

An acoustic guitar is shown from a low angle, focusing on the body and strings. A large, semi-transparent circular graphic with a gold border is centered over the guitar. The text is overlaid on this graphic. The background is a blurred outdoor scene with green grass and a blue sky.

LIVINGSTON COUNTY  
YOUTH

*Strike A  
Chord*

25th Annual Teen Recognition Awards  
June 10, 2020



# WELCOME

## 2020 Teen Recognition Awards Banquet

Welcome to the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Teen Recognition Event brought to you by the Livingston County Youth Board and Board of Supervisors. These awards are earned by high school teens as young as 15 who are committed to community improvement, demonstrate leadership, or are a role model to others because they have overcome personal challenges. These are the youth in our community who subtly go about making the world around them a little more special by their actions and attitudes. Since 1995, over 1,800 youth have been recognized.

This year's theme, *Livingston County Youth Strike a Chord*, is a nod to the keynote speakers successful career in music. The theme's true essence is interlaced within the following written accounts. The individual nominators were struck by the selfless actions of these 93 youth and wanted to ensure they were recognized for it. Read through these summaries to see what strikes you.

Relationships are the cornerstone of positive youth development, therefore, this recognition is not possible without the support of the nominators. Nominators come from a variety of places: schools, churches, neighborhoods, civic organizations and clubs. We appreciate the time they took to notice the good in these youth. What follows are the nominator's accounts of the remarkable deeds of our hometown youth.

The certificates presented to the honorees come to us from the New York State legislature. Senator's Patrick Gallivan and George Borrello and Assembly Woman Marjorie Byrnes all share in our esteem for these youth.

# PROGRAM

**6:00 PM**

## **WELCOMING REMARKS**

Ian Coyle, *Livingston County Administrator*

## **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Sheriff Thomas Dougherty

## **BUFFET DINNER**

## **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION OF KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

David LeFeber, *Chairman of the Board of Supervisors*

## **KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

Tyler Westcott, *Portage Award Winner 2009*

## **AWARDS**

Ryan Snyder, *Youth Bureau Director*

*Presented by the Livingston County Board of Supervisors and the Youth Board*

## **CEREMONY INSTRUCTIONS**

*When your town is announced, you, the Town Supervisor, and the Youth Board member will come to the podium carrying the town sign. You will line up facing the audience to the right of the podium. The Supervisor will announce you individually to step forward and receive your lanyard & pin from the youth board member. You will then advance to the left of the podium to face the audience. The entire group will be applauded and then exit out the door to the left to have photos taken in the reception area. You will receive your certificates there as you return to your seat.*

## **CLOSING REMARKS**

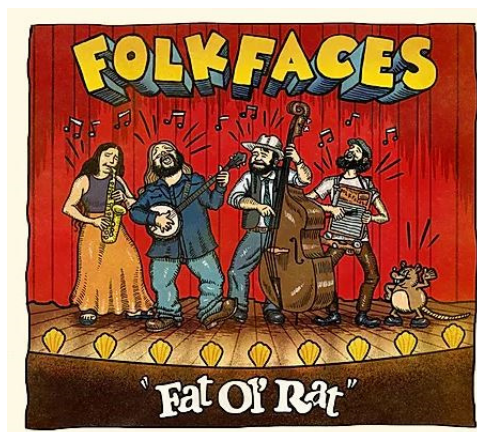
Ted Saunders, *Chairman, Livingston County Youth Board*

## **GROUP PHOTO**

# KEYNOTE

## Tyler Westcott

In 2009, Tyler received recognition for his contributions to the Portage and Nunda communities. He regularly volunteered at Special Olympics as his personal credo was that people should not belittle others for their differences. He was active in band, both high school and jazz. At age 14 he organized his own band and recorded multiple CD's. Much of Tyler's music reflected themes of tolerance, peace, and the impact of violence on the world. Today, Tyler is a well-known musician in the Buffalo-Rochester area. He gives back to his community, raising money and collecting food for Buffalo's *Friends of Night People*, a charitable organization that helps the poor, homeless, and destitute. He often plays for nursing homes and schools, and hosts touring musicians at his home, and in turn, has friends all over the country. His band, *Folkfaces*, released their second CD last summer and he is a featured musician on *The Observers* and *Black Rock Zydeco* CDs. In addition, he has two other projects he has developed: *Banjo Juice Jazz Band*, and a Gypsy Jazz group called *The Paper Roses*. He and his band annually host *Folkfaces Fest*, drawing musicians and groups from all over the country. To learn more about Tyler's music visit <https://www.folkfacesmusic.com/>



# HONOREES

2020

## Avon

Abigal Decillis  
Abigail Horne  
Rylie Randall  
Henry VanRy  
Sarah Westfall

## Caledonia

Sophia Bazzett  
Alex Carnes  
Kevin Flint  
Jada Gerber  
Andy Lin  
Summer Lin

Vincent Molisani  
Rowan Nothnagle  
Allison Raymond  
Jacob Rychlicki

Kerri Stein  
Samuel Urriza  
Grace Walker

Edban Watt

## Conesus

Mollie Flanagan  
Josephine Mentry  
Cody VanNostrand

## Geneseo

Michaela Baszto  
Adeline Capel  
Ella Countryman  
Ethan DeMartinis  
Jacob French  
Brenna Henderson  
Joshua Matthews  
Molly Robinson  
Madison Whitney  
Owen Wong

## Groveland

Shayna Brady  
Leicester  
Katelynn Chiappone  
Zachary Fanaro  
Melanie Fowler  
Mackenzie Routly  
Bartolomeo Totaro

## Lima

Nevaeh Close  
Emily VanArk  
Livonia  
Charles Doerflinger  
Luke Fasso  
Jackson McEnerney  
Faith Ray  
Emily Scheerens

## Mt. Morris

Danielle Callaro  
Mary Rose Cautivo  
Christopher Eddy  
Jacob Elliott  
Kiona Morf  
JoAnna Regatuso  
Skyler Savastano  
Emily Weaver  
Brianna Yencer  
Elizabeth Young

## North Dansville

Mary Catherine Aikin  
Emma Beardsley  
Kiersten Conrad  
Jasmyn Fox  
Sophie Leuzzi  
Hannea Milliman  
Erica Patanella

## Nunda

Hannah Bacon  
Clay Davis  
Allison Galton  
Abigail Halbert  
Collin Hallett  
Jason Hierl  
LaTasha Johnson  
William Johnson  
Kelsea Martin

Jada McQuarrie  
Jillian Mitchell  
Kearstin Scharet  
Emelye Wilkins

## Ossian

Sawyer Barron  
Augustus Swyers  
Michael Thomas  
Savannah Tucker  
Kylie Young

## Portage

Bryce Borden  
Jacob Cobin  
Ryan Stevens

## Sparta

Aspen Griffing  
Johnathan Kaszuba  
Bryce Quibell

## Springwater

Trevor Donlon  
Reagan Ferguson  
Jason Mastin

## West Sparta

Devin Deuel  
Lydia Kruchten  
Alexis Patterson

## York

Harley Kuhn

# SUMMARIES

2020

The summaries included in this program are taken from the original nomination. In some cases the length of the summary may be due to the sensitive nature of the information. The summaries are organized by township with youth living outside of the county included with the community where they have made the most impact. An asterisk (\*) designates that nominations for one youth were submitted by separate individuals.

