



do the **Right** thing awards



**Do The Right Thing of Rochester Award Program
FALL 2024 NEWSLETTER**

Welcome!

The holidays are almost here, a new year is right around the corner, and we're always recognizing and celebrating the amazing youth from our community!

Since our last newsletter, we had our first award ceremony of the 2024-2025 school year. It was our largest (and possibly best) ceremony to date! We recognized 18 students and were entertained by the talented members of the Webster Thomas Barbershop Choir.

Our next Do The Right Thing Award Ceremony will be on Thursday, February 27, 2024 at 10:30 am! The ceremony will be held at the Public Safety Building, and also streamed Live on our Facebook page! We hope you will be able to join us either in-person or on-line!

Please keep sending us nominations, and spread the word about our program. Share, like, and comment on our social media posts, tell your friends and family about our program, and most importantly, let us know about the great kids in our community so that we can recognize and reward them! You can find more information about our program, and how to nominate a student, on our [website](#) and throughout this newsletter. Nominating a student is quick and easy, and students that are selected as winners receive generous prize packages. Thank you so much for supporting Do The Right Thing of Rochester!

All of us at Do The Right Thing wish you and yours and a happy and healthy holiday season!

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

Phone: (585) 428-7863
 Email: DotheRightThing@cityofrochester.gov
 Website: Cityofrochester.gov/DoTheRightThing

Follow us on Facebook: [@DTRTROC](#)
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About Our Program

The Do The Right Thing Award Program has been part of the Rochester Police Department since 1995. The goal of the program is to foster positive relationships between local area law enforcement and the youth within Monroe County. The Do The Right Thing Award Program recognizes children for their positive behavior, accomplishments, and good deeds by rewarding students who strive to make good choices, do well in school, give back to their communities, or demonstrate “turn-around” or improved behavior. Any student enrolled in grades Kindergarten - 12 in any school within Monroe County is eligible for nomination, and can be nominated for acts of courage and bravery, such as assisting first responders, as well as acts of volunteerism, leadership and role model behavior. Students may be nominated for incidents that have occurred within one year of the nomination, and within Monroe County.

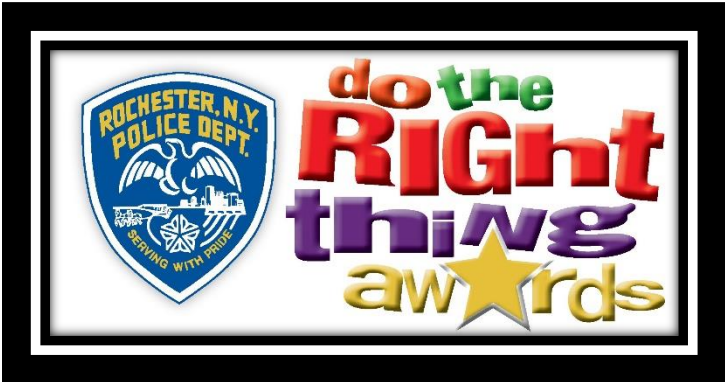
Anyone over 18 years old can nominate a student (this includes first responders, teachers, coaches, family, friends, etc.). Nominations are accepted throughout the year, and are reviewed by a committee that selects students to receive the Do The Right Thing Award. Selected students are celebrated at a ceremony at the City Public Safety Building. Ceremonies are held during the school year, and family and friends are welcome to attend. All ceremonies are also recorded and shared on Facebook, so you’ll never have to worry about missing a ceremony, and you can always go back and watch past recorded ceremonies as many times as you’d like!

Do The Right Thing Award winners are eligible to receive several rewards and prizes donated by program sponsors, and winners may also apply for a college or trade school scholarship when they are high school seniors. Since the program began, we have received over 4,000 nominations, awarded over 1,100 winners, and contributed over \$100,000 towards scholarships for our winners. Students selected as winners must attend an award ceremony in order to officially be considered a Do The Right Thing Winner. All students that are nominated will receive a letter of recognition for their act, even if they are not chosen as a winner.

