The Do The Right Thing Award program has been part of the Rochester Police Department since 1995, and incorporated as a 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation in March 2000. The program functions under the auspices of the Rochester Police Department, and is overseen by an appointed Executive Board of Directors. A copy of the by-laws can be found on our [website](#). Program sponsors provide generous donations which are distributed to award winners, and also help fund program operations.

The goal of the Do The Right Thing Award Program is to foster positive relationships between all local law enforcement and school-aged youth. The program recognizes students for their exemplary behavior. Actions such as volunteering in the community, aiding law enforcement and other first responders, acts of heroism, leadership and role model behavior, and demonstrated 'turn-around' or improved behavior are acknowledged. Highlighting these students and their stories in the media promotes positive recognition for these youth, and shows that good choices are newsworthy. The ceremony and our winners are highlighted on our social media, as well as through program sponsor News 10NBC WHEC-TV. Stories are televised on their news broadcasts, as well as on-line at [WHEC.com](#).

Any student enrolled in grades Kindergarten - 12 in any school within Monroe County is eligible for nomination. Students may be nominated for incidents that have occurred within one year of the nomination, and the act must have occurred within Monroe County. Anyone over 18 years old can nominate a student - this includes first responders, teachers, coaches, family, friends, and neighbors. Nominations are accepted throughout the entire year, and are reviewed by a committee that selects students to receive the Do The Right Thing Award. The committee is comprised of members of our community and representatives from our sponsor organizations.

Up to fifty students can be selected as Do The Right Thing Award winners each year, and these students are celebrated at one of three ceremonies which are held at the City Public Safety Building during the school year. Winners receive several rewards and prizes donated by program sponsors, and may also apply for a college or trade school scholarship when they are high school seniors. Students selected as winners must attend an award ceremony in order to officially be considered a Do The Right Thing Award Winner.

Since the program began, we have recognized over 1,200 winners, and awarded \$118,000 towards scholarships for our winners. Most students that are nominated will receive a letter of recognition for their act, even if they are not chosen as a winner.



## **2023-2024 Ceremonies**

In total, we recognized thirty students throughout three ceremonies during the 2023-2024 school year. This included twenty-nine incidents that involved times of heroism, bravery and courageousness while helping family and/or first responders during serious incidents such as calling 911 or helping family members during emergency situations; intervening during altercations at school and standing up to bully behavior; acts of kindness, thoughtfulness, generosity, and volunteerism; as well as role model and turn-around behavior. Many of these acts would be remarkable if adults had done them, so it's even more phenomenal when you read these stories and see how young some of the winners are!

All ceremonies were very well attended by family and friends of the winners, as well as many other supporters of the program. We also broadcast the ceremonies via Facebook Live for those that were unable to attend. This also allows everyone to watch the ceremony again at a later time if they would like. Make sure to visit our [Facebook page](#) to view past ceremonies and see additional coverage of each winner!

## **Scholarship Announcement**

Last year we partnered with The Summit Federal Credit Union, who pledged to match funds to support our annual scholarship. To acknowledge this partnership, the scholarship is now named the **Do The Right Thing / The Summit Federal Credit Union Scholarship**. Last year we awarded two \$2000 college scholarships, and this year we did the same. We look forward to continuing this partnership for many years to come!

## **Sponsor Information**

This year we partnered with Lamar Rochester who used their digital billboard network to promote the Do The Right Thing Award Program and its winners on various billboard locations throughout Monroe County. It was so exciting to be driving along roadways like Interstates 390 and 490 and see the smiling faces of our winners on their large billboards after each ceremony! We look forward to continuing to spotlight all our winners through this amazing partnership!

Additionally, we welcomed Altitude Trampoline Park, Bill Gray's and Arlene's Costumes as new sponsors this year. Each business provided all of this year's winners with fun opportunities to enjoy.

In April, News 10NBC WHEC-TV donated tickets that allowed three of our winners with a unique opportunity to attend the RPO Eclipse Spectacular at the Blue Cross Arena.

We really appreciate the generosity of all of our program sponsors! The opportunities provided to all of our winners is truly remarkable, and the program would not be what it is without their support!

### Changes to the Executive Board

This year we welcomed two new Executive Board Members – Luis Aponte and Kenneth Council, both employed at our program sponsor American Medical Response. Additionally, we welcomed new Program Director, Sergeant William Gallagher, in June. He replaced Sergeant Jose Vargas, who served in this role since February 2017.

### Social Media and Newsletter

This year we continued sharing information and news with all of our supporters in a variety of ways. We post frequently to our [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) pages, and have continued to send out a newsletter since our first issue was published in the Winter of 2019. If you missed any, make sure to visit our [website](#) where we have posted each issue! Each issue is full of fun information about our program!

Additionally, our website contains quite a bit of useful information about the program, including copies of each Annual Report since 2006.

For more information about the Do The Right Thing Award program, or to nominate a student, please visit our website. Also, make sure to follow us on social media, and comment and share our posts! You can find all of our contact information in the box below.



**Do The Right Thing of Rochester, Inc.  
\* Rochester Police Department\***

**Phone: (585) 428-7863**

**Email: [DoTheRightThing@cityofrochester.gov](mailto:DoTheRightThing@cityofrochester.gov)**

**Website: [www.CityOfRochester.gov/DoTheRightThing](http://www.CityOfRochester.gov/DoTheRightThing)**

**Follow us on social media – Do The Right Thing of Rochester**

**Facebook: [@DTRTROC](#)**

**Instagram: [@DTRT\\_Rochester](#)**

**X: [@RPD\\_DTRT](#)**



## City of Rochester

City Hall Room 308A, 30 Church Street  
Rochester, New York 14614-1290  
www.cityofrochester.gov

**Malik D. Evans**  
Mayor

October 1, 2024

Do the Right Thing Awards Program  
c/o Rochester Police Department  
185 Exchange Blvd.  
Rochester, NY 14614



Dear Students, Organizers, and Sponsors,

For 29 years, the “Do the Right Thing” program has recognized and celebrated the inspiring actions of Rochester’s young people. It is heartwarming to see our community’s youth consistently stepping up with courage, kindness, and generosity. Their exemplary actions, ranging from assisting during emergencies to showing leadership and kindness in their schools, are a beacon of hope for our city’s future.

Nearly half of this year’s winners come from the Rochester City School District, demonstrating the depth of character in our local schools. These young citizens, who have called 911 in times of crisis, helped peers in need, intervened in difficult situations, and even turned in found valuables, are true role models. They remind us all of the power of doing the right thing—no matter how big or small the action may seem.

I am also proud of the continued partnership with The Summit Federal Credit Union, whose scholarship program is providing life-changing opportunities. This year, two students were awarded \$2,000 scholarships to support their college goals. These efforts help ensure our young leaders can pursue their dreams and build bright futures.

Additionally, I want to recognize the contributions that the “Do the Right Thing” staff and organizers make through their annual toy and school supply drives. By supporting causes like the Pirate Toy Fund and the Healthy Moms Family Resource Fair, the program extends its positive impact far beyond the awards, making a tangible difference in the lives of those in need.

To the families, teachers, and mentors who support these young awardees, thank you. Your guidance and dedication have helped shape these extraordinary individuals, and our community is better for it.

Once again, congratulations to this year’s honorees, and thank you to everyone involved in making this program such a vital part of our city.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Malik D. Evans'.

Malik D. Evans  
Mayor

Phone: (585) 428-7045

Fax: (585) 428-6059

TTY: (585) 428-6054

EEO/ADA Employer



## City of Rochester

Rochester Police Department  
185 Exchange Boulevard, Suite 630  
Rochester, New York 14614-2124  
[www.cityofrochester.gov/publicsafety/police/](http://www.cityofrochester.gov/publicsafety/police/)

David M. Smith  
Chief of Police



September 16, 2024

Do The Right Thing  
185 Exchange Blvd.  
Rochester, NY 14614

To the Do The Right Thing Families, Sponsors and Supporters:

On behalf of Do The Right Thing of Rochester, and the Rochester Police Department, I would like to commend you on the accomplishments of the 2023-2024 program year, which have acknowledged some of our outstanding youth in our community.