## Avon

**Abigail Decillis** is a student at Avon High School and a great volunteer in her community and school. With all her activities over the past few years she has maintained an A plus average and on the high honor roll. She volunteers her time while balancing consecutive seasons of soccer, basketball, and softball where she is team captain for all three sports and still finds time to work at Locust Hill Country Club. Over the years Abby has grown as a leader and President of Ineract; her progress and awareness of community needs makes it a pleasure to work with her. She has worked several dessert auctions, made care packages for students in need, attended Rotary Youth Leadership Awards training, attended and facilitated rotary meetings, educated fellow Interactors, worked at Avon's Christmas Spectacular running different booths, and helped run the little kids events at the Corn Fest. She also volunteers at a Nutrition Center serving senior citizens lunch, has taken part in Special Olympics working with the athletes, and helps her mom at Rush-Henrietta School with life skills classes. Abby is very actively involved in and around her community and always willing to help with any task.

*Shannon DiFranco Leader, Avon Rotary Interact*

**Abigail Horne** has been active in scouting since Brownies and has grown into a helpful, caring, young adult. She has made dinner at the Ronald McDonald House, lunch at Martha's Kitchen in Avon, helped with crafts at Breakfast with Santa and face painting at the Halloween party. This year, she stepped up to help at Daisy troop meetings where she reads, teaches songs and games, and helps with activities with the kindergarteners. As a member of the Central

Presbyterian Church of Avon, she volunteers her time at events, selling raffle tickets for fundraisers, helping at "Souper Bowl" dinners and coffee hours. She is presently finishing up her scouting gold award by stripping and re-finishing all the pews in her church. But with all the things she does, Guiding Eyes dogs are her true passion. She raises and trains puppies so they can be considered for Guiding Eyes recipients. Abby is a wonderful, positive role model, and truly an amazing young lady.

*Jeanne Fusco, Troop Leader, Girl Scouts of Western New York*

**Rylie Randall**, is a student at Avon High School, and a very talented young lady. She willingly and generously shares her musical abilities with her school, church, and the Avon community. Rylie performs with both the choir and folk group at St. Agnes Church where the Choir Director describes her as a very conscientious, confident young woman who willingly takes on leadership roles while remaining appreciative of the opportunity to participate in choir and folk group. Rylie is the only teenager in these groups and an excellent role model for the younger church members. It is hoped that Rylie's participation will encourage other young people to join. Rylie has also performed at Livingston County's Suicide Remembrance Ceremonies, and at school she participates in several choral groups. Dance and theater have been a big part of her life from a young age. She belongs to Avon Drama Club and participates in all their productions and is also involved with Livonia and Geneseo Community Theaters. Recently, she was Belle in Beauty and the Beast put on by Stages, a theater group in Rochester, and this spring she'll be Adelaide in Avon's presentation of Guys and Dolls. Despite her busy schedule, Rylie remains faithful to her commitments at St. Agnes Church and her talent is appreciated by all who attend. Her commitment to church, community, and leadership are to be admired.

*Carol Hayes, Member, St. Agnes Church*

**Henry VanRy** is very community minded; but of course he has had great role models as his parents are always willing to lend a hand or help organize an event, and he definitely has followed their lead. He is on the high honor roll, a member of the National Honor Society, and involved in many volunteer activities through school and the Avon community. He has worked at Wegmans for the past two years where he donates part of his paycheck to United Way and helped organize employee yard sales as a fundraiser. He was actively involved in the United Way Day of Caring in the Avon community with planting, raking and general clean up. Henry is a member of Interscholastic Competition in English (ICE), math team, National Honor Society, Brainstormers, band and



jazz band, Avon Rotary Interact Board and president of the Tech Club. He regularly helps out at the local food pantry and with York Kiwanis. He helps with area blood drives, assisting with general organization and running of patients throughout the process. He has been very instrumental helping with Avon and Geneseo Community Theatre lending his talents on the sound board during rehearsal and show time and with set building. Through Interact he has rang the bell for the Salvation Army, made desserts for auctions, made care kits, put together bags for meet and greet with Santa, sold fundraising products, worked the kids booth at the Corn Festival and been involved in the exchange program with hosting foreign exchange students. He tutors high school students in trigonometry, geometry and chemistry and is always willing to help with any task. He never says no when asked to help and if he has a conflict, he figures out a way to work everything in. It was not easy to get Henry to talk about all the things he has done and been involved in as he is a very humble young man and possesses a high quality of giving back to community.

*Shannon DiFranco Leader, Avon Rotary Interact*

**Sarah Westfall** is truly involved in her community and helping others. She has remained a very active Girl Scout throughout her young life and as a senior now at Avon High School. One of her favorite activities has been helping out at the Council-sponsored Winter Carnival for young scouts. The older girls get together the night before and plan winter games and snow activities for Saturday morning. This year she volunteered to assist with the Daisy troop and her help has been invaluable as she has a lot of patience helping the kindergarteners with crafts. She has also worked the Breakfast with Santa including helping with crafts, setup and cleanup, face painting at the family Halloween party, dinner for Ronald McDonald House and lunch for Martha's Kitchen. She actively helped with the fall annual food drive benefitting the Avon Food Pantry. Sarah is a dedicated and energetic volunteer and always willing to help out.

*Jeanne Fusco, Troop Leader, Girl Scouts of Western New York*

## **Caledonia**

**Sophia "Sophie" Bazzett**, a senior at Cal-Mum, is literally at the forefront of so many things at school, in the community, and in her church. She is a natural born leader and has the maturity to see the big picture. She quietly goes about looking for ways to avail herself, lead others and in the process, help the cause. She is incredibly active at school. In addition to a very challenging

academic schedule, Sophie participates in just about every extra-curricular activity offered. She is a member of the Cal-Mum HS band and chorus, Inter-scholastic Competition in English, Brainstormers, HS Drama/Musical in which she held the female lead in 2019, National Honor Society, and Spanish Club. As a junior, she created a campaign to increase interest in the arts within the high school. She met with a member of the village board asking for ways in which she could collaborate on community events, then use those events to get the word out about participating in the performing arts in high school. It was genius! Out of Sophie's efforts, the band, chorus and drama students became a regular part of Fall and Christmas celebrations in the community. Since grade school Sophie has been a major volunteer in numerous community activities, including the fall festival, Hometown Holidays, Reading festival, etc. She also is a talented artist and provides painted posters and photo boards for events. She is very active in the St. Columba Catholic Church and regularly plays the flute and sings in the choir for weekly mass. Sophie has helped with numerous church activities including the Rubber Duck Derby that raises money for the local food pantry. She also helps out with Food Link, volunteering once a month to distribute food to the needy. What an incredible young lady!

*Robert Molisani, Superintendent, Caledonia-Mumford Central School*

**Alex Carnes** has been on the volunteer list at the Big Springs Museum since he was in elementary school. Alex began his career at BSM helping his uncle and brother at the annual Hometown Holidays Event. His outgoing personality and friendly demeanor served him (and BSM) well as he sold tickets for the basket raffle. Alex returned each year and shared his charm with those lucky enough to encounter him. As he got older, Alex graduated to serving tables at the Hometown Holidays Luncheon. Being reliable and welcoming, this proved to be another great fit for him. He returned again this past year to help, even during a busy basketball season. In addition to his service at the BSM, Alex volunteers at the Matthew Cleary American Legion Post 225. The Legion grounds needed to be cleaned up for the Memorial Day Celebration, and Alex stepped up to get this done. In the fall, he was once again on ground crew duty, cleaning up the leaves. Alex's community involvement also includes his work with the PTO Reading Program, the annual Penny Carnival and Breakfast with Santa. Alex is a three sport athlete. He has played varsity soccer at Cal-

Mum for two years, he is on the basketball team, and baseball in the spring. Alex is a hard working young man and a pleasure to be around.

*Meg Donegan, Big Springs Museum Volunteer*

**Kevin Flint** is a genuinely nice young man! A few years ago he realized there weren't many summer fun activities in the area for older kids so he formed WTPWL and now runs his own Wiffleball League. The Recreational Activity Club currently has over 20 members and fills a definite need in the Caledonia Community. The club has an annual draft, video interviews, playoffs, award ceremonies, a picnic, shirt designs, and scheduling. Kevin is the mastermind behind the entire league, ensuring the season runs smoothly and everyone has fun. Kevin is also a lifeguard and member of the Program Staff at Rotary Sunshine Campus where he enjoys working with adults and children with special needs. This young man is a great role model and a true leader.