Each ceremony and the winners are highlighted in the media, courtesy of program sponsor News 10NBC WHEC-TV. Stories are televised on WHEC and highlighted on-line as well. Visit their website at WHEC.com to view past highlights.

For more information about our program, or to nominate a student, please visit our webpage at Cityofrochester.gov/DoTheRightThing.

We are also on social media. Please take a moment to like and follow our [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#) pages. You can find all contact information for the Do The Right Thing Award Program in the green box on page 1.



Do The Right Thing Program Staff

Please contact a member of our staff with any questions or feedback you may have. We welcome your input, and are excited to work together to celebrate many more years of Do The Right Thing in Rochester!



Laurie Kingsley-Henry,
Program Coordinator (left)

Sergeant William Gallagher,
Program Director (middle)

Lisa Hayes,
Program Assistant (right)



**Thank you to our newest sponsor,
Duke's Donuts,
a mobile donut shop that strives to bring you
the freshest, most memorable donut you have ever tasted!
Visit them on Saturdays at the Public Market!**

Welcome to our newest Executive Board Directors!

- ★ Mercedes Murray of the Rochester Police Department
- ★ Jade Williams of Lamar Advertising Company of Rochester

Members of the Executive Board

The Rochester Police Department's Do The Right Thing Award Program is a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization governed by a Board of Directors, and operated under the auspice of the Rochester Police Department.

The Board of Directors includes the following ex officio positions – the Mayor of the City of Rochester or their designee; the Chief of the Rochester Police Department or their designee; and the Program Coordinator. All directors are appointed by the Rochester Police Chief.

Executive Board of Directors

Mayor Malik D. Evans (City of Rochester)

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Jeffrey Wagner (Monroe County Sheriff's Office)

Jade Williams (Lamar Advertising Company of Rochester)

Jessica Williams (The Summit Federal Credit Union)



Interested in becoming a member of the Do The Right Thing Executive Board?

- Visit our website at Cityofrochester.gov/DoTheRightThing to learn more about Do The Right of Rochester and read program By-Laws.
- Contact Program Coordinator Laurie Kingsley-Henry at (585) 428-7863 or DoTheRightThing@cityofrochester.gov for more information.

Sponsors

Sponsorship and donations help make this program possible. Donations received are used to directly impact the program and its winners. Gifts are distributed to award recipients through prize packages at each award ceremony, and financial contributions help fund the daily operation of the program, as well as provide college/trade school scholarships. At each ceremony, winners receive sponsor-branded merchandise, gift certificates, opportunities to attend various experiences in our area, and a variety of other rewards and opportunities that are provided by the below sponsors. Thank you for your generosity!

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
Duke's Donuts
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 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

Interested in Becoming a Program Sponsor?

We award up to 50 students each school year. Donations are helpful and appreciated. We are continuously welcoming new sponsors to our program. If you have services or prizes that you would like to donate to our Do The Right Thing Award winners, or if you would like to make a financial donation to the program, please contact us! The Do The Right Thing Award Program is a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization, and every donation directly impacts each winner that is selected. All sponsor information is proudly displayed on our website, in informational brochures that we distribute, and at ceremonies and other events that we attend.



November 2024 Award Ceremony Winners

18 students were awarded at the November 7th, 2024 Award Ceremony.



KIREID CHAMPION
7th Grade
Loretta Johnson Middle School (RCSD)



Kireid was nominated by Rochester Police Sergeant Todd Wassinger for the courageous and mature way he reacted during an emergency situation. This past spring during the overnight hours, Genesee Section officers responded to an incident at a location where Kireid was spending the night. Kireid called 911 to report the incident, and was still on the phone when officers arrived. He met officers at the door, led them to the location where assistance was needed, and told officers what the issue was. Sergeant Wassinger says that Kireid showed great strength and courage by calling the police, especially when an adult at the scene berated him for doing so. Knowing right from wrong and what to do in that situation showed great character on Kireid's part. He gave officers a truthful account of the events, all while adults at the scene refused to speak about what happened. Because of Kireid's actions, appropriate steps were taken to resolve the situation and ensure everyone was safe. Kireid showed poise and inner strength by not reacting to the adults' actions, instead speaking with officers in a polite, articulate and intelligent manner, even engaging in a lengthy conversation about his personal interests while waiting for his mother to arrive. Sergeant Wassinger says that it's not often on overnights where first responders have the ability to nominate a person for this award, but he and the officers on scene all agreed that Kireid's actions should be acknowledged and recognized.