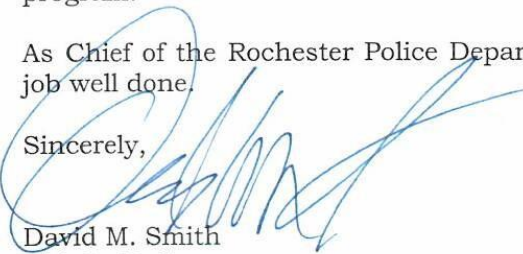
Upon learning of these nominations, I am always amazed by the stories of courage, heroism, honesty, volunteerism, kindness, and leadership provided by our youth. The role modeling shown during this past year gives us pride and encouragement in our youth and our future. This type of involvement shown by our youth is an investment both on a personal and professional level.

I would also like to acknowledge the parents, teachers, administrators, officers, firefighters, caregivers, and other community members, who took the time to nominate these outstanding young individuals and to help bring their remarkable stories to light. It is easy to become too busy with our day to day tasks, however, we should always take the time to encourage and reward our youth for their contributions to our community.

Lastly, this essential program would not exist if it were not for our sponsors and partners in promoting kindness in our community. We understand that the continued success of this program can only happen with the funding, participation and generous support of our various private donations and public business partners. Thank you for all that you have done for this program.

As Chief of the Rochester Police Department, I congratulate all of you on a job well done.

Sincerely,

  
David M. Smith  
Chief of Police



Phone: 585.428.7033

Fax: 585.428.6093

TTY: 585.428.6054

EEO/ADA Employer





**Do The Right Thing of Rochester, Inc.**

Rochester Police Department  
185 Exchange Boulevard, Room 105

Rochester, New York 14614

Phone: (585) 428-7863

Dear Do The Right Thing, Sponsors and Supporters,

On behalf of Do The Right Thing of Rochester, Inc., I would like to commend the children who had the strength and the courage to step up and make a difference in our community, during the 2023-2024 program year. We realize how difficult it is, in the midst of all the negative influences, for our children to stand up and out, for the right reasons!

We conducted three ceremonies, honoring thirty winners, fourteen of which were from the Rochester City School District. In collaboration with the Summit Federal Credit Union, we were able to award two college bound winners with a \$2,000.00 scholarship! These winners did everything from returning large sums of money and intervening during altercations, to providing invaluable assistance during medical emergencies. Beyond recognizing our winners, we conducted a toy drive for the Pirate toy fund and a school supply drive that supports the Annual Healthy Moms Family Resource fair.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the parents, grandparents, guardians, mentors, teachers and role models who continue to nurture our children. Further, I would like to express our sincere gratitude to all of our sponsors and grants, without whom none of this would be possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'James R. McCauley Jr.'.

James R. McCauley Jr.  
Do The Right Thing Inc.  
President

# PROGRAM STAFF



**Sergeant Jose Vargas**  
**Program Director**

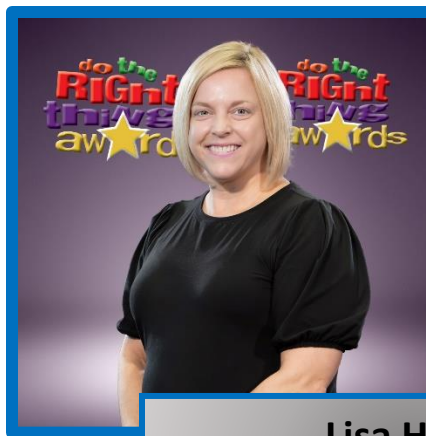
Welcome to new Program Director  
Sergeant William Gallagher!  
He replaces Sergeant Jose Vargas, who  
served in this role since February 2017.



**Sergeant William Gallagher**  
**Program Director**



**Laurie Kingsley-Henry**  
**Program Coordinator**



**Lisa Hayes**  
**Program Assistant**

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# EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

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## *2023-2024 Program Year*

**Mayor Malik D. Evans** (City of Rochester)

**Police Chief David M. Smith** (Rochester Police Department)

**President: James McCauley** (Camp Good Days and Special Times)

**Vice President: Anthony Campbell** (Memorial Art Gallery)

**Treasurer: Suzanne Warren** (City of Rochester)

**Secretary & Program Coordinator: Laurie Kingsley-Henry** (Rochester Police Department)

**Program Director: Sergeant Jose Vargas** (Rochester Police Department)\*Ended June 2024

**Sergeant William Gallagher** (Rochester Police Department)\*Beg. June 2024

**Luis Aponte** (American Medical Response)

**Kenneth Council** (American Medical Response)

**LaShay Harris** (American Medical Response)

**Glen Jeter** (Horace Jeter Inc.)

**Carmen Jones** (City of Rochester)

**Sheri Landers** (Emergency Communications Department)

**Mark Mura** (Rochester Police Department)

**Emily Putnam** (News 10NBC WHEC-TV)

**James Sheppard** (Rochester City School District)

**Keith L. Stith** (Rochester Police Department)

**Grace Tillinghast** (The Battery)

**Jeffrey Wagner** (Monroe County Sheriff's Office)

**Jessica Williams** (The Summit Federal Credit Union)



# PROGRAM SPONSORS

Altitude Trampoline Park  
American Medical Response  
Ames-Amzalak Memorial Trust  
Arlene's Costumes  
Bill Gray's  
Camp Good Days and Special Times  
City of Rochester  
C.J. & B.S August Family Foundation  
The Daisy Marquis Jones Foundation  
Dynamic Recording Studio  
Genesee Country Village & Museum  
Glen Jeter (Horace Jeter Inc.)  
Grace Tillinghast (The Battery)  
John F. Wegman Fund (via RACF)  
Lamar Advertising Company of Rochester  
Memorial Art Gallery  
Monroe County

News 10NBC WHEC-TV  
NYRA Trophies & Awards  
Pirate Toy Fund  
Rochester Americans  
Rochester Knighthawks  
Rochester Museum & Science Center  
Rochester Police Department  
Rochester Police Foundation  
Rochester Red Wings  
Salvatore's Old Fashioned Pizzeria  
Seabreeze Amusement Park  
Seneca Park Zoo  
The Strong National Museum of Play  
The Summit Federal Credit Union  
Tim Hortons Iceplex  
TOPS Friendly Markets





# FINANCIAL REPORTS

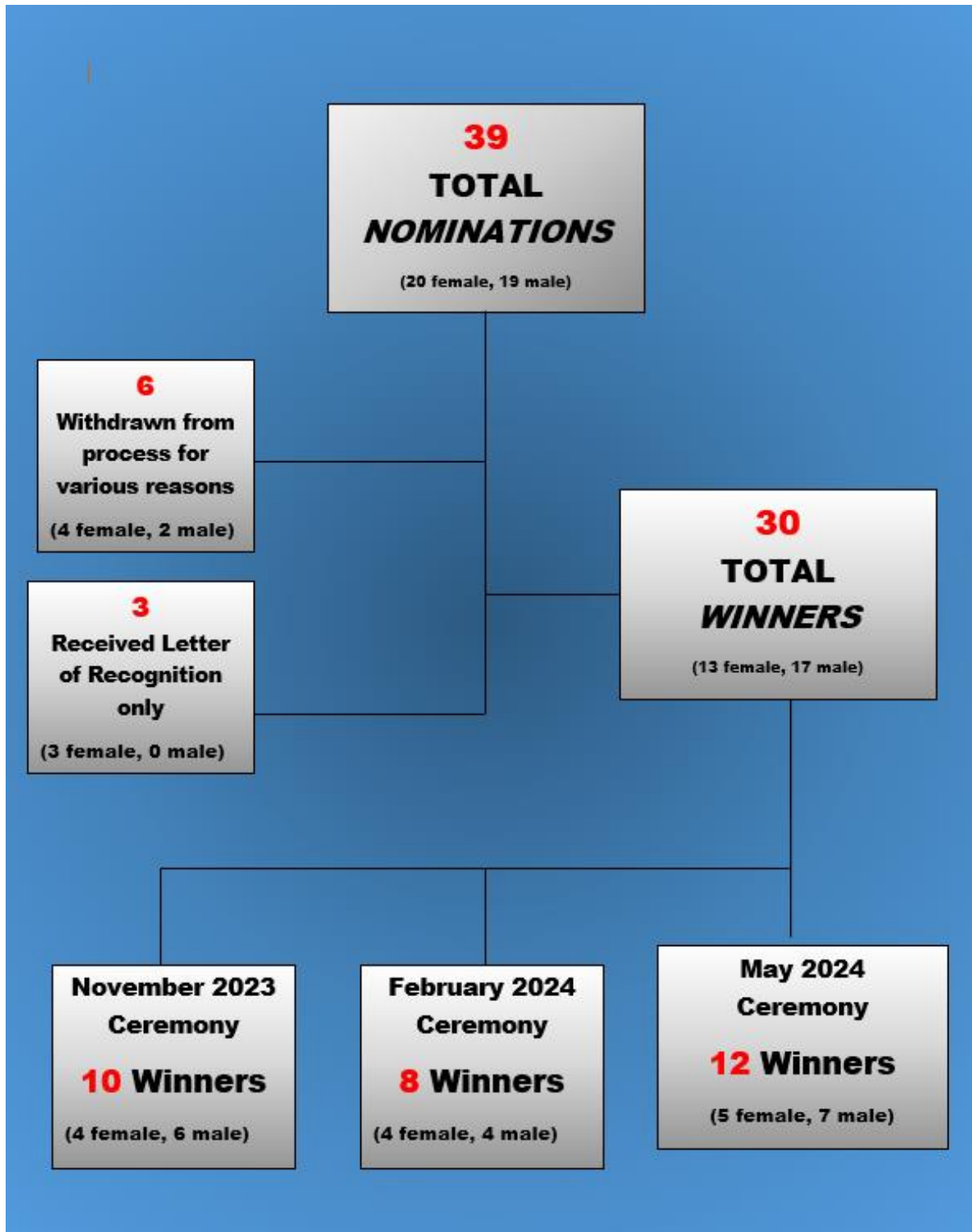
## Do The Right Thing of Rochester Inc. Balance Sheet as of 7/31/2024