*Seth Graham, Caledonia Town Clerk/Business Owner*

**Jada Gerber**, a hard working student, is a dedicated and involved member of school and community, and an exceptionally great person and leader. When people typically think of a young leader, most probably think of a student who is involved in student government, captain of a sports team or school club, or leading others in their church or greater community. Well, Jada is all of these things plus a lot more. She is Cal-Mum's senior class president and has been active in student council the past two years. She was president of the Spanish club in her junior year and is captain of the cheerleading team. Jada has been an altar server at her church, volunteered with Patrick Place doing hospice care, participated in the United Way Day of Caring, rang the bell for the Salvation Army, and helped with patient discharge through the Friends of Strong. Jada is a very conscientious student, always respectful of her peers and teachers and typically has a positive and friendly demeanor. In doing this, she leads by example. Jada did a project for Government Class where she ran for President of the United States. She presented policy positions, advertised her candidacy, and gave a speech to the rest of the class. Jada's project was incredible! Her effort and leadership abilities were highlighted for everyone to see. It was classic Jada – simply leading as a shining example for her peers and no doubt this will continue in her future.

*Brian McQuillan, Teacher, Caledonia-Mumford Central School*

**Andy Lin's** willingness to help in his family's restaurant while juggling a strenuous course load of schoolwork, extracurricular activities, and sports is impressive. He is a very outgoing, hardworking, personable young man, originally placed in the ENL program in elementary school, he has worked very hard to not only learn English but to excel at it. Andy is a key component to the success of the soccer team and is seen as a leader. He is also involved in Spanish Club where he helps run various fundraising events and activities. During the school day, Andy volunteers his study hall time to help struggling middle school students. He is always willing to help anyone, even with his demanding coursework. He is an extremely bright young man, in the top five of his class, but also very modest and kind. He is a student that never makes excuses, has his work done well, and prides himself on his accuracy. Little details matter to him because that's what makes a difference. Andy has indicated that he would like to go into the medical field; leaning toward dentistry.

*Alana Amorese, Teacher, Caledonia Mumford Central School*

**Summer Lin**, a junior at Caledonia Mumford High School, is a child of non-English speaking parents. She and her brother were raised in their parents' restaurant and as youngsters, spent every day before and after school there doing their homework. As she entered middle and high school, Summer became very involved in school activities, while continuing to help her parents at the restaurant. Summer is a member of the math, chess and Spanish clubs, Brainstormers, and the National Honor Society. She assisted in assembling cookie trays for all the teachers at Christmastime, rang the bell for the Salvation Army, and worked at the elementary school book fair. She has helped at church with dinners and the annual Rubber Duck Derby. She always has a smile to share and her strong work ethic, which she clearly learned by her parents' example, has transferred to everything she does both academically and in her volunteer service.

*Sarah Santora, school employee, Caledonia-Mumford School*

**Vincent "Vinnie" Molisani**, a senior at Caledonia-Mumford, is an outstanding young man. His activities throughout the years are immeasurable. He has been an altar server at St. Columba's Parish since fourth grade. Week in, week out, year in, year out, there would be Vinnie serving on a regular basis, or, if not serving, sitting in the pew with his family. Since middle school, he has worked for the Village of Caledonia Recreation Department as a mentor, a

volunteer assistant, and a senior counselor working with youth. He always displays a politeness, a respect, and an energy for others to emulate. At school, Vinnie is the consummate volunteer, always responding positively whenever asked. If you want a chore done, and done well, you ask Vinnie. It will be done with the upmost dedication. This young man, is truly the “real deal” and a first class citizen.

*Mary C. Hamilton, Member, St. Columba’s Parish*

**Rowan Nothnagle** is a very busy young man. He is a member of the National Honor Society and has volunteered for the Red Kettle Campaign and the school’s blood drive. His kind hearted nature and willingness to help others earned him the honor of being elected by his peers to Vice President of his junior class. Rowan has also earned a Black Belt in karate. Throughout his school career he has been a member of band, jazz band and chorus. He is also a talented singer and has held prominent roles in high school musicals. On Friday evenings he can be found busing tables at the Iroquois Restaurant in Caledonia. Rowan is a well-rounded young man, and eager to step in and get things done. So of course he was on the list of who to call when planning a theatrical production fundraiser for the Big Springs Museum. Rowan stepped right in, got involved and accepted one of the major roles. Rowan's dedication to his character and his fellow cast members was evident in every rehearsal. He is a talented actor and charming young man, who made something that was a lot of work, more fun. He entertained the audience, and his fellow cast and crew members with his humor and wit. Thank you Rowan for sharing your gifts with your community.

*Meg Donegan, Volunteer, Big Springs Museum*

**Allison Raymond** is organized, mature, leads by example, a hard worker, loves life, and extremely helpful to others. Throughout her entire young life, Allison has always been readily willing to help with school and community events. She loves working with younger students and always makes each activity as fun as possible. Allison volunteered to march and play in a procession to light the village Christmas tree. She and a close friend found a festive sweater that they both could fit into together, only allowing for one of their arms to be in the sweater. The two of them had to think how this would work as they needed to march and play their flute. They actually did it quite well and were so proud to be there for their community. Allison is an accomplished athlete, on both the volleyball and indoor track teams. She uses her incredible musical ability playing in the marching band, flute ensemble, jazz band, chorus, woman’s ensemble, small group ensemble, All County Band, All

County Chorus and RPO Holiday Pops. In school she is a member of the Brainstormers, Math Team, National Honor Society, and Vice President of the Spanish Club. In her free time she takes dance classes, enjoys horseback riding, and has attended the ALA Empire Girls State and Hugh O'Brien Youth (HOBY) Leadership Conference. After graduation Allison would like to attend college for neuroscience and go on to medical school. WOW, very impressive!  
*Janet Cappotelli, Teacher, Caledonia Mumford Central School*

**Jacob Rychlicki** has been sharing his musical and acting talents with Caledonia and surrounding communities for years. A gifted trumpeter, Jacob has played for the Salvation Army's Red Kettle Campaign for the past five years. His trumpeting career began with the Caledonia-Mumford Elementary School and High School Bands and now has branched out to the LeRoy Town Band, Rush Firemen's Band and the brass choir at the Avon Presbyterian Church. Jacob is also a gifted actor and singer and has been a member of the school chorus since 4th grade and has had leading roles in high school musicals. Jacob has also graced the stages of the Batavia Players, Avon Community Players and the Geneseo Community Players. For the past two years the Big Springs Museum has held Murder Mystery Dinner Theaters as fundraisers. These events require creative, committed volunteer actors willing to give their time, energy and talent. Jacob did not hesitate when asked to participate even with his busy schedule (as he was a member of the Varsity Football team at the time). Packed audiences were entertained by Jacob's natural stage presence, humor, and charm. Jacob's dedication to each production he is involved in is evident to those sharing the stage with him, and those lucky enough to be in the audience. He will once again be on the Cal-Mum stage for the high school musical in the spring. Jacob's willingness to share his musical, and acting gifts with others in his community is admirable. It will be interesting and exciting to see what stage he will be on in the future.

*Meg Donegan, Volunteer, Big Springs Museum*

**Kerri Stein** is a student who exemplifies leadership on many levels, while pursuing a busy academic, athletic, and extracurricular activity schedule. Keri has a work co-op job in the Middle School office and constantly demonstrates the resourcefulness, initiative, and independence that characterize strong leaders. When assigned a project, she takes it on independently and goes the extra mile to see it to successful completion.