SEAONNA DISTEFANO-MOORE
6th Grade
Austin Steward Elementary School #46 (RCSD)



Seaonna was nominated last school year by her fifth grade teacher, Jennifer Quinn, for her honesty. One April morning while on the bus on the way to school, Seaonna was given a one hundred dollar bill by a younger student. When Seaonna got off the bus she immediately approached Mrs. Quinn, told her what happened, and handed the money over to the teacher. Mrs. Quinn confirmed it was, in fact, a real one hundred dollar bill, and through a conversation with the child who had given it to Seaonna, it was learned that it actually belonged to a different child who had taken it from home. Seaonna knew it wasn't right keeping something so valuable that didn't belong to her, and made the correct decision to alert an adult. Because of her actions, the money was returned to its rightful owner.





MOLLIE KLINKBEIL
 12th Grade
 Allendale Columbia School



Mollie was nominated by her mother, Terri Sinopoli, for the quick thinking and compassion she displayed during a scary situation that occurred while both were working at the Lilac Festival in May. Mollie was working at a stand doing airbrush face painting and temporary tattoos, while her mom was working at a stand at the other end of the park. A fight broke out right near Terri's stand, and unfortunately she ended up in the middle of it and knocked to the ground, injuring her arm and head, and giving her a bloody nose. Terri was able to contact Mollie, who came running from the other side of the park and immediately sprang into action. Mollie is a certified lifeguard and is CPR and first aid trained. She quickly assessed the situation, keeping her mother calm while addressing her injuries and stopping the bleeding. She also helped clear a path for the EMS professionals. After they arrived, Mollie helped clean up the mess from the fight, and then met her mom at the hospital where she sat with her for several hours. Terri said that Mollie's fast thinking and caring demeanor truly helped make a difficult situation so much better for her. This was the first time that Terri observed Mollie in action, and she is so proud and grateful to have experienced Mollie's gift of caring during a time she needed it most!

IT RUNS IN THE FAMILY!
 Mollie's brother, Matthew (pictured below), won a Do The Right Thing award last November for remaining calm and keeping his elderly family safe during a dangerous situation.





ESAIAS ORTIZ

6th Grade

East Irondequoit Middle School (East Irondequoit CSD)



Esaias was nominated last school year when he was a fifth grader. Laurelton-Pardee Intermediate School Principal Dr. Meghan Bello submitted a nomination in recognition of Esaias' kind-heart and generosity. Six years ago Esaias' younger brother Gian passed away when he was two years old after spending five months in the neonatal intensive care unit. One of Esaias' favorite memories of Gian is reading to him and seeing Gian interact with the books. After Gian passed, his family wanted to keep his memory and spirit alive, so they decided to collect books and donate them in his honor every year to area schools, to the grade he would have attended, as well as a local hospital's neonatal intensive care unit. Last year, Gian would have been in third grade. Esaias and his parents collected approximately 350 books and donated them to a third grade class in the Rochester City School District. Esaias actively participated by helping find and organize the donated books. He even read some of them to four different third grade classes. Since Gian's passing, the family has collected approximately 1,500 books! This year Esaias plans to honor Gian's memory by collecting books for a lucky fourth grade class! Dr. Bello is so proud of Esaias and his resilient, kind and thoughtful spirit.

Thank you
to the Pirate Toy Fund
for donating 200 books
to the Ortiz Family
for them to distribute
in Gian's memory!



KAM'RON PENN
6th Grade
The Flower City School #54 (RCSD)

Kam'Ron was nominated by his grandmother, Ester Hale, for his kind and caring heart. Since he was four years old, Kam'Ron has been very helpful and involved in the food and clothing ministry at his church, Northside Church of Christ. Most notably, he volunteers four hours every Saturday morning. He helps prepare bags with utensils, two dinners, fruit, water and church literature, as well as helps hand out these bags to the people from the community that attend, often assisting those that need help by carrying the bags to their vehicles. Kam'Ron volunteers because he enjoys helping people. He displays his kindness at home as well, always helping with chores without complaint. His teachers at school say that Kam'Ron is a polite student who has a nice personality that peers often gravitate towards, and is a team player who is well-known and respected on School #54's basketball team!