	July 31, 2024	July 31, 2023	\$ Change	% Change
<b>ASSETS</b>				
<b>Current Assets</b>				
Total Checking - Discretionary	\$14,028.26	\$9,857.68	\$4,170.58	42.31%
Total Checking - Non-Discretionary	\$735.80	\$0.00	\$735.80	100.00%
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$14,764.06</b>	<b>\$9,857.68</b>	<b>\$4,906.38</b>	<b>49.77%</b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>				
<b>Equity</b>				
Opening Bal Equity	\$581.74	\$581.74	\$0.00	0.00%
Unrestricted Net Assets	\$9,275.94	\$11,874.17	-\$2,598.23	-21.88%
Net Income (Loss)	-\$4,906.38	-\$2,598.23	\$7,504.61	288.84%
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>\$14,764.06</b>	<b>\$9,857.68</b>	<b>\$4,906.38</b>	<b>49.77%</b>

## Revenue & Expense Year Ending 7/31/2024

	August 2023 - July 2024
<b>Revenues</b>	
<b>Foundation &amp; Trust Grants</b>	
Daisy Marquis Jones	\$6,000.00
RACF Wegman Grant	\$1,500.00
August Family Foundation	\$1,000.00
Individual & Business Contributions	\$1,260.00
Donations via United Way	\$1,437.62
Summit FCU Scholarship Contribution	\$2,000.00
Seabreeze Receipts	\$830.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$14,027.62</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Scholarships	\$4,000.00
Ceremonies	\$2,429.33
Seabreeze	\$2,667.00
Miscellaneous Expenses	\$24.91
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$9,121.24</b>
<b>Net income</b>	<b>\$4,906.38</b>

# PROGRAM STATISTICS





WINNERS BY SCHOOL DISTRICT	
School District	Winners
Charter School	2
Homeschool	0
Private School	4
Brighton CSD	0
Brockport CSD	0
Churchville-Chili CSD	0
East Irondequoit CSD	1
East Rochester CSD	0
Fairport CSD	0
Gates-Chili CSD	0
Greece CSD	2
Hilton CSD	2
Honeoye Falls-Lima CSD	0
Penfield CSD	1
Pittsford CSD	1
Rochester City School District	14
Rush-Henrietta CSD	0
Spencerport CSD	0
Webster CSD	2
West Irondequoit CSD	1
Wheatland-Chili CSD	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>30</b>

WINNERS BY GRADE	
Grade Level	Winners
Pre-K	1
Kindergarten	0
1	0
2	2
3	5
4	3
5	1
6	3
7	4
8	2
9	0
10	2
11	2
12	5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>30</b>



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# 2023-2024 AWARD WINNERS

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It isn't always easy for children these days to do the right thing. Standing up against bullies, acting courageously during a traumatic event, or acting unselfishly and putting the needs of others before their own, are things that can be difficult for anyone at any age. But there are many Monroe County youth that choose to go above and beyond, and we were privileged to recognize 30 of them and their commendable actions at three award ceremonies throughout the 2023-2024 school year. Listed below are each of their incredible stories.





## November 2023 Ceremony Winners



**LILY CLARK**  
4<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Lakeshore Elementary (Greece CSD)



Lily was nominated by her aunt, Angela Scott, for her ability to remain calm and brave during a medical emergency. One morning this past May, Lily realized something was not right with her grandmother, who she called Ninny, after she woke up. Lily telephoned her mother, who was outside helping her brother get on the bus, to let her know that something was wrong with Ninny. Lily quickly hung up and began checking Ninny's blood sugar and oxygen (which she knew to check because of pre-existing conditions). When Lily's mom came back into the house, she immediately recognized the symptoms of a stroke and called 911. Lily stayed calm the entire time, and was very helpful to both her grandmother and her mother. After her stay in the hospital, Ninny was transferred to a nursing home, where Lily visited every day, bringing and eating dinner with her. Lily continued this until Ninny passed away at the end of August.





**NICHOLAS FUSILLI, II**  
**4<sup>th</sup> Grade**  
**Plank Road South Elementary (Webster CSD)**



Nicholas was nominated by West Webster Fire Chief Brian Kelly for his bravery and quick actions during a fire emergency. At approximately 3:00 a.m. on Saturday April 1st, the West Webster Fire Department was dispatched to the Fusilli home for the smell of something burning and visible smoke on the first floor. Fire crews arrived and were able to determine that the dishwasher had malfunctioned, resulting in plastic items inside melting and creating a smoke and fire hazard. The dishwasher power was isolated and the dishwasher made safe. When discussing the incident with the family, it was discovered that smoke alarms in the residence did not activate to alert the family, and that it was actually Nicholas who had awoken to the smell of smoke, identified the dangerous condition and immediately alerted his parents. His parents were then able to grab Nicolas' brother and sister, call 911 and exit the house safely. Nicolas' actions were integral in the safe outcome of this event, in both alerting his family to a dangerous condition, as well as limiting what could have been a larger fire event.





**AUSTIN GILLIS**  
12<sup>th</sup> Grade  
McQuaid Jesuit High School



Austin was nominated by his mother, Kelly Gillis, for the work he did for his Eagle Scout service project. Austin built a sensory garden for the Arc of Monroe. The Arc of Monroe has been providing a variety of programs and services for over 1,400 people with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities and their families in the Rochester community for over 65 years. The Arc works to enhance the quality of life and self-esteem of people in their programs, providing them with meaningful social development, supported employment, residential community living and enrichment opportunities. Austin's idea was to help people with intellectual and developmental disabilities have a safe place to rest, enjoy and stimulate their senses. A sensory garden is all about stimulating and engaging the five basic senses of sight, smell, sound, touch and taste. Spending time in a sensory garden can help enhance your sense of wellbeing, reduce stress and calm your mind. Austin spent a year planning his project, seeking ideas from The Arc employees, as well as the community. The large sensory garden was installed this past spring at the Arc of Monroe's Ballantyne Day Services location, and will be used for those supported by The Arc for daily activities.







