



2016 MIAA COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD FINALISTS- INDIVIDUAL CATEGORY

Michael Bourque- Fitchburg High School

Michael is a senior at Fitchburg High School, where he participates in both Indoor and Outdoor Track and Field. This summer, Michael organized a community service project at Forest Hill Cemetery, to help better the presentation of the veteran markers. Each veteran in the cemetery has a stone that is placed at their grave, along with their regular headstone. As time passes, these markers sink into the ground, to the point where some of them could not be seen unless you were to dig for them. Michael's goal was to raise all of the veteran markets to the proper height, and leave them properly edged off and leveled. He did this with all 113 veteran markers and even discovered a few veterans who did not have a marker. While in the process, Michael took the liberty of documenting all of the information that was on the markers so the cemetery would have further information on file about all their veterans. To top it off, Michael raised just over \$1400 to purchase 47 flag holders so they could properly honor these veterans on Memorial Day.

Callie Hoadley- Hanover High School

Callie is a junior at Hanover High School and plays on the Cooperative Girl's Ice Hockey Team, serving as the team's captain. Her community service resume is most impressive, including over 150 hours with organizations including St. Jude's Children's Hospital Research, American Cancer Society's Relay for Life, The Jimmy Fund, Hanover Student Council, School Council, Hanover Youth Hockey, and School Arts and Dance. One organization that Callie has become very active with is the Special Olympics of Massachusetts (SOMA). This past fall, she joined the "Friendship Connection," where she attended events working with Special Olympians in various sporting events. In early March, she kicked off a fundraising drive for SOMA and began a campaign to "Spread the Word to End the R Word." Callie designed and printed 150 t-shirts and sold every last one, raising in excess of \$1000 for SOMA.

Charles Kiernan- Monomoy Regional High School

Charles is senior who participates on the Monomoy Regional High School Cross Country and Spring Track teams. He has a very desirable work ethic, which is shown throughout all of his athletic and academic accomplishments. Along with his drive to do his best at all aspects of his high school experience, Charles makes time for community service. He is a member of the Best Buddies department at Monomoy Regional High School, where he volunteers on a one-on-one basis with a student with Down Syndrome. Charles also takes further responsibility, working with the same boy in the after school program. As an extension of his commitment, last summer, Charles attended the Special Olympics in Los Angeles. He has been accepted for enrollment at the United States Naval Academy.

Maeve McNamara and Margaret Paul- Sturgis Charter School East Campus

Maggie and Maeve are both seniors on the Girls Soccer team at Sturgis Charter School-East Campus. This winter, from January to March, Maggie and Maeve led a team of students working with Cape Cod Healthcare to organize a blood drive. They had previously donated blood, and this year, on their own initiative, they volunteered to take on leadership of the school's third annual blood drive. Maggie and Maeve scheduled meetings, recruited members for the "Blood Drive" team, and interfaced with professionals from Cape Cod Healthcare to run the most successful blood drive yet. They worked all day helping to process the volunteers, distributing snacks, and reminding students of their appointment times. As a result, the school doubled the amount of units donated the previous year, allowing Cape Cod Healthcare to collect 48 units of blood, the most they had ever collected from a school.

Sarah Murphy- Saint Joseph Preparatory High School

Sarah is a senior at Saint Joseph Preparatory High School, where she participates on the Girls Soccer and Track teams. Sarah has dedicated countless hours to the service of her local community, in addition to the several trips she has taken to serve other communities across the United States. Sarah has traveled to the Romero Center in Camden, NJ where she spent three days in service, prayer, and reflection. She also traveled to Camp Esopus, a camp in New York, where she dedicated several weeks over the summer to work with children and young adults with special needs. Sarah's work in Camden and at Camp Esopus not only made a great impact for those communities, but it helped her further solidify her interest in nursing. This spring, Sarah will be traveling with a group to Frenchville, PA for an Appalachia Service Immersion experience in rural Pennsylvania. This week-long opportunity over spring break is just another shining example of how dedicated Sarah is to helping those in need.

Greta Nelson- Sturgis Charter Public School

Greta is a senior and co-captain on the Girls Field Hockey team at Sturgis Charter Public School. She has been a leader in a number of community service projects at Sturgis, but one of her most notable projects comes from her work with the Go Green Garden (GGG) Club. The GGG Club has recently installed an EZ H2O bottle filling station, which filters water and helps reduce the number of plastic bottles that students and teachers use. The GGG also purchased water bottles with the school logo on them and decided to sell them for \$1 in order to increase the number of reusable bottles sold, and encourage the use of the new filling station. Greta took the initiative to create a PowerPoint Presentation on the new bottle filling station and that PPT was used to educate the entire student body and faculty. Greta has also worked with GGG to help develop a use for the backyard at Sturgis. She has been the leader in organizing students (and parents and teachers) to build benches out of old pallets. In between the benches, she has installed garden beds in which they planted herbs, raspberries, kale, sweet potatoes, garlic, etc. They have even planted organic potatoes and onions in a nearby field, and donate all the produce to a food pantry distribution center that delivers produce across the Cape.

Conor O'Neil- Duxbury High School

Conor is a senior at Duxbury High School where he participates on the Football and Basketball teams. He has spent the past two years raising money for the JDRF (Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation), in the hope of finding a cure for Type 1 Diabetes, which his younger brother has. His efforts include the annual walk-a-thon and selling t-shirts that he designed. Conor's devotion to this cause allowed him to raise over \$10,000 in the two years he has been working at it. As if that weren't enough, Conor also gives his time to the NE Aquarium, ASP (Appalachian Service Project, through Holy Family Church), SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions), Duxbury Senior Center, LINK Crew (mentoring incoming DHS freshmen to ease the transition into high school), and was accepted into the National Honor Society. Conor is an impeccable leader who prides himself on helping others.

Anthony Pajak- Dartmouth High School

Anthony has been a member of Dartmouth High School's Soccer and Tennis teams, South Coast Soccer League, and the United States Tennis Association League. In addition to his athletic and academic responsibilities, Anthony also finds the time to give back. He has lent his time and talents to many organizations, including St. Mary's Catholic Church Life Teen Program, Holy Family Holy Name Polish School, New Bedford Yacht Club, and Okemo Mountain National Ski Patrol. Noteworthy is the fact that Anthony completed a 110 hour Outdoor Emergency Care Class via Okemo Mountain Resort, the curriculum of which included patient care, hazard management, and safety education.

Caitlin Yannizzi- Rockland High School

Caitlin is a senior at Rockland High School where she participates in three sports: Girls Volleyball, Basketball, and Lacrosse. As a freshman, Caitlin became involved with the Special Olympics of Massachusetts through her athletic teams and Student Government Council. For the next four years, she volunteered in Special Olympics events such as bocce, flag football, and bowling. She has been one of the top fundraisers in the state the last three years for the Massachusetts Association of Student Council's Special Olympics Polar Plunge, for which she has personally raised more than \$1,500. Caitlin also took the initiative to help organize the first Unified Basketball Event at Rockland High School, where she gave students who were members of the Special Education Pathways class, an opportunity to play in a game with members of the Varsity Basketball teams. Not only did she organize the opportunity for the students to play, but she designed t-shirts/uniforms, made signs for them to decorate the gym, recruited fans to come cheer them on, and even got medals and gift bags made for them, so they would get to experience the true school spirit and excitement of a game.