ANTHONY ROSARIO

6th Grade

Ida B. Wells-Barnett Elementary School #34 (RCSD)



Anthony was nominated by school social worker, Annie Miraglia, for his heroic actions. This past June, Anthony's six year old sister Gizelle was hit by a car while the two were playing outside in their neighborhood. Gizelle was pinned under the car with her bike and unable to get out on her own. Anthony immediately ran over and helped his sister get out from underneath the vehicle. Afterwards she was hospitalized and had several surgeries. While she was in the hospital, Anthony was very attentive to her needs, and was a big help with her recovery. Gizelle is home now and doing much better! Anthony's mom is so proud of what a great, protective big brother Anthony is to Gizelle. Ms. Miraglia says that Anthony's actions both inside and outside of the classroom reflect his loving character, and that he is a guardian angel that deserves to be recognized.





GRADY SURDYK

3rd Grade

Fairbanks Elementary School (Churchville-Chili CSD)



Grady was nominated by his school's Assistant Principal, Andrew Guignon, for his resourcefulness and courage when he helped save his mother's life on three separate occasions. Grady's mother, Marie, has a condition that, at times, causes her to have seizures that require immediate medical care. Each time his mother had a seizure, Grady found his mother and immediately called his father to send an ambulance. In these situations, Grady knows that he has to follow specific steps to help his mother and keep her safe, and that he must stay calm when interacting with first responders. While waiting for help to arrive, Grady has been able to get his mother into a safe place and clear her airway in order for her to breathe, and has flagged down the ambulance to help them quickly respond. Grady demonstrates a maturity during these moments that is beyond his age, reacting in a way that even an adult would struggle with. He faces these challenging situations with a giant heart that is committed to helping those around him, and his mother considers Grady her hero.



LEAH TELLIER
7th Grade
Greece Central School District



Leah was nominated last May by her mother, Ashley Tellier, for her resiliency and peer advocacy. Ashley says that Leah has a heart of gold, showing love and care to everyone and everything. But unfortunately Leah has been bullied and picked on. Due to this, she has missed a lot of school. However, by the end of last school year she managed to greatly improve both her attendance and grades, going from an overall grade of 23% to receiving high honor roll three marking periods in a row. Her teacher agrees that the growth and maturity Leah displayed last year is commendable. Additionally, Leah has reached out to her school administration and peers in hopes of starting an anti-bullying club that promotes acceptance, tolerance and kindness to all. Her teacher says that Leah truly cares about everyone around her. She sticks up for her friends, especially her best friend who has also been bullied, and in April, Leah volunteered to help another student who underwent surgery by making make sure she arrived to her classes and bus safely and on time. Every summer Leah stays busy by selling lemonade to raise money for something special, and she also helps others by walking their dogs. Her uncle Buddah, who also submitted information about Leah, says you will never meet a person with a kinder heart than his niece!





LEIGHA WALKER
Graduated in 2024
Holley High School (Holley CSD)



Leigha was nominated for her heroic and life-saving actions in early June by Brockport Fire Department's Public Information Officer Christopher Martin. On a Sunday morning, Leigha, who at the time was a senior at Holley High School, was working at Subway in Brockport when she heard a loud noise outside. She looked and discovered a vehicle had drove into their building. Leigha immediately dialed 911 and ran out front with three others from the store where they observed an older male slumped over the wheel in a locked vehicle. Together the four of them worked to break the window and remove the male from the vehicle. He was barely breathing with a weak pulse. While all this was happening, first responders were alerted and were on their way to the scene. Leigha, who had been certified in CPR just last year at school as part of her Sports, Safety and Fitness class, jumped into action and started chest compressions. At about the same time, a member of the Brockport Fire Department along with a Brockport police officer arrived at the scene. They brought an AED, which called for two shocks to be administered to the patient, which first responders did prior to the ambulance arriving. Once the ambulance arrived, the patient was transported to the hospital. Leah's quick thinking and actions made all the difference in those critical moments. Leigha later learned she actually knows the man she helped, Jack Brennan, as he is a varsity girls softball umpire and she is a catcher. She did not recognize him at the time. Thanks to Leigha and first responders, Mr. Brennan is alive and well!