**SHUAIB HUSSEIN**  
6<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Roberto Clemente School #8 (RCSD)



Shuaib was nominated by Arnett Branch Librarian Bruce Tehan for his outstanding work as an advocate for literacy, youth and libraries, as well as being an exceptional brother to his siblings. Mr. Tehan said that Shuaib is a regular patron at the Arnett Branch Library, visiting almost daily with his brothers this past summer. Throughout the summer he was an enthusiastic participant in library programs, and won numerous prizes for being one of the branch's best readers. His conduct in the library was always gentlemanly, and he was a remarkably kind big brother to his siblings, constantly looking out for them and making sure they were safe and happy. This summer Shuaib also emerged as one of the Branch's best volunteers. He took a keen interest in the All Together, Kids' Summer Reading Program. This program is designed to encourage literacy, library use, and general education in a fun and entertaining way. Mr. Tehan observed Shuaib, on his own, tell many kids about the program, and encouraged them to join. Shuaib's actions were directly responsible for approximately twenty percent of the program's enrollment. One noteworthy incident Shuaib was involved with occurred on an afternoon when there were a lot of kids in the building with no planned activities. Shuaib approached Mr. Tehan and suggested that something be done. When asked if he could think of something for the kids to do that would be fun and would teach them something about the library, Shuaib came up with the idea of a library themed scavenger hunt. Mr. Tehan asked Shuaib to plan and run this activity, and Shuaib met this challenge brilliantly. He scattered images throughout the library so that kids could learn about the various collections and services the library provided, and then supplied each of the kids with a list of things they needed to hunt for. If they got stumped during the hunt, he provided clever hints to help them on their way, and at the end of the event, he passed out prizes supplied by the library. Shuaib's program was so well crafted and received that it was repeated two more times this summer!







**MATTHEW KLINKBEIL**  
8<sup>th</sup> Grade  
John Williams School #5 (RCSD)



Matthew was nominated by his mother, Terry Sinopoli Klinkbeil, for his ability to remain calm during a dangerous situation. One day while Matthew was at his great-grandmother's (he calls her Nana) house after school, the kitchen started filling with smoke. Nana had accidentally left food in the oven when she went to pick up Matthew's sister from softball practice. Matthew called his Nana and let her know what was going on, and she gave instructions over the phone to help Matthew turn off the oven and safely remove the food. Matthew is a very high functioning person with autism, but a large number of instructions can easily confuse him. Yet during this incident, he was able to remain calm and follow everything his Nana told him, keeping himself, his elderly aunt who was with him, and the house safe!





**GRAYSON NGUYEN**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Grade**  
**Durand Eastman Primary (East Irondequoit CSD)**



Grayson was nominated last year by substitute teacher Debbie Deuschle for the kindness and compassion he displayed towards another student. In second grade, Grayson was in a General Education program at Ivan Green Elementary School, and his class was combined with a Special Education class. One day in May, Ms. Deuschle was working with both groups in a Physical Education class. During this class, she observed Grayson help a special needs student learn to play basketball. She says Grayson was not promoted to help, and showed so much compassion to this classmate that it truly touched her heart. Mrs. Deuschle said Grayson has a heart of gold and she will never forget what he did! His teacher last year, Grace Di Maria, said that Grayson has a kind heart, and accepts others for exactly as they are. She said he comes to school every day with a smile and ready for whatever the day has to bring. She went on to say he is very kind and thoughtful, and has a way of making others feel special. He would often bring her little gifts delivered with a big smile, and his mother says that Grayson insists on bringing school staff members, as well as his friends, small gifts each week.





**MADELINE SCAHILL**  
11<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Bishop Kearney High School



Madeline was nominated by School Administrator Keith Miller for being an outstanding, well-rounded, role model student who always seems to do the right thing, even when no one is looking. Madeline is an individual that shows kindness and caring to all, always making sure to include everyone, and goes out of her way to ensure that everyone is treated with dignity. Madeline is involved in many school activities. She leads the Best Buddies program, which helps build one-to-one friendships between people with and without intellectual and developmental disabilities, offering social interactions while improving the quality of life and level of inclusion for a population that is often isolated and excluded. She is a Global Ambassador, a position that assists the foreign exchange students that attend the school, and she is also involved with the Art and Drama group, where she has participated in several of the school's theatre productions. All of this while maintaining an overall GPA of 96.7%. Over the summer, she worked as a lifeguard at Seabreeze Amusement Park.







**NYLA SERRET**  
Pre-Kindergarten  
Rochester Early Childhood Center (RCSD)



Nyla was nominated by 911 Telecommunicator Kathleen Burns for her quick thinking and bravery. Back in July, Ms. Burns took a 911 call from a very young child requesting help for her mom. The child said that her mom cut herself and needed a doctor. Later in the call, she said that her mom needed a band aid, but they didn't have any. The call disconnected during the brief interview, so Ms. Burns was only able to obtain very minimal information from the child. She did hear her say she was four years old, but never even had a chance to get the child's name. Fire dispatch was eventually able to speak to the mother on the phone to confirm that she was ok, and police also responded to the location to confirm everyone was ok. Nyla's mom had a minor cut on her hand that she accidentally did while cooking. Ms. Burns was so impressed that Nyla knew at such a young age to call 911 if she needed help, and nominated Nyla so that her bravery would be recognized.





**KWYNN WALTON, JR.**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Grade  
Nathaniel Hawthorne School #25 (RCSD)



Kwynn was nominated by School Administrator Denise Quamina for his quick thinking during an emergency situation that took place during school last April while Kwynn was in first grade. One day in the middle of lunch, one of Kwynn's classmates began choking. Kwynn ran across the cafeteria to get the parent liaison, Ms. Montalvo's, attention. He told her that his friend needed help because he was choking. Without hesitation, Ms. Montalvo accompanied Kwynn to the choking victim, where she firmly hit him on his upper back, causing the chip that was lodged in the student's throat to dislodge. Kwynn's actions of quickly seeking adult assistance on this day helped save his classmate's life, and everyone at School #25 is so proud of him!







## AUBREY WILLIAMS

7<sup>th</sup> Grade

Rochester Prep Chili Campus Charter Middle School



Aubrey was nominated by her mother, Rachel Lynette Davis, for her role in helping her mother during a serious medical emergency. Last May, Aubrey came home from school to find her mother unconscious. Aubrey was able to contact 911 through her mother's personal emergency response system on her medical alert button. With the operator's guidance over the phone, Aubrey gave her mom CPR until the ambulance arrived. Ms. Davis said the last thing she remembered was that her blood glucose level was very low so she went to get some juice, and the next thing she knew she was waking up in the hospital. It was there she learned what her daughter did for her. Ms. Davis is so proud of her daughter for saving her life! She says Aubrey is an amazing daughter who always helps around the house with things like cooking and cleaning. Her teacher, Kim Roberts, said Aubrey is an exceptional young lady who is kind to everyone, always willing to help, and who loves to make everyone smile!



**November 2023 Winners**





# February 2024 Ceremony



**ANMOL BISWA**  
**10<sup>th</sup> Grade**  
**School of the Arts (RCSD)**



Anmol was nominated by School Support Staff member Leslie Hunter for his role model behavior and civic mindedness. Ms. Hunter says that Anmol has a steadfast interest and belief in personal and community responsibility. He and his family are from Nepal, and over the past two years, he has displayed the qualities of a personally responsible individual including courage, persistence, and self-control. He takes his education and personal growth seriously, as well as his civic responsibilities, and has never failed to demonstrate that they are sincere, family and community based. A notable incident that Ms. Hunter learned about occurred this past spring, when Anmol was walking to school. While on East Main Street in front of the Riverside Convention Center, he noticed an object on the ground. Curious, he picked it up, inspected it, and found it to be a real bullet. Instead of ignoring it or keeping it, he immediately called 911 and waited for the police to arrive so that he could turn it over to them, thus removing a potentially dangerous item from the street. Alan Tirré, Academy Director at School of the Arts, says that Anmol is an extraordinary human being who is a likeable and friendly young man who sees the best in everyone. Despite experiencing hardship and struggles in his young life, Anmol continues to rise above by maintaining good grades and excellent attendance at school, and is a leader amongst his peers.





**CARTER BLONDELL**  
3<sup>rd</sup> Grade  
Rochester Classical Academy



Carter was nominated for his honesty and kindness by Rochester Classical Academy Principal Katie Curtis. According to Ms. Curtis, the school has a lot of foot traffic alongside its green space, and often during the overnight hours people visit and leave items behind. Back in October while outside during recess, Carter found \$150 cash in the bushes. A \$100 bill and a \$50 bill are very exciting to 8 year olds, yet Carter knew it did not belong to him and immediately gave the money to Ms. Curtis. Later, when all of the students were discussing what they would do with money, Carter's idea was to donate it to the church the school rents the space from (Solid Rock Church). Ms. Curtis was so impressed with Carter's selfless idea! The school held on to the money for two weeks to see if anyone tried to claim it. When no one did, the money was offered to the church, who in turn donated the money back to the school to be used for the students' benefit. The school decided the money will be used for a pizza party for the entire school during School Spirit Week in March, so every student at the school will benefit from Carter's remarkable act!