As Captain of the girls' varsity basketball team she is an on-court leader and mentor to the younger players. She also greatly enjoys volunteering on Saturday mornings for the Bidly Basketball program, instructing elementary students on basketball techniques and modeling sportsmanship and team values. Kerri is a student leader who has been elected to Student Council for the past two years. In this role she plans school activities such as the holiday semi-formal, Spirit Week, and Thanksgiving food drive. As a member of the 2020 senior class, she volunteered at the Seniors for Seniors annual holiday dinner. As President of the New York State High School Rodeo she runs meetings, attends bi-annual board meetings, coordinates student input, and competes in barrel racing and pole bending events. Kerri's exceptional leadership skills and experience will take her far in her future endeavors.

*Susan Hayes, Work Co-op Supervisor, Caledonia-Mumford Central School*

**Samuel "Sam" Urriza\*** is an admirable young man whose cordial and considerate personality wins him the respect of others. He is also amusing and very talented. During the Red Kettle Campaign Sam played his guitar outside the Market Place Grocery store, an added bonus for lucky customers. As an actor and singer, Sam has performed in high school musicals, and chorus. This year taking the lead in *Beauty and the Beast*. The first year the Big Springs Museum held a murder mystery dinner theater, Sam assisted the crew and cast behind the scenes. Brought back by popular demand, this past September Sam took on a main role and kept the packed audience guessing "who dun it?" His flair captured and entertained those in attendance and the cast and crew working with him. Last February, he and a few other students formed a team to participate in the Polar Plunge on Lake Ontario to raise money for Special Olympics and he will lead the team once again this year. He is a three-sport athlete (cross country, indoor track, outdoor track) and has been named captain of each of these teams because of his leadership abilities. He is huge encouragement to his teammates and can be heard verbally coaching them along in practice. Last year when Sam was not able to actually run due to a medical issue but wanted to stay actively involved and mapped out a cross country course on the school campus, thereby bringing cross country meets back to the school, rather than a public park. When his indoor track coach suffered an injury, Sam took on leadership responsibilities and helped out at every practice. He is the vice-president of his class and as such, he is not able to hold membership on the student council. However, he is so dedicated to making his high school the best it can be that he volunteers his time and efforts on student council activities. Along with everything else he does, he

finds time to work the annual United Way Day of Caring and also helps out his neighbor with yard work. Whatever college he decides to attend after graduation, it will have an active and involved volunteer in Sam Urriza.

*Meg Donegan, Volunteer, Big Springs Museum and Daniel Freeman, Coach, Caledonia Mumford Central School*

**Grace Walker**, a senior at Caledonia-Mumford, is a leader and respected role model. Grace is a good example of how hard work can help you achieve your dreams. She is a member of the High School Student Council and this year is serving as vice-president. Her leadership has led to successful events throughout the year; especially the prom and spirit week. And, like any good leader she knew she needed to enlist help from students and teachers. Through her refined communication skills and friendly personality Grace works well with others to accomplish whatever she is organizing. She has been a reliable and constant volunteer for events happening in the elementary school, as well. Grace enjoys helping in ways that bring happiness to others, even if it has no benefit to herself. She doesn't need to be asked, she sees a job that needs to be done and jumps in and does it. Grace is also an outstanding athlete and has never taken her athletic performance for granted. Her work ethic in class and in athletics is commendable and a great example to young students. Recently, News 10 NBC featured Grace as a Scholar Athlete. In her TV interview Grace's comment was, "I want to be a leader - someone that people can look up to." She truly is that! She is signed to play softball for the next four years at St. Bonaventure University where we are all certain she will continue to lead and serve in many ways.

*Sarah Santora, School Employee, Caledonia-Mumford School*

**Edban Watt** is well adjusted, well liked, extremely smart, and hardworking academically and in all his endeavors. He is focused on a future in mechanical engineering and rises to the challenge of advanced courses. Edban is a very independent, responsible, and dedicated young man who has had to rely solely on himself for his successes...and he has many. He is one of the top students in physics and goes above and beyond and always up for the challenges of this difficult course. His maturity and attitude toward education and his future are well beyond his years. Edban is a bright student who enjoys learning and often challenges teachers with his exploration into the curriculum. On the wrestling team, he is a hard worker and dedicated to the team. He has



taken on all the responsibilities thrown his way and has done a remarkable job. What an incredible young man!

*Sarah Santora, School Employee, Caledonia-Mumford School*

## Conesus

**Mollie Flanagan\***, a sophomore at Livonia High School, is a very kind and caring young woman; always ready and willing to help anyone. Whenever Mollie is involved in a school project, others want to be a part of it. She is an excellent role model to younger members in her Girl Scout Troop. Mollie shares lunchtime with Holly who is autistic, but Mollie doesn't see her that way. She sees a person first and appreciates all the positive qualities that most people often overlook. Mollie says Holly always makes her smile and forget about the worries of the day. Mollie definitely has the unique ability to see the best in people and helps others see it as well. She is the type of person that makes us better. Instrumental in starting a chapter of the Gender and Sexuality Alliance she wants everyone to feel accepted and valued. She organized a Mental Health Awareness Week giving out a different color ribbon every day for a different affliction and attached a card with a list of "hotline" numbers and raised money for the National Alliance for Mental Health. Not only does Mollie possess impeccable morals and values, but she is very involved in the leadership program where she attends class meetings and helps with fundraising and other organizational activities. She has attended several local and state leadership conferences and has presented workshops and round tables on the LGBTQ Movement. Mollie loves helping with Breakfast with Santa and organized the school's annual Haunted House and Enchanted Pumpkin Patch raising over \$1,000 for a local charity. She is a devoted role model to younger twin sisters and also babysits regularly for neighborhood children. Somehow Mollie still manages to find time for spring track and year-round soccer and is also a member of the VEX robotics team. Mollie plays the guitar beautifully, sings in the treble chorus, and since sixth grade has been in all but one of the school musicals. Wherever she goes and whatever she does, Mollie will always put others first. Her leadership skills will push her to seek involvement in such a way as to help others see the good in all people and celebrate their strengths, the way she does every day.

*Faith Gates, Classmate's parent and Terry D'Imperio, Teacher, Livonia Central School*

**Josephine “Joie” Mentry** is fun loving, imaginative, easy going, lives life with purpose...and loves lemurs. She is the vice president of Science National Honor Society, plays piano for jazz ensemble, a member of competitive dance team, and on the executive council for French club and Interact Club. What is most impressive about Joie is her dedication to her school and her willingness to go above and beyond. In the past two years, she has created and taught a flash mob dance for the pep rally and created a dance for Livonia Survivor Week’s closing ceremony. She also planned and implemented a MOCK DUI event that was held before prom last May. This involved a lot of moving parts, including two smashed cars, actors, emergency personnel and school administration. She made it all happen and most likely saved lives in the process. Livonia is very proud to call Joie our own.

*Terry D’Imperio, Teacher, Livonia Central School*

**Cody VanNostrand**, a student at Livonia High School, is an impressive young man. He has a tremendous gift for relating to and getting younger students involved. He was my right-hand man leading STEAM Camp last summer. All of the camp activities involved Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math. Cody worked tirelessly with ages 5 to 7, one-on-one to assist them through the escape room, gravity art, egg drop, and countless other activities. He helped keep children focused on activities and because he was so popular with them, he was really good at it. He set up supplies and cleaned things up afterwards and did a lot of the heavy-lifting. He was an unstoppable positive force every day. He has an amazing work ethic and an impressive dedication to his community. I feel very grateful to have worked with him and look forward to seeing where his future takes him.