In high school, Leigha was an honors student and three-sport varsity athlete.

She graduated at the end of June, and is now attending SUNY Morrisville where she is studying Equine Rehabilitation and plays soccer.





PRYNCE WATSON
Kindergarten
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. School #9 (RCSD)



Prynce was nominated last school year for his integrity and quick thinking by his PK4 teacher, Joseph Dobucki. This past May during recess, Prynce's preschool class at George Mather Forbes School #4 was outside on the playground when suddenly, Prynce walked over to Mr. Dobucki and handed him a silver pocket knife that was new and sharp. One of Prynce's classmates found the knife laying on the ground. Prynce immediately took it from the student and brought it over to his teacher. The staff at School #4 were so proud of Prynce's prompt action to bring the weapon over to his teacher so that everyone on the playground that day remained safe. Prynce is now in kindergarten at School #9.





QUEST WILLIAMS II

8th Grade

University Preparatory Charter School for Young Men



Quest was nominated last school year by School Counselor Mr. London Booker in recognition of the exceptional act of heroism and responsible behavior he displayed when he intervened to stop a fellow student from ingesting unprescribed medication while at school. Recognizing the potential danger, Quest acted swiftly and decisively to prevent a potentially life-threatening situation. His immediate action to take the medication and inform a teacher ensured that the student received the necessary support and medical attention without delay. In a moment where hesitation could have led to serious consequences, Quest chose to act with bravery and compassion. Quest's actions not only protected his fellow student, but also set a powerful example of doing what is right, even under pressure. Mr. Jordan Addison, Instructional Coach, said that Quest is an amazing student both academically and behaviorally, who genuinely cares for the well-being of others, and always does what is right, regardless of how it may be perceived to others.





LIAM COX (11th Grade)
BOBBY LOFASO (11th Grade)
JACOB KENNEY (12th Grade)
COLIN RITCHIE (11th Grade)
MARCELLO SERVENTI (Graduated June 2024)
MATTEO SERVENTI (11th Grade)
EVAN SUKHENKO (Graduated June 2024)

Webster Thomas High School (Webster CSD)

Liam, Bobby, Jacob, Colin, Marcello, Matteo and Evan comprised the seven members of the Webster Thomas Barbershop Choir last school year. This is an auditioned, student-lead a cappella group that performs in several concerts throughout the year, both at school and around the community. The group was nominated by Tammy Gouger, a family friend of Bobby's, after she learned of one particular performance by the group last year.

On a Sunday last March, the boys gathered to perform for an elderly neighbor of Bobby's who has dementia and had just lost her husband of over sixty years. The boys call her Grandma Jane, and previously she would come to their school performances. She has been so supportive of Bobby and his friends, so they wanted to return the favor. The group dressed up in suits and ties and surprised Grandma Jane at her house, performing a special private concert for her in her living room.

With all that is going on in the world, Ms. Gouger was so thrilled to hear about this amazing act of kindness from a group of high school boys. Even their vocal music teacher, Kyle Sackett, agrees that this performance went above and beyond the expectations of the group, exemplifying the Webster School District's C.A.R.E. Attributes of Cooperation, Accountability, Respect and Excellence. Ms. Gouger says that these young men made a beautiful effort to provide support, comfort and love to someone who has shown them the same, and is proud to recognize their kind hearts.

Bobby, Liam, Colin and Matteo are currently in 11th grade at Webster Thomas, and Jacob is a senior.

Evan graduated in June, and currently attends RIT for Film Production. Unfortunately Marcello was unable to attend the ceremony as he also graduated in June, and is currently studying Pre-Law at the University at Albany.