**NIKKYAH BOONE**  
7<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Northwest Junior High at Douglas (RCSD)



Nikkayah was nominated by Principal Rodney Moore for her heroic actions during Home and Careers class earlier this year. When two students began arguing back and forth with one another, the teacher and some other students attempted to calm the situation. Instead it escalated when one student became enraged, grabbed a pair of scissors and rushed toward the other student. The teacher tried to intervene, and as she was trying to separate the two students, Nikkayah jumped up to assist by grabbing the young man with the scissors and holding him back. While she was securing him, she was able to wrestle the scissors away from him, de-escalating a situation that could have resulted in serious injury. Mr. Moore says that Nikkayah did not hesitate to assist the teacher, and her actions potentially saved the life of one of her classmates as well as keeping the other students safe. Mr. Moore also says Nikkayah is a positive role model at Northwest Junior High, always putting forth her best effort, is a joyful person who always assists her classmates with problems, and acts as a calming force in the classroom. Nikkayah's counselor, Jennifer Greenberg, says that Nikkayah is honest, focused and a great friend to her peers, and never hesitates to do the right thing even when she is not asked to do so.





**AZ'RYEL CASTRO**  
6<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Charles Carroll School #46 (RCSD)



Az'Ryel was nominated by his principal, Gina DiTullio, for his role model behavior as a peer mediator for his classmates and the younger students at School #46. Az'ryel has been demonstrating leadership in restorative practices this year. He recently intervened when two first-grade students were engaged in a conflict. Az'ryel discussed that fighting was never the answer, and encouraged both of the boys to take a break or ask for help from an adult if need be. He told them, "So no more fighting, okay? Promise. That's not what we do at this school." He hugged them both, and then walked them back to class with the assistant principal. Ms. DiTullio was so impressed with Az'ryel's ability to mediate the young students, show compassion, and drive home the message that while conflict happens, there are more appropriate options than fighting. Az'Ryel reinforced the positive culture of School #46, and in this situation, Az'ryel demonstrated a great deal of maturity and understanding of restorative practices that everyone at School #46 strives for.







**CANARI JOHNSON**  
3<sup>rd</sup> Grade  
Roberto Clemente School #8 (RCSD)



Biljana Ilievska is a Telecommunicator at 911, and nominated Canari for the way she handled herself while her mother was experiencing a medical emergency this past summer. When Canari's mom wasn't feeling well, she called 911, but was having trouble communicating with Ms. Ilievska, who was the 911 operator that answered the call. Canari took the phone from her mother and relayed information between the 911 operator and her mom. Ms. Ilievska said that Canari did a very good job at remaining calm and answering all the questions asked by the operator, relaying information to her mom and keeping mom calm while help was on the way. Canari's mom is grateful for the help she provided during this stressful situation. Canari's teacher, Michele D'Alessandro, said that Canari is kind and caring, always helpful in class, makes good choices for herself and others, and is a model student at School #8!





**ANGELENA LIPANI**  
12<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Penfield High School (Penfield CSD)



Lena was nominated by School Counselor Amy Williams for being an outstanding role model student, describing her as an absolute stand out in this year’s graduating class! Throughout high school, she has been involved in a myriad of activities that highlight her versatility, strong leadership, and commitment to her ideals, and carries herself with tremendous integrity across all settings. Lena is a natural leader, whether it be by example or an actual role that she has taken on. Lena has a 99.427 GPA, and has chosen the most demanding program of studies that a student can select at Penfield High School. She is a year-round athlete, an avid volunteer, a part-time employee, and a member of several student leadership clubs at the school. She is recognized as an outstanding leader in this community and is frequently asked to represent the student body or to serve as a peer leader in the school. Lena is always willing to get involved, and does so enthusiastically! She radiates positivity, and is always looking for ways to elevate experiences for others by being supportive of her peers and intentionally inclusive in all that she does. Lena truly stands out in all that she does, and Ms. Williams is confident that this amazing young lady is going to accomplish truly remarkable things in her future.







**ZAVIONA RADCLIFFE**

**10<sup>th</sup> Grade**

**Rochester Early College International High School (RCSD)**

**NYLA RIVERA**

**11<sup>th</sup> Grade**



School Social Worker Roberta McGill nominated Zaviona and Nyla for their heroic actions when they helped a fellow classmate at school. One day in November, Zaviona and Nyla moved into quick action when they saw another student struggling with a medical emergency. They immediately called the administrators, who in turn notified the school medical staff. As it turns out, the student was having a serious asthma attack and ultimately needed to go home. The actions of Nyla and Zaviona helped prevent their classmate from having an even more serious outcome. Ms. McGill is proud of both girls, and says both girls are positive role models for their peers. She says that Nyla possesses natural leadership abilities, and is consistently encouraging students to cooperate or comply with staff. She says Zavionna is friendly, always has a positive attitude, and has a great deal of insight and emotional intelligence.



*Zaviona (pictured below) was unable to attend the February ceremony with Nyla (pictured left), so she was recognized at the May ceremony.*





**CLAYTON SHIRLEY**  
3<sup>rd</sup> Grade  
Renaissance Academy Charter School of the Arts



Clayton was nominated by his teacher, Kyle Hall, for being a consistent role model and always doing the right thing, whether in an academic, social or personal setting. Mr. Hall says that Clayton is an excellent example of emotional regulation, hard work, and kindness in his classroom. He is always checking in with his own emotions and those of his peers and teachers around him, and consistently shows friendship to all of his classmates. He brings positivity to the classroom, and cares deeply for his classmates. Hailey Korpi, School Principal, says that Clayton puts exceptional effort and takes pride in all of his schoolwork. Recently, he starred in a schoolwide video to promote positive peer-to-peer interactions and self-regulation, even though this was outside of his comfort zone.





**February 2024 Winners**



## May 2024 Ceremony Winners



**ANDY CARDOT**

6<sup>th</sup> Grade

Greece Athena Middle School (Greece CSD)



Andy was nominated by his grandmother, Jan Cardot, for his role model behavior as an exemplary student and kind heartedness. At school Andy is a high honor roll student. He is friends with everyone, and is always helping other students. His counselor Heather Heupel says he values his educations and shows his best effort every day. Andy has a natural helpful personality. Whenever he is at an athletic camp, he not only befriends younger athletes, but he takes the time to help them with their drills. He also stays afterwards and helps clean up. Grace Tillinghast, longtime Do The Right Thing Executive Board member and owner of The Battery indoor baseball and softball training facility in Gates, says that Andy trains at her facility, and he always comes in with a smile, is polite, and constantly helping others. He is also helpful to his neighbors and family as well. When Andy's neighbor lost her husband and was ill herself, he would put her garbage and recycling to the curb for her. And his grandparents really appreciate the help he provides when he visits them, whether it's stacking firewood, mowing the grass, carrying in the groceries or bringing things to the basement. Andy's grandmother says that it isn't always the one big thing that someone does to make them shine, but sometimes, like Andy, it is the many small wonderful gestures that makes him such a good person and distinguishes him from those around him!







## ETHAN DUNHAM

7<sup>th</sup> Grade

Barker Road Middle School (Pittsford CSD)



Ethan was nominated by his teacher, Hillary Petroske, for the dedication and hard work he has shown in his service to his school, peers, and community. Last summer and throughout this school year he has participated in TIES. Together Including Every Student (TIES) is a Pittsford Central School District program that promotes belonging and participation for young people with special needs in extracurricular and community activities. Trained high school and middle school student volunteers provide the individualized support needed by TIES participants in a spirit of fun and learning. The student partnerships formed are based on shared interests and provide a natural impetus to friendship building among group members. Ethan has also participated in Mizzionpalooza, a program run by the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester, which is a weeklong summer community service project where he made lunch for senior citizens, cleaned Pocket Park and helped organize the clothing closet at Cameron Community Ministries. Ethan is very service minded, with a heart that is kind and committed to helping others.





**JOSIAH GONZALEZ**  
3<sup>rd</sup> Grade  
Roberto Clemente School #8 (RCSD)



Josiah was nominated by his mother, Donna Gonzalez Joseph, for the bravery he displayed during a recent family medical emergency. In February, Josiah's baby brother, who was only nine months old at the time, had two severe seizures. While this was happening, Josiah immediately took his two year old sister aside and talked to her, calming her down, and held her while the ambulance was there. This was a very scary and emotional time for everyone, and Josiah was so nervous and frightened, but he pushed his feelings aside and remained calm until help arrived, acting as a brave hero to his entire family during a very traumatic situation!







