



Do The Right Thing of Rochester Award Program FALL #2 2023 NEWSLETTER

Welcome!

It's a busy time of year, with the holidays swiftly approaching! We hope this newsletter finds everyone healthy and happy!

Since our last newsletter, we had our first ceremony of the 2023-2024 school year, where we recognized 10 amazing students from our community!

Our next ceremony will be held on Thursday, February 29th (that's right, it's a leap year!) 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 the Do The Right Thing of Rochester Awards Program!

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

Phone: (585) 428-7863 Fax: (585) 428-6093
Email: DotheRightThing@cityofrochester.gov
Website: www.cityofrochester.gov/DoTheRightThing

Follow us on Facebook: [@DTRTROC](#)
Follow us on Instagram: [@DTRT_Rochester](#)
Follow us on Twitter: [@RPD_DTRT](#)



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.

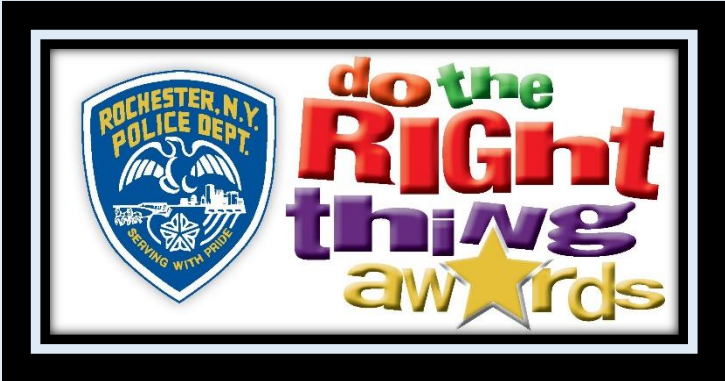
Anyone over 18 years old can nominate a student (this includes first responders, teachers, coaches, family, friends, etc.). Nominations are accepted throughout the year, and are reviewed by a committee that selects students to receive the Do The Right Thing Award. Selected students are celebrated at 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, unless the ceremony is held virtually. 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!



Sergeant Jose Vargas
Program Director



Laurie Kingsley-Henry
Program Coordinator



Lisa Hayes
Program Assistant



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

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Police Chief David M. Smith (Rochester Police Department)

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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!

American Medical Response
Ames-Amzalak Memorial Trust
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 City School District
Rochester Knighthawks
Rochester Museum and 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

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 2023 Award Ceremony Winners

10 students were awarded at the November 16th, 2023 Award Ceremony.



LILY CLARK

4th 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

4th 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
12th 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
6th 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
8th 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

3rd 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
11th 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.

2nd 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

7th 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





do the
Right
thing
awards





do the
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thing
awards

CityofRochester.gov/DoTheRightThing





Members from Workforce Development attended the ceremony to support our winners.

New Sponsor

We are excited to add a new sponsor to our program - Lamar Advertising Company of Rochester!

We are partnering with Lamar Rochester who is using their digital billboard network to promote the Do The Right Thing Award Program.

Throughout the month of October you may have seen an advertisement seeking nominations for Do the Right Thing on some of their billboards.

Now Lamar will be highlighting the most recent Do The Right Thing Award winners on 2 of their digital billboard locations. Each winner will be featured on both billboards (location of each billboard listed below), and these displays will run beginning December 11 through January 7. Winners will cycle through for several seconds each, along with other advisements. The winners' display will contain their name and grade only, along with a very brief description of why they earned the award, and a picture of the winner from the award ceremony.

Locations:

1. 1-490 eastbound, between Alexander St & Averill Av, just west of Averill Av. It will be on your right as you head eastbound on 1-490.
2. Rt. 104 eastbound, just east of Hudson Av. It will be on your right as you head eastbound on Rt. 104.

Make sure to take a drive and check out these billboards with your winner! But be careful when your checking them out, we don't want any car accidents!!



Thank You for Your Donations and Financial Support!

Thank you to our supporters that have recently provided donations to support Do the Right Thing of Rochester:

- ★ Executive Board Member Grace Tillinghast for providing recurring financial donations
- ★ Jane and Rex Ahrens of the Ahrens Benefits Group, provided a donation in honor of their granddaughter, November 2023 Winner Madeline Scahill.
- ★ On Giving Tuesday, EduFUNcation provided a donation through Venmo
- ★ To all that have chosen Do The Right Thing through their United Way contributions

Do The Right Thing was recently awarded grants from the following:

- ★ Daisy Marquis Jones Foundation
- ★ Charles J. and Burton S. August Family Foundation
- ★ John F. Wegman Fund via the Rochester Area Community Foundation
- ★ 4imprint's *one by one*® program

The Do The Right Thing Award Program is a non-profit organization and relies on donations to help support the program. Financial donations assist in making our ceremonies and other events (such as our Seabreeze Family Celebration day) possible, are used towards some of the prizes that winners receive, and provide college or trade school scholarships that our winners are eligible to apply for when they are high school seniors.

Because of the generous financial support we have received, we have been able to purchase some fun Do The Right Thing branded merchandise which our winners receive as part of their prize package.

Promotional items we have purchased in recently include:

- Bookmark
- Calendar
- Chip clip
- Key chain
- Pencil pouch
- Pen & pencil
- Pencil sharpener
- Sack pack
- T-shirt
- Water bottle
- Ruler
- Star multi-color highlighter
- Sticky note pad



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!

Each ceremony will also be broadcast Live on Facebook.



NEXT CEREMONY!!
Thurs, February 29
10:30 a.m. at the
Public Safety Building

do the
RIGHT
thing
awards

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.



Ways to Help Do The Right Thing of Rochester!

★ **Nominate a student**

- Nominating a student is quick and easy.
- Anyone over 18 years-of-age can submit a nomination (this includes family, friends, neighbors, school staff, coaches, first responders, etc.).
- Visit our website to submit a nomination electronically.

Cityofrochester.gov/DTRTNominationForm

★ **Follow and share our social media**

- **Follow us on Facebook:** @DTRTROC
- **Follow us on Instagram:** @RPD_DTRT
- **Follow us on Twitter:** @RPD_DTRT



★ **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**).



★ **Become a Board of Director or Sponsor**

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