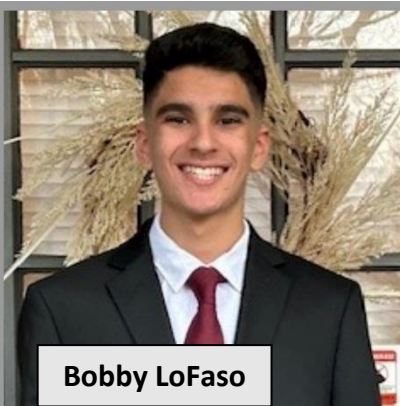
**2023-2024 Webster Thomas Barbershop Choir
with Grandma Jane**



Liam Cox



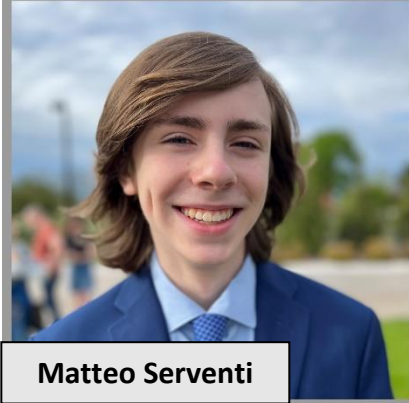
Jacob Kenney



Bobby LoFaso



Colin Ritchie



Matteo Serventi



Evan Sukhenko



Marcello Serventi





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Supporting the Pirate Toy Fund Holiday Toy Drive

It's that time of year again! Do The Right Thing Award Program is conducting our annual holiday toy drive to help support the Pirate Toy Fund.

The Pirate Toy Fund is a nonprofit organization dedicated to distributing new toys year-round to children in need throughout the Greater Rochester region, and has distributed over 250,000 toys since 1995.

Please consider making a donation of a new, unwrapped toy to this worthy cause. Collection boxes are located in the lobby at the Public Safety Building at 185 Exchange Boulevard. We will be collecting through the end of December.

If you are unable to purchase toys for a donation, please consider a financial donation by visiting their website at www.piratetoyfund.org.

Thank you for helping the Do The Right Thing Program give back to one of our sponsors!



We accept nominations all year long. If you know a student that should be recognized for a remarkable act, please visit our [website](http://www.piratetoyfund.org) and submit a nomination.

- Nominations can be submitted at any time, throughout the entire year.
- Anyone over 18 years-of-age can nominate.
- Nomination forms can be completed and submitted electronically via our website

2024 Giving Tuesday – December 3, 2024

GivingTuesday is a global generosity movement unleashing the power of radical generosity. GivingTuesday was created in 2012 as a simple idea: a day that encourages people to do good. Since then, it has grown into a year-round global movement that inspires hundreds of millions of people to give, collaborate, and celebrate generosity. GivingTuesday takes place annually, the Tuesday following Thanksgiving.



Join the movement and give, whether it's some of your time, a donation, or the power of your voice in your local community.

It's a simple idea: whether it's making someone smile, helping a neighbor or stranger out, showing up for an issue or people we care about, or giving some of what we have to those who need our help, every act of generosity counts and everyone has something to contribute toward building the better world we all want to live in.

Giving Tuesday presents nonprofit organizations with the chance to raise even more money than they would on an average day. This year, Giving Tuesday is on Tuesday, December 3. Please think of Do The Right Thing of Rochester if you are considering making a donation on Giving Tuesday.

Thank you!

MAKE A TAX DEDUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTION

Do The Right Thing is a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization

★ Checks can be made out to Do The Right Thing of Rochester and sent to 185 Exchange Boulevard, Rochester NY 14614



★ We have Venmo!

To find us, search for DoTheRightThing. You will see the name Laurie Kingsley-Henry above @DoTheRightThingofRochester and the Do The Right Thing Logo in a circle next to the name

★ United Way donors, please consider directing your annual gift to Do The Right Thing of Rochester (Donor Code ID # 3383)





Make sure to 'Like' and 'Follow' our [Facebook](#) page at Do The Right Thing of Rochester so that you can watch the ceremony if you are unable to join us in-person.



Each ceremony will also be broadcast Live on Facebook.