**DELANEY GRAVES**  
**12<sup>th</sup> Grade**  
**Hilton High School (Hilton CSD)**



Delaney was nominated by her mother, Michele Graves, for her strength and determination to make a drastic ‘turn-around’. Delaney had struggled with her behavior and grades in school throughout her first few years at Hilton High School. She now attends the district’s Alternative Education Center, which is designed for students who struggle in the traditional high school setting. With guidance, self-awareness and determination, Delaney has completely turned things around over the past year and a half. With this program’s support, Delaney has brought her GPA from the mid 60s to mid 90s. Since making a turn-around in her behavior, attendance, and studies, she has consistently received High Honor and an Academic Merit. Delaney has continued to excel in school while holding a part-time job, studying Karate, as well as being a huge help at home for her family. Delaney often helps take care of her younger brother, and has proven to be a good role-model for him, using her past mistakes to guide him in the right direction. Delaney aspires to become a zoologist and has always had a love for animals. Her passion for animals shows in how well she takes care of her dogs and cat at home. In the past, Delaney has collected donations for animal shelters in place of receiving birthday gifts from her friends. She even volunteered as a Zoo Teen at Seneca Park Zoo. School Administrator Laura Malta says Delaney is a sweet, hard-working and respectful young lady who has grown so much over the last two years, both academically and personally. The smaller academic setting has allowed her to develop coping strategies, gain confidence, and achieve very high grades, and the growth she has made is extraordinary. She is simply a wonderful young lady who has worked incredibly hard to overcome her obstacles, and everyone at Hilton is very proud of her and looking forward to watching her cross the graduation stage in June!





**ISIAH RODRIGUEZ**  
12<sup>th</sup> Grade  
All City High School (RCSD)



Isaiah was nominated by his teacher, Michelle Saporito-Springer, for being a leader and role model at his school. All City High is a non-traditional, mature young adult high school program that offers students in grades 10-12 who are between the ages of 17-21 years old an opportunity to get caught up on high school credits and, in some cases, accelerate graduation. Ms. Saporito-Springer says that Isaiah is a young man that is actively involved and engaged in his education. He participates in the school's Student Government, helping to plan, implement and bring excitement for school events throughout this year. He's worked with other students and his advisor to implement school spirit weeks & Black History month activities, and used his graphic design skills to create the colorful schedules for each spirit week and activities. These were posted around the school to inform and encourage all students and staff to participate. Having a program full of mostly seniors from different places, Isaiah has helped create an inclusive and welcoming experience for his classmates, and he brings so much school spirit and positive vibes to the entire school! Another teacher, Victoria DiMatteo, says that Isaiah has exhibited exceptional growth in the short time he has been at All City, and that his leadership comes naturally. He encourages his fellow students to follow their dreams and attain their goals.







**ASHER SIMPSON**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Grade  
Dewitt Road Elementary School (Webster CSD)



Asher was nominated by Webster Chief of Police Dennis Kohlmeier and Captain Mark Reed for his astuteness during an event which occurred involving the Webster Police Department. This past fall Webster Police officers responded to a commercial location for a larceny in progress in which three suspects were stealing merchandise. The suspects stole over \$1,700 in merchandise and fled from officers on foot. One of the suspects ran through a nearby plaza and was being chased by an officer, refusing to comply with verbal commands to stop, and continued to evade arrest. The above actions caught the attention of eight year old Asher, the son of a retired police investigator. Asher and his dad were in the plaza about to enter one of the businesses when Asher observed the officer chasing the suspect, and immediately told his dad "We have to help the police, he is getting away". This prompted Asher's father to leave the business and assist the officer in the apprehension of the fleeing suspect. Officers would not have successfully apprehended the suspect without the assistance of Asher's father, and Asher's father would not have known to act had it not been for Asher's situational awareness and quick thinking. The Webster Police Department is truly grateful for the assistance the Simpsons provided, and are proud to recognize Asher for doing the right thing! Asher's father says that Asher wants to be a police officer when he grows up!





**JENNA TILLINGHAST**  
7<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Bishop Kearney



Jenna was nominated by her grandmother, Ellen Schulte, for being an all-around outstanding person who is always willing and eager to go the extra mile, looking to help others both at home, school and in the community. Jenna is full of energy and finds positive ways to use it. For several years she has participated in Wreaths Across America, and she also helps make centerpieces for senior citizen luncheons on a regular basis. When she has days off, she helps her neighbors by taking their dogs out while they are at work, and she is always helpful with chores both at home and at her grandmother's. She volunteers at many events at her school, Bishop Kearney. Previously, when she was a student at St. Kateri School, she was a volunteer helper at their before care program. Since moving on to Bishop Kearney, Jenna continues to go back and volunteer at Saint Kateri, helping with field days, school plays, and their after school program. In addition to her volunteer activities, Jenna has always been active in sports. She is on a travel softball team, and also plays modified volleyball. On top of all this, academically she is on High Honor Roll with a 95% average, and is a member of the Junior National Honor Society. According to her teacher, Theresa Aldridge, Jenna is a focused, diligent and motivated student who shows tremendous school spirit. She also said that Jenna steps up and volunteers without hesitation, displays care and compassion for those she works with, and is a true friend and supportive, loving human being.







## KAILI'AN TOWNSEND

4<sup>th</sup> Grade

Dr. Walter Cooper Academy School #10 (RCSD)



Kaili'an was nominated by her teacher, Kenisha Campbell, for acting as a role model during an incident that occurred at school recently. Back in November, Kaili'an showed leadership when there was an altercation in the music room. While other students crowded around the fight and watched, Kaili'an instead was the only student who went to seek an adult to address the situation. Ms. Campbell says that Kaili'an always puts 100% into her schoolwork, actively engages in classroom discussions, and is a role model for all of her peers.







**CHARLES VITKUS**  
12<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Irondequoit High School (West Irondequoit CSD)



Charles was nominated for his dedication to his community and co-workers by his supervisor, Morgan Nelis, who is the Manager at the Adams Street Rec Center Aquatics Program. Charles works as a lifeguard at the Adams Street R-Center pool, and Ms. Nelis says that he is a natural born leader. He teaches youth swim lessons, and is very good working with the children. He is able to have fun and be silly with the kids, while working safely and establishing their trust, especially when working in the deep end. He also teaches lifeguard courses, and works as a lifeguard at Durand Eastman Beach during the summer. Charles has demonstrated a great level of responsibility and matureness as a life guard, and he is great at rule enforcement. Charles is always showing up for his co-workers and the patrons at the pool, and has a proven track record of backing up the rest of the staff on a regular basis. He is never afraid to do the right thing even if that thing may be uncomfortable. Ms. Nelis says that Charles is an asset to their staff, and they are grateful to have him as an employee!





**HALEIGH WILKINS**  
8<sup>th</sup> Grade  
**Merton Williams Middle School (Hilton CSD)**



Haleigh was nominated by her mother, Krystle Wilkins, for being kind, caring and generous. Haleigh is a member of a Masonic Youth Group - Fidelity Triangle, which is a local chapter of Organization of Triangle. In October she was elected and installed as the Beloved Queen of Fidelity Triangle. The Beloved Queen performs her duties for one year, and during her term, is expected to plan activities and meetings throughout the year, as well as choose charitable organization(s) where she can volunteer, gather donations, or raise funds. Haleigh chose Mickeys for Bronson as a charity that she will support. Mickeys for Bronson was created by Bronson's mother, Bridget Martinez, after Bronson passed away from SIDS at 4 months old, and was started as a way to honor Bronson, spread SIDS awareness, and generate donations for research at the Roberts Program at Boston Children's Hospital. Bronson's mother would like for people to remember Bronson by buying a Mickey Mouse stuffed animal and leaving it, along with an informational card provided by Mickeys for Bronson, somewhere special. Her hope is this will not only bring a smile to a child's face, but also spread awareness and honor all babies who have gone too soon. While many Mickeys are placed in Disney parks, they can be placed anywhere. When Haleigh learned about Mickeys for Bronson, she knew immediately that this was the charity that she wished to support! At Haleigh's installation as Beloved Queen, she requested on her invitations that guests bring a stuffed Mickey to donate to her charity instead of gifts to herself. Her goal for her term is to collect 50 Mickeys. Her first evening as Beloved Queen she collected 11 Mickeys, and also raised approximately \$400 in donations towards her charity. Continuing her generosity, Haleigh celebrated her 14<sup>th</sup> birthday in early March, and in lieu of presents, she again asked for Mickey donations. After creating an event on Facebook to help spread the word, she collected over 70 stuffed animals that she plans to use to help Mickeys for Bronson! Haleigh's thoughtfulness does not end there. Over this past summer she volunteered as a junior cheerleading coach, which she plans on doing again this summer. She even continued to support the athletes that she coached by attending some of their competitions in the fall. All of this while fulfilling her own dedication towards cheer by being a member of on an elite competitive cheer team herself. There is not a moment that Haleigh does not display her caring and kind qualities. She assists where she can and is always seeking out her next path of generosity.