*Grace Frenzel, Services Coordinator, Livonia Public Library*

## **Geneseo**

**Michaela Baszto** has dealt with great loss in her young life but through her experiences, she has become a positive role model to other students. She is very committed and demonstrates a strong sense of responsibility and dependability to those who count on her. As a member of National Junior Honor Society she kept her GPA above 92 and always could be counted on to do extra assignments completing each task with a smile and asking if she could do more to help. As a result she qualified and made it into National Honor Society. Michaela is a strong student, but even more importantly, she is a wonder-

ful friend and community member. She goes beyond her responsibilities to assist others and the Geneseo faculty. She always has a smile to give everyone. Michaela is a great asset to her school community by setting a wonderful example on how to make it through adversity successfully.

*Darlene Hunt, NJHS & NHS Advisor, Geneseo Central School*

**Adeline “Addy” Capel** is a leader in all she does. Her strength of character, humility, and ability to always have a smile makes her an unquestioned leader of the Geneseo High School band program. Addy is the band treasurer, and is so efficient at the job that she often has tasks completed before asked. It is Addy’s ability to think of others first that is so admirable to witness, and she definitely is a positive role model.

*Christopher Minges, Teacher, Geneseo Central School*

**Ella Countryman** has been selected and served as a Junior Assistant at 4-H Horse Camp for the past two years. In this position, she was able to have a voice in camp planning to ensure activities were appropriate and of interest to youth campers. Ella was also responsible for a group of five campers during the six-day/five-night camp. She ensured that all members of her group were respectable and polite to both other campers and the adults in charge. Ella made sure that each member’s horse was properly fed and cared for at all times and helped whenever needed including helping with the handling and tacking-up of horses. She made all her group members feel welcomed, appreciated, and an equal part of her team. On numerous occasions she could be found sharing her knowledge and experience with members of her group helping each to be better educated about the care of their horse. Other responsibilities included helping her group bond to form a highly functioning team to compete in the camp Team Olympics. Ella’s communication skills, ability to work with and teach younger campers, knowledge, leadership skills, and pleasant personality have made her a highly affective camp Junior Assistant. She has helped many campers explore and develop their own interest in horses.

*Mark Wittmeyer, 4-H Team Leader, Cornell Cooperative Extension*

**Ethan DeMartinis** is an active member of Livingston County Youth Court. He is always willing to take on any task given him whether that is trying out new roles on the Court, or heading the discussion during jury deliberations. Ethan is very measured in his approach handing out sanctions to the youth offenders who come before the Court. He is always at the forefront of jury deliberations and encourages his fellow members to think carefully about each sanc-

tion given. He is always quick to point out the positive strengths of each youth and will focus his recommendations on what he believes will help that individual further develop those strengths. He handles each case with maturity beyond his years. Ethan is a natural leader both in and outside of the courtroom. Ethan attended a youth leadership conference at Daeman College this fall and last year attended a legislative visit to Albany to advocate for funding for the Association of NYS Youth Bureau's Leadership Forum. Ethan is also a member of the Livonia Varsity Swim Team, Science Olympiad, and Interscholastic Competition in English (ICE) Team. He attended a National Student Leadership Convention at Yale University, is on the St. Timothy Lutheran Church Council, and volunteered in areas of need with his church youth group in Houston, TX. Ethan is an important member of the Youth Court and it has been a pleasure watching him evolve into his leadership role.

*Casey Pagano, Coordinator, Livingston County Youth Court*

**Jacob French**, a junior at Geneseo Central School, has exceptional initiative and leadership skills that have benefitted his school and community. Jacob, a Life Scout, has been active in scouting since first grade. He has served as Senior Patrol Leader to 30 scouts, leading weekly meetings, planning outings, and helping fellow scouts be active in troop leadership roles. He went to the International Jamboree in 2017 and the Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico in 2019. It is clear that Jacob's priority as leadership is never a chore for him. He makes Scout training interactive, entertaining and memorable. Also while in the first grade, Jacob joined Odyssey of the Mind and is still a very active member. Odyssey of the Mind is a creative problem-solving contest with students in grades 3-12 from all over the world. Geneseo Odyssey teams have performed at regional, state, and world levels, taking six first-place titles while facing teams from 53 countries across the globe. Jacob realized that the growing number of Odyssey members and a lack of dedicated storage space inhibited team creativity and caused damage to student creations. Consequently he planned his Eagle Scout project to benefit Odyssey by building a storage shed. It took him two years to plan, design, present, and secure approvals. The difficulty and complexity of the project was far greater than Jacob expected, but eventually with the help and support of others the construction began. Over fifty Scouts, students, adults, and community members contributed over 600 hours toward the project. Jacob's positive attitude, persistence, and leadership brought the Scouting and Odyssey communities together to complete a project he could never have accomplished on his own.

Jacob has learned to build trust and credibility as a leader in both Scouting and Odyssey. His leadership skills have led him to events and friendships from around the world. Jacob offers an outstanding legacy of service and leadership to Troop 70, Geneseo Odyssey of the Mind, and Geneseo Central School.

*John Rutigliano, Scout leader, Boy Scouts of America Troop 4070*

**Brenna Henderson** is a stellar student, friend, and athlete. She has been an active member of the soccer, basketball, and golf teams. She has been voted captain of several teams as well as her class. While in National Junior Honor Society she was the Vice President and stepped in for the President many times. She was comfortable in leading meetings as well as giving speeches. Now a member of the National Honor Society Brenna demonstrates her commitment to learning. She tutors, helps with the food pantry drive, scrap metal drive, Special Olympics, Teresa House, and has made blankets for Veterans Outreach and Golisano's Children's Hospital. She has been active in Earthwise, Do-Gooders, Yearbook and Student Council and held offices in many. Brenna is always willing to help fellow students and faculty members wherever needed. She leads by example without bragging or showing off. She definitely is a positive role model in her school and community.

*Darlene Hunt, NJHS & NHS Advisor, Geneseo Central School*

**Joshua "Josh" Matthews** is a humble leader who inspires others by his example and attitude. As the Senior Patrol Leader for Scouts BSA Troop 4070 he planned and ran all activities. Josh is an excellent role model and does a good job encouraging other scouts to participate. He also served as crew chief on the high adventure trip to Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico where he was responsible for getting the troop to each day's destination and handing out job assignments. Again, he led by example and spirit. For his Eagle project Josh moved the Geneseo Groveland Food Pantry from St. Mary's to its current location at the Central Presbyterian Church. Josh was Captain for the soccer and hockey teams and also a member of track, again, leading by example; always giving 110%, being on time and having a great attitude. He is President of the National Honor Society, a member of drama club, band, chorus, jazz band, a cappella group "The Pitchforks", Odyssey of the Mind, and the Mathletics team. While he doesn't hold a leadership position in these additional organizations, he still leads by example through his effort and attitude and inspires other students to do their best including being on a world champion

team and finalist for Odyssey of the Mind. Recently, Josh was selected to serve on the student committee interviewing prospective candidates for the School Superintendent position and selected as Senior Class representative for the building planning taskforce. Through all of these activities Josh is an inspiration to those around him making them want to be the best they can be in whatever they are doing by being positive, hardworking, and pleasant.

*Bryan French, Scout Master, Geneseo BSA Troop 4070*

**Molly Robinson** is an outstanding student at Geneseo High School and always eager to take on a challenge. She is dependable and a strong leader. Molly was a member of the National Junior Honor Society and an officer for National Honor Society. She is also an accomplished athlete participating in soccer, basketball and softball and a lifeguard at the school pool. Molly helps translate for new non-English speaking students and has spent summers as a counselor at Camp Stella Maris. She has had a plethora of volunteer experience, from teaching Sunday school to making blankets for children going through traumatic situations, to fundraising for the Teresa House and Foster Care. At school Molly is a member of the Do-Gooders Club, Student Council and Earthwise. She is a busy young woman who uses her time to benefit others and is a great role model.