## DAYQUAN WYNNE

5<sup>th</sup> Grade

John James Audubon School #33 (RCSD)



Dayquan was nominated by his teacher, Erin Sperry, for being a leader and speaking up for one of his friends. A few months ago, Ms. Sperry received a phone call from the grandmother of another student (we'll refer to him as 'J') who had concerns that her grandson was having issues with a student being unkind to him. When the grandmother approached her grandson about this, he would not talk about what was going on because he didn't want to get anyone in trouble. The only reason the grandmother knew about the situation was because Dayquan told the student's father at football practice. Ms. Sperry then had a private conversation with Dayquan about what was going on with the other two boys. Dayquan said "Well, 'the boy' keeps bothering 'J'. He sprayed water on him in the bathroom and poured water on his paper. He also took his snacks." Dayquan said he always sticks up for 'J' and tells 'the boy' to leave him alone. Dayquan said 'J' is a good friend to him and he does not deserve someone being mean to him. During their talk, Ms. Sperry told Dayquan that sometimes kids are so nice they don't want to say anything and just take people being mean to them. Dayquan got a big smile and said "Yeah, that's what type of person 'J' is!" Ms. Sperry is so proud of Dayquan for standing up for his friend and letting an adult know what was going on so the situation could be properly addressed.





# May 2024 Winners



do the  
**RIGHT**  
thing  
awards

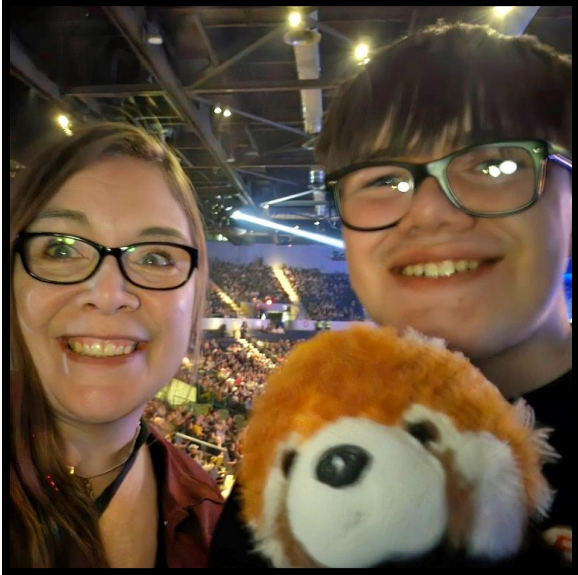
Nominate a  
K-12 Student for their  
**GOOD DEED!**

[CityOfRochester.gov/DoTheRightThing](http://CityOfRochester.gov/DoTheRightThing)





November 2023 winner Nyla Serret, pictured with Rochester Fire Chief Stefano Napolitano



Pictured: top, Clayton Shirley  
bottom, Matthew Klinkbeil, along with his mother Terry Klinkbeil

In April, News 10NBC WHEC-TV donated tickets that allowed three of our winners with a unique opportunity to attend the RPO Eclipse Spectacular at the Blue Cross Arena. November 2023 winners Matthew Klinkbeil and Madeline Scahill, along with February 2024 winner Clayton Shirley, were selected to attend the event.

# 2024 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Each year, all previous Do The Right Thing Award winners that are currently high school seniors may apply for a scholarship to be applied towards the payment of their college or trade school tuition and/or expenses. Since 1997 our program has award 114 recipients \$118,000 in college and/or trade school scholarships!

Beginning last year, The Summit Federal Credit Union partnered with the Do The Right Thing awards program and pledged matching funds to support our annual scholarship. To acknowledge this partnership, the scholarship is now named the **Do The Right Thing / The Summit Federal Credit Union Scholarship Program**.

This year, five students submitted applications, and two were selected as winners – **Angelena Lipani and Jahyleen Quick**. The selection committee consisted of employees from The Summit Federal Union, the Rochester Police Department, and members from the Do The Right Thing Executive Board.

The winners were announced and recognized at a small ceremony that was held during our annual Seabreeze event. In attendance to present each winner were Do The Right Thing Executive Board President James McCauley and Dawn Kellogg, Public Relations and Community Engagement Specialist from The Summit Federal Credit Union. Both winners were each awarded a \$2000 college scholarship (\$1000 from DTRT and \$1000 from The Summit FCU).

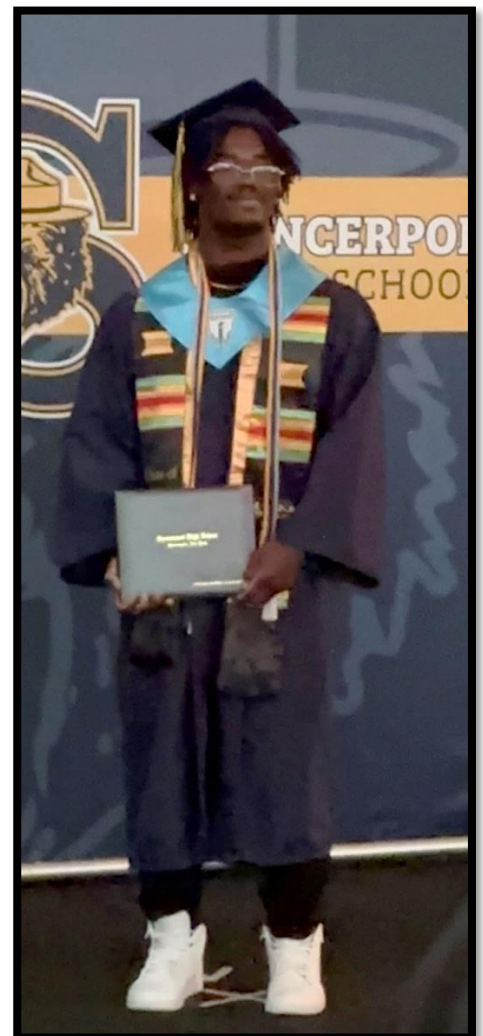






**Angelena Lipani** graduated from Penfield High School, and will be attending Smith College where she will double major in Biology and Psychology. She was recognized as a Do The Right Thing award winner this past February, and was nominated by her school counselor for being an outstanding role model student, participating in a myriad of activities that highlight her versatility, strong leadership, commitment and integrity.

**Jahyleen Quick** graduated from Spencerport High School, and will be attending St. John Fisher University where he will study Accounting. Jahyleen and his younger brother were Do The Right Thing winners in November 2014, nominated by their assistant principal for the heroism they displayed when they helped their grandmother and younger sister escape a fire at their house. Jahyleen was a 3rd grader at RCSD School #43 at the time, and was also recognized for being a positive influence on others at school. Since then, Jahyleen has continued to be a role model student and strong leader both in and out of school.



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# SEABREEZE AMUSEMENT PARK FAMILY CELEBRATION DAY

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Family Fun Celebration Day took place at Seabreeze Amusement Park on Wednesday, June 26<sup>th</sup>. All of our 2023-2024 winners and their families were invited, and over 150 people attended! The weather was perfect, and it was a fun day full of giant stuffed pickles, laughs, food, and great camaraderie! Visit our [Facebook](#) page for lots of pictures from the event!

Thank you Seabreeze for sponsoring this event for over 25 years!







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# DO THE RIGHT THING COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

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## Supporting the Pirate Toy Fund Holiday Toy Drive

The Pirate Toy Fund has supported the Do The Right Thing Program for over 20 years by providing toys for each winner. To return their generosity, Do The Right Thing has hosted a holiday toy drive the last four years, setting up collection boxes at the Public Safety Building to collect donations of new, unwrapped toys.