*Darlene Hunt, NJHS & NHS Advisor, Geneseo Central School*

**Madison “Maddy” Whitney’s\*** academic record speaks for itself, and her activity list is a mile long. Yet it is her qualities that do not appear on paper that set her apart from her peers. Maddy worked very hard to be named a starter in her junior season on a very competitive soccer team. After an injury in the first game she was adamant that it would be okay because she was a junior and would work hard to get back for her senior year. Through seven months of grueling physical therapy and rehabilitation, Maddy pushed herself mentally and physically to heal. And even though she missed the first four weeks of track season, she was able to return to the team and went on to compete in Section V Championships, and her relay team even made it to the state qualifying meet. She worked very hard to overcome her injury and upon return to the soccer team in her senior year she was better than before. Then, once again, tragedy struck and Maddy sustained another injury. When she went down she knew immediately what had happened and that unfortunately her season was over. Although heartbreaking, she remained positive for her teammates, attended most games and cheered her soccer family on with

pride and positivity. Knowing that she could no longer play sports, Maddy used her knowledge and passion of basketball to volunteer as a Junior Varsity Coach and helped to build Geneseo's program. Madison is an invaluable member of the coaching team and the girls look up to her for basketball advice as well as life advice. She has been able to foster a passion for the game beyond anything that the adult coaches could do for the youth players. Madison has also volunteered her time to take a group of 7th/8th graders to ELIM every Saturday morning for a continued second half modified season. She has been able to not only share her passion for the game but also mentor these young athletes in a way that helps them both academically and athletically. But not only is Maddy an accomplished athlete she is also a dedicated member of the high school band and has held the top leadership position as Drum Major for the past two years. She is very selfless and always looking for the best way to help others. Her kindness and caring are evident, and people cannot help but be drawn in by these qualities. Maddy has shared that because of all of the supportive care she received from doctors and physical therapists, she is thinking about going into a field that will help others in a similar way.

*Beth Ward, Teacher, Christopher Minges, Band Teacher, Nick Drollette, Soccer Coach, and Megan Harvey, Teacher & Coach, Geneseo Central School*

**Owen Wong**, a student at Geneseo Central High School, is very involved in school activities, his church, and community. At Geneseo United Methodist, he frequently serves as Worship Leader, always well prepared and at ease in front of the congregation. Being a skilled musician, he is also an active member of the church's youth choir and band where he very generously shares his talents, both vocally and playing the violin. Owen is involved in area symphony orchestras and string workshops and was recently invited to play with the Genesee Symphony Orchestra, becoming its youngest player. In his spare time, Owen can be found at the Wadsworth Library helping out in any way he can with physical labor and utilizing his excellent computer skills. Owen is also an accomplished athlete, member of the Varsity Cross Country Team, Defensive Captain with the Batavia Ramparts hockey team last year, and this year a member of the Livingston Blues hockey team. Owen has learned that, "It is always important to put in a big effort, even if the results aren't immediate." At school he is in high demand as a science and math tutor, runs the Strategic Gaming Club, and is very involved with the annual Oak Tree 5K 1/2 marathon. Owen enjoys spending time at his Grandparents farm and stables taking care of things when they are away. This young man is truly an impressive asset to his school and community.

*William Lewis, Lay Leader/Chairperson, Geneseo United Methodist Church*

## Groveland

**Shayna Brady** is a senior in the Health Dimensions class at Charles G. May Career & Tech Center. She is an energetic, outgoing young lady who enjoys people and life. She functions extremely well in new situations with new acquaintances and makes others feel welcome. At clinicals, she is very respectful and kind to the elderly residents. In the classroom she has taken juniors under her wing and helped with their success. Shayna has worked through Livingston County's Summer Youth Employment Program, and also as a recreation counselor at the Circle C Ranch Summer Camp. Shayna is an accomplished athlete being a member of the volleyball, swimming, and track teams. She is also a member of Drama Club, the Color Guard, and takes voice lessons. She has received many MVP awards, been nominated for Student of the Month and received Livingston County's Work Program Proficiency Certificate.

*Linda Blyth, Teacher, Genesee Valley Educational Partnership*

## Leicester

**Katelynn Chiappone**, a senior at Perry High School, is a thoughtful, genuine, and sincere young lady who cares very deeply about others. The oldest of three children, Katelynn has become an important source of emotional support for her siblings as well as assisting with their daily activities. She looks at things from a different, more neutral perspective and often finds herself as the mediator with her siblings and her friends. She encourages people to listen and keep an open mind. She feels it is worth the time and effort to help loved ones communicate more effectively so relationships are not further damaged. Through personal experiences Katelynn has become a better listener, communicator, friend and leader. She uses these skills to build healthy personal and academic relationships and has a positive impact on her peers by adopting a non-judgmental frame of mind. She often leads group discussions in clubs and encourages her teammates to be the best they can be. As a result, she is well-respected by her classmates and school staff. Next fall, Katelynn will study psychology at either Keuka College or Cazenovia College. With her background it is not surprising that she wants to participate in a career where she can help others with her listening and communication skills.

*Amy Ellis, Counselor, Perry Central School*



**Zachary Fanaro** has an unmatched deep love, appreciation, and respect for the environment. He is an inspiring advocate for animals in their natural habitat, and for preserving the integrity and beauty of different species. Zach demonstrates this passion by volunteering his time in The National Turkey Wildlife Federation, and A-On-Do-Wa-Nuh Sportsman Club. Zach has been a member of the National Turkey Wildlife Federation for about twelve years. During monthly meetings, he and other members brainstorm fundraising ideas to support local habitats, discuss ideas for recruiting more members, and determine what materials are needed to assist with their efforts. One of their largest fundraisers is the annual banquet where funds raised are used to help local biologists assess state lands and determine what needs to be done to maximize the habitat to keep turkeys healthy, safe, and thriving. Zach has several roles during this event; he is in charge of buying, organizing, and facilitating the bucket raffle. He also helps display auction pieces and runs games. When Zach talks about turkeys, it is obvious he has a deep love for the animal. He says that being in the presence of a turkey is an experience like no other. It is no wonder that he has spent a majority of his volunteer time surrounding himself with others who share the same sentiment. Another passion of Zach's is fishing. As a member of the Sportsman Club, he has spent much of his time assisting with the fishing derby where he hands out prizes to children, ensure they follow the rules and enjoy themselves. Zach also volunteers his time maintaining the club's facilities with mowing and cleaning. When events are held at the club, Zach volunteers to assist with tasks to make sure everything runs smoothly. It is no surprise that Zach's dream is to become an Environmental Conservation Officer. He has been accepted to the Environmental Conservation Law Enforcement program at Finger Lakes Community College for the fall and plans to spend his career in New York State where he can support and interact with the animals he has come to love and respect.

*Amy Ellis, Counselor, Perry Central School*

**Melanie Fowler** is a senior at York Central High School and already accepted into RIT for the fall. Melanie began working at Pizza Paul's when she turned 16. She cried before every shift, questioning whether she had the ability to talk to customers, multi-task and create exceptional plates for our customers. Bit by bit, Melanie continued to persevere. It was astounding to watch this shy young girl overcome anxiety and fears and become a leader. Melanie is the only high school student currently allowed to make pizzas. A person that has demonstrated a mastery in all aspects of the kitchen, as well as coaching and guiding others can be deemed ready for pizza making. Melanie is now an employee that easily directs and coaches others, performs positive customer

service, and trains new employees. Melanie performs leadership well beyond her age. In school, she is the President of the Gay Straight Alliance where she coordinates and runs weekly meetings. She is student representative for all LGBTQ+ students assisting in conversations and insecurities requiring an age-appropriate conversation. She is also on the youth GLOW committee for Livingston County and she assists in making school curriculum that coordinates with students' needs. Melanie is truly a leader.