The Pirate Toy Fund is a nonprofit organization dedicated to distributing new toys year-round to children in need throughout the Greater Rochester region. Co-Founded by local children's entertainer, Gary the Happy Pirate and Dave and Lorrie Simonetti, the Pirate Toy Fund has distributed almost 400,000 toys since 1995, and continues to actively pursue new avenues to expand its mission. The founders were inspired by the extraordinary life of Christie Simonetti; daughter of Dave and Lorrie and special friend to Gary.

Thank you to all who donated, and for helping the Do The Right Thing Program give back to one of our sponsors! To learn more about this great organization, visit their website at [piratetoyfund.org](http://piratetoyfund.org).



On July 12, co-founder of the Pirate Toy Fund, Gary Smith, passed away. Many knew him as Gary the Happy Pirate. Gary and the Pirate Toy Fund have given out thousands of toys since the Pirate Toy Fund was created in 1995. Known for giving away toys and singing fun, pirate songs to kids at many events, he will be greatly missed, but his legacy will live on through the generosity of the Pirate Toy Fund. May he Rest In Peace.





## Healthy Moms Family Resource Fair and School Supply Drive

On August 15<sup>th</sup> Do The Right Thing participated in the Annual Healthy Moms Family Resource Fair that took place in the parking lot at St. Mary's Medical Campus. This is the third year that we have participated in this event.

This was a free community event where families were able to connect with community resources, and each student received a free backpack filled with school supplies.

Last year we hosted a school supply drive beforehand to collect school supplies that were donated to the event. It was such a success that we did it again this year. About two months before the fair we set up collection boxes at the Public Safety Building, and we're happy to say we surpassed the number of items that were collected last year! See the picture below for this year's donations. Thank you to everyone that contributed. In total, we collected/donated:

- 63 Backpacks
- 37 Cinch Packs
- 27 Binder Pouches
- 3 Plastic Notebooks
- 39 Plastic Pocket Folders
- 40 Pocket Folders
- 70 One Subject Wire Notebooks
- 67 Composition Notebooks
- 1 Three Subject Notebook
- 4 Packages of Graph Paper
- 20 packages of Notebook Paper
- 13 Packs of Pens
- 13 Packs of Markers
- 46 Sets of Colored Pencils
- 30 Packages of Pencils
- 52 Pencil Sharpeners
- 10 Erasers
- 34 Boxes of Crayons
- 22 Glue Sticks
- 2 Bottles of Glue
- 1 Index Cards
- 10 Travel Water Bottles
- 12 Rulers
- 7 Do The Right Thing Gift Packages, which included a Do The Right Thing Water Bottle, 4 Pencils, Shirt & Dictionary



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# THANK YOU

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***We would like to take a moment to sincerely thank everyone that helped make this program year such a success!***

★ **Everyone that took the time to nominate a student**

*Without you this program would not exist. Thank you for recognizing the many youth in our community that deserve to be honored for their role model behavior.*

★ **Our Selection Committee**

*Thank you for taking the time to thoughtfully read through all of the submitted nominations, provide your feedback, and select our winners.*

★ **All of the nominated students**

*Whether or not you were selected as a winner, each of you made the conscious decision to go above and beyond by doing the right thing, and we are so proud of each and every one of you! We hope that you continue to be wonderful role models, and we look forward to hearing more inspiring stories about you in the future!*

★ **Everyone that participated in our award ceremonies**

*We appreciate the support shown to both our winners and our program from all who took the time to attend or remotely watch this year's award ceremonies. From family and friends, to government officials and sponsor representatives, we were overwhelmed by the amount of people who not only watched our ceremonies via Facebook Live, but also reacted and commented to our posts as well! We cannot thank you enough for taking time to join us, interact and show your support!*

★ **Our Executive Board Members**

*Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedules to participate behind the scenes by attending the ceremonies and board meetings. Your support and input for our program is invaluable, and we appreciate the teamwork you've displayed.*



★ **Our Program Sponsors**

*Your generous donations and contributions help sustain the program, and our winners and their families have greatly enjoyed and appreciated the gifts they have received. Prizes, ceremonies, scholarships, public recognition and more would not be possible without the generous contributions from our sponsors. Thank you!*

★ **Those that donated to the Do The Right Thing of Rochester Award Program**

*In addition to our program sponsors, thank you to those who provided generous financial donations to the program, including Executive Board Member Grace Tillinghast for recurring donations throughout the year, Jane and Rex Ahrens of the Ahrens Benefits Group, who provided a donation in honor of their granddaughter, November 2023 Winner Madeline Scahill. On Giving Tuesday, EduFUNcation provided a donation through Venmo. We are also grateful to all that chose to direct their annual United Way campaign donations to Do The Right Thing of Rochester (donor code ID # 3383). Additionally, Do The Right Thing was awarded grants from the following organizations this year: Daisy Marquis Jones Foundation, Charles J. and Burton S. August Family Foundation, John F. Wegman Fund via the Rochester Area Community Foundation, and 4imprint's one by one® program*

★ **Staff from the Rochester Police Department and Other Law Enforcement Agencies**

- *Thank you to all of the Rochester Police Department staff that help at each ceremony!*
- *Thank you to Jay Gardner for collaborating with photography, videography, promotional and social media posts.*
- *Thank you Tara Becker for editing and printing photographs so that we can share with everyone!*
- *Thank you to the other local police agencies for supporting our program and winners.*

★ **Everyone that has viewed, commented, or shared our social media posts, or in any way shared information about our program**

*Thank you for helping spread the word about the Do The Right Thing program. We enjoy recognizing our winners and sharing updates with everyone through social media. Please help us by sharing our posts, newsletters, brochures, etc! If you know a student who has gone above and beyond and deserves to be recognized, consider nominating them for the Do The Right Thing Award. To find out more information, and to nominate a student, visit our website at [CityOfRochester.gov/DoTheRightThing](https://CityOfRochester.gov/DoTheRightThing).*

# 2023-2024 CEREMONY DATES

## 2024-2025 CEREMONY DATES

Thursday, November 7, 2024

Thursday, February 27, 2025

Thursday, May 1, 2025

All ceremonies take place at 10:30 a.m.

at the

Public Safety Building

185 Exchange Boulevard

do the  
**Right**  
thing  
awards







For over 25 years the Do The Right Thing Award Program has recognized Monroe County role model students in grades K-12, rewarding their positive behavior, accomplishments, and good deeds. Winners are celebrated at public ceremonies during the school year, rewarded generous prize packages, and have the opportunity to apply for a college/trade school scholarship when they are high school seniors.

Visit [WWW.CITYOFROCHESTER.GOV/DOThERIGHTTHING](http://WWW.CITYOFROCHESTER.GOV/DOThERIGHTTHING) to learn more about the program.



**ANYONE OVER 18 CAN NOMINATE A STUDENT (THIS INCLUDES FIRST RESPONDERS, TEACHERS, COACHES, FAMILY, FRIENDS).**

**NOMINATIONS ARE ACCEPTED ALL YEAR!**

**SUBMIT A NOMINATION ONLINE AT**

**[WWW.CITYOFROCHESTER.GOV/DTRTNOMINATIONFORM](http://WWW.CITYOFROCHESTER.GOV/DTRTNOMINATIONFORM)**



**WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT**

- ★ **NOMINATE A STUDENT**
- ★ **FOLLOW and SHARE our social media**
- ★ **DONATE**
- ★ **United Way donors, please consider directing your annual gift to Do The Right Thing of Rochester (United Way Donor Code ID # 3383)**
- ★ **Make a tax deductible contribution.**  
*Do The Right Thing is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization*
- ★ **Donate prizes**  
*Organizations donating prizes are recognized as program sponsors*
- ★ **VOLUNTEER your time by joining our Executive Board of Directors**

**CONTACT PROGRAM COORDINATOR**

**Laurie Kingsley-Henry**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

**EMAIL: [DOThERIGHTTHING@CITYOFROCHESTER.GOV](mailto:DOThERIGHTTHING@CITYOFROCHESTER.GOV)**

**PHONE: (585) 428-7863**



**FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!**



**DO THE RIGHT THING OF ROCHESTER**

do the  
**RIGHT**  
things  
awards

[CityofRochester.gov/DoTheRightThing](http://CityofRochester.gov/DoTheRightThing)