*Teresa Chichester, Pizza Paul's employer*

**Mackenzie Routly** is a senior at York Central High School who is always willing to help; both at school and in her community. Through the Knights as Community Helpers Program, Mackenzie helps in Mrs. Kolb's Pre-K class assisting with lessons and activities. She uses her artistic and creative abilities to create items for the classroom activities and assists the young students in completing projects. You can always find Mackenzie at the school blood drives recruiting donors, helping at the registration desk, and passing out snacks. Mackenzie doesn't stop there as she willingly provides assistance to several of the teachers. Mackenzie is a wonderful volunteer and always does it with a smile.

*William MacKenzie, Teacher, York Central School*

**Bartolomeo "Bart" Totaro** is an exchange student from Italy. He is uniquely talented in horsemanship, having won the 2018 Mounted Games Italian Championship (involving contests such as mounting a galloping horse and tests of coordination while riding), and leading his team to a third place finish last year. Here in the US he has boldly jumped into playing team soccer for the first time and will try tennis in the spring. A sign of his friendliness and the respect his classmates have for him is that he was elected Homecoming King. His leadership in the classroom was demonstrated in Italy when he performed the lead part in a film project adapting a medieval short story called "Friar Onion and a Feather of the Angel Gabriel." Because of Bart's red hair, they recast the role as Friar Carrot. In Perry, his Marine Science group project is to develop a method of mapping the currents of Silver Lake from a drone, and Bart is leading the research into the use of thermal cameras for this purpose. He has a scientific curiosity combined with a thoughtful warm enthusiastic conversation style that will serve him well in his current ambition to become a physician. Another area important to him is the EU and the current politics of Brexit, which affects European educational opportunities. When he returns to Italy he looks forward to presenting his experience to prospective exchange

students and perhaps volunteering to help them prepare for tests and English standards that are required. To become an AFS candidate and win a scholarship to participate, Bart had to undergo psychological testing, seminars in how to handle cross-cultural situations that may arise, learn about differences between cultures, and prove proficiency in English. He expresses a genuine appreciation of the unique aspects of American life as he experiences them while retaining a love for what makes his homeland Italy special. He is a thoughtful, thankful communicator.

*Daniel Zerbe, AFS Liaison*

## **Lima**

**Nevaeh Close** is a charismatic leader who lights up a room with her positive energy. Her engaging personality brings students from all areas together to effectively complete a project or task. Independent and confident, she is not swayed by peer pressure. Nevaeh is a four-year member of Treble and Mixed Choruses, a three-year member of Auditioned Select Choir and a cast or crew member for all musical productions. She makes the groups better through her musicianship, leadership, calming demeanor and competence. As an officer in the Drama club and School Choir she models to aspiring vocalists the dedication and commitment needed to find success in vocal music. Nevaeh exceeds the expected contributions as Alto Section Leader and helps out wherever she sees a need. She volunteers for holiday caroling in the mall and concerts at a local senior home. When traveling to Virginia Beach for competitions she organized outings and events on the beach. She is especially skilled at organization, communication and planning in a way that foresees and avoids problem points in classroom activities and special events. By using kind words when interacting she lifts others up to a place where they activate all their skills and talents to achieve the common goal. Her effective time management skills allow her to balance a busy academic load with an even busier extracurricular life. Nevaeh is an incredible person and good citizen and very worthy of recognition.

*Dianne Witkowski, Counselor, Honeoye Falls Central School*

**Emily VanArk** has quietly and colorfully left her mark on the Lima community. Emily is a gifted artist who has been accepted to a prestigious art school where she will continue to work on her craft. Emily was selected to create a 4' by 5' painting for the Ronald McDonald House and created an amazing elephant. While she was there touring the house, she was so touched by their mission she created a fundraising project with the National Honor Society to

collect tabs from soda cans. The funds generated from recycling the aluminum help offset the House's expenses. She has shared her time on the Media and Design team, led the first Robotics Team, helped set up the Snow Ball at Pinehurst last year, and ran games at the middle school Halloween dance. She is a member of GSA, Foreign Language Club and Art Club and has earned the Chemistry Achievement Award. Emily is kind, accepting, and has great integrity. She is also incredibly modest and gives freely of her time and talent without seeking recognition.

*Patrice Tate, Counselor, Honeoye Falls-Lima Central School*

## **Livonia**

**Charles "Chas" Doerflinger** is a freshman at Livonia High School, and an amazing young man. Only in 9<sup>th</sup> grade, he has already made a positive impact as a Livonia Bulldog. He is very active in all aspects of school, specifically as a class officer and a student council member. He is the first to arrive at events and the last to leave. His favorite expressions are "What needs to be done?" or "How can I help?" His passion is fishing and he really wanted to share his love of the sport with others. So, he investigated the steps needed to start the first ever Livonia Fishing Team. He has organized full tournaments with lunch provided and a fishing expert to come and speak to participants. Whatever Chas is involved in, you can bet that it will be done with enthusiasm and with no holds barred. Chas is a champion and very deserving of this prestigious recognition.

*Terry D'Imperio, Livonia Central School Teacher*

**Luke Fasso** is a freshmen at Livonia High School and a living, breathing example of what good leadership looks like. He comes into class every day with a smile, a friendly attitude, and the desire to learn. He is not afraid to do the right thing. EVERYONE in our school looks up to him because he is so kind, humble, helpful, dedicated and the example of what bulldog pride is all about. Luke is class president and regularly attends student council meetings. He is also an accomplished athlete participating on the soccer and basketball teams. Earlier this school year, he had the opportunity to attend the state leadership conference in Lake Placid, where he represented his school and himself with great dignity. You could see he was learning as much as he could about how to make an impact at his school. He volunteers at a youth basketball program, where he is surely looked upon as a positive role model by the younger athletes. When asked how he liked to spend any remaining free time,

he said, "I like to spend my time with my family as well as my classmates." This is a testament to his upbringing. Luke is the kind of student that makes teachers want to be better educators because he deserves the very best.  
*Terry D'Imperio, Teacher, Livonia Central School*

**Jackson McEnerney** is an academically competent ninth grader at Livonia Central School. He enjoys sports, especially Lacrosse and is a supportive team player. This past summer, Jackson volunteered at the Livonia Summer Program, was a huge help, and interacted very well with students and adults. He willingly performed tasks asked of him by counselors and other staff. Jackson enjoyed playing games with the children and the children enjoyed him just as much, as they often gravitated to him. His positive attitude and happy demeanor made the kids happy and excited to be around him. Jackson is counselor material and would be a great addition to our Summer Recreation Program staff!

*Craig Emmerling, Recreation Director, Town of Livonia*

**Faith Ray** is a valuable, active member of Livingston County Youth Court. She was selected to attend a youth leadership forum at Daeman College and an overnight visit to Albany to advocate for funding for the NYS Youth Bureau. She spoke with elected officials to ask for continued support for local programs such as Youth Court. Her calm presence makes her a valuable asset and she is always respectful to the youth who come before the Court. Faith is always happy! She never comes to Court without a smile on her face. She handles each case with poise and maturity. She takes her role very seriously and always tries to give meaningful and fair sanctions during jury deliberations, often contributing to the discussion about the goals and benefits of each sanction recommendation. She leads by example for her fellow members as well as the youth offenders. Faith is a member of Livonia High School's French Club and Math Team, and has also lent her many talents to the school's musical productions.

*Casey Pagano, Coordinator, Livingston County Youth Court*

**Emily Scheerens** is not afraid to take a positive risk and is always willing and able to tackle any challenge that is asked of her. Last November, Emily was extremely instrumental in helping to organize the three-day state student leadership conference in Lake Placid. Every day she would ask, "What can I

help with?" It was actually suggested that a t-shirt should be made for her with that phrase on it. She made workshop tickets, schedules, stuffed folders, created banners, and even prepared her own round table for a leadership discussion. Emily understands that it is the hundred little things that make a great leader. Emily is also very involved in 4-H and shows cows. She is a member of the high school student council and National Honor Society. She loves working with younger kids, whether tutoring them in Algebra, or babysitting. She is an amazing art student and yet she wants to give back and pursue a career in psychology. She finds ways to continually give back to the community. Recently she held a "Miracle Minute" for the Ronald McDonald House. She arranged for all last period teachers to show a video about what the House provides to families. She then broadcasted the Louis Armstrong song, What A Wonderful World for a full minute and students collected pocket change. That one minute raised over \$270. Emily has a desire to do more, be more and give more that is unparalleled.

*Terry D'Imperio, Teacher, Livonia Central School*

## **Mount Morris**

**Danielle Callaro** is a vital part of the Mount Morris school community where she is always willing to offer a hand where needed. Her dedication to academics and hard work has gained her the honor of becoming a member of the National Honor Society. But she also enjoys a very active athletic career playing both basketball and soccer and representing both teams as Captain. One of Danielle's strongest attributes is her care for others which is evident on the sports field. She is the first to respond to lend a hand, check on an injured player, and offer compassion and support. Never content to stop striving, she also plays on a travel team in the off-season and lends her skills to helping out with Little Dribblers, the elementary basketball program. Another of her passions is the Making Strides for Breast Cancer Walk which she has participated in since elementary school. Danielle is one of the kindest and most compassionate souls in our school and she is definitely a positive role model.

*Donna Todd, Teacher, Mount Morris Central School*

**Mary Rose Cautivo** relocated to Mount Morris from Hawaii two years ago and it has been nothing but pleasurable getting to know and work with her. She is an active member of Drama Club and her excellent work ethic is a shin-

ing example to all. She is gracious and friendly and invested in the success of everyone around her. In her numerous extra-curricular activities, Mary Rose enjoys working with special needs students ensuring that they have successful social interactions. On weekends she assumes an enormous amount of responsibility in ensuring the safety and wellbeing of family members with special needs. She is truly an asset to her family, our community, and school.

*Sara Coniglio, Teacher, Mount Morris Central School*

**Christopher “Chris” Eddy** is a determined, hardworking, and exceptional young man. At age 13 Chris faced several challenges, not only was he entering middle school, but had to adjust to rural life in a new state, was reintroduced to family, and had to make new friends. A lot to handle! As far as school went, Chris excelled in all of his classes. He has a true love for learning and made friends very easily. Chris is consistently on the high honor role, a member of the National Honor Society, KCS Chess Club, tutors younger students after school, belongs to Rotary Interact, Master Minds, and Page Turners. He has earned 41 credits in both AP and college courses. To pay for these courses, Chris has worked at school as a janitor where his supervisor states that he is a “topnotch, great worker”. In addition to all he does he has taken on the role of caregiver for his dad. The future is bright for Chris. His game plan is to attend UR Medical School with the end goal of becoming a neurosurgeon. Chris has overcome many challenges that life has thrown his way but he has adapted and persevered. His hard work and effort have paid off and he has been an incredible role model for all those around him. Chris has shown others that even when dealt a bad hand, one can overcome the odds and take control of their own life.

*Elisha Jines, Teacher, Keshequa Central School*

**Jacob Elliott** is a youth who works hard and enjoys helping out in his church and community. At church, Jacob serves as a priest helping out with communion and assists the Bishop with counseling youth in the ward. He also helps to set up and clean up for large events. One of the most significant service activities Jacob led was to build a raised bed garden. He not only raised funds for lumber and top soil but directed other youth and adults in its construction. Likewise, Jacob helped to renovate a backyard deck for an elderly couple and has delivered food to people in need both in the Nunda area and surrounding towns. This willingness to give of himself is also evident in his Scout activities where Jacob is Assistant Patrol Leader in troop 4077. As a Boy Scout, Jacob takes his commitments very seriously and attends to maintaining

the environment and volunteering as a lifeguard at Cub Scout resident camp. This volunteer work exceeds eighty hours in addition to his normal scout obligations. Jacob is a joy to know and his willingness to help others is very much appreciated.

*Bishop Travis Bailey, The Church of Jesus Christ and Latter Day Saints*

**Kiona Morf**, a senior at Mount Morris High School, is an incredibly bright, determined, and kind young woman whose smile can brighten up your day. Due to her quiet demeanor she is more of a leader by example. She answers questions when appropriate and speaks up when she needs help, but for the most part, is the one in the background just doing what she needs to do to be successful. This year she has chosen to really challenge herself by taking five college courses through the dual enrollment program. While she finds them stressful at times, especially calculus, she has been able to maintain a mid-90s average. It is not only Kiona's natural intelligence but her drive to work hard that has allowed her to keep her grades at this level. Outside of school, Kiona is an excellent role model and leader by example for her younger four siblings. She attends all their sporting events and is always checking in on them to make sure they are doing the right thing. Kiona is a dedicated, caring friend that is willing to help others out in any way she can; whether it be a ride or just a friendly ear to listen, she can always be counted on to be there. She has a "motherly" way about her which will transfer well into whatever career she decides to pursue. She has learned to advocate for herself when needed and shows gratitude for any opportunity that she is given. Kiona is a hard-working, determined young lady who is a leader to those around her and an excellent role model to all.

*Allison Atwell, Counselor, Mount Morris Central School*

**JoAnna Regatuso** is a kind and caring student at Mount Morris High School. She is active in numerous extracurricular activities, yet still makes time to assist the Parent Teacher Student Association on their Family Fun Nights, helps the elementary Page Turners, and has participated in several community volunteer activities. Most importantly, JoAnna is a friend whom other students go to when they experience difficult times. She understands the importance of being a good listener and goes to any length to provide her friends with the support they need. Joanna always maintains a positive outlook on life and is definitely a positive influence on others.



*Greg Bump, Superintendent, Mount Morris Central School*

**Skyler Savastano** is a student at Mount Morris High School. Things have not always been easy for him; however over the course of the past three years, with dedication and a lot of hard work, he has gone from a student at risk to an exemplary student. In the past, Skyler had attendance and behavioral struggles, but not only has he overcome these, but has also improved his grade point average significantly. Skyler received the Student of the Month award this year and certainly is just the beginning of many more great things to come for this hard working young man.

*Jesse Hamilton, Principal, Mount Morris Central School*

**Emily Weaver** has overcome the many challenges of having a parent deployed and away for five years. However, the biggest challenge for her was when her father was injured. Emily has said this showed her that family is the most important thing. Every Sunday, Emily can be found in her church nursery watching little ones and she also is a regular volunteer at American Legion functions. During her time in high school, Emily has been class president for four years, an officer for the past three years for the Interact Club, and captain of her basketball and soccer teams. This past summer, Emily was accepted into the AIM (Academy Introduction Mission) Program, which is a one week orientation at the Coast Guard Academy. Besides all her extracurricular activities, Emily will be the valedictorian for the Class of 2020. This is a young lady who will go far.

*Karen Bennett, Principal, Keshequa Central School*

**Brianna Yencer** has overcome much in her young life, but on her way to a very bright future. After living in a group residency program, Brianna returned to her family last year, and acclimated herself back into the general education setting. Her transformation has been astounding. She has matured into a responsible student and is learning to face challenges head on. She sets goals and works hard every day to make sure they come to fruition. She is an excellent example of what can be accomplished when we take control of our actions and responsibilities. We are so proud of her and know there are many good, positive things ahead for her.

*Sara Coniglio, Teacher, Mount Morris Central School*

**Elizabeth Young** was selected for the prestigious Hugh O’Brian Youth Leadership (HOBY) Program. HOBY’s mission is to empower youth to achieve their highest potential and gain knowledge and understanding of leadership skills. Elizabeth is drawn to helping others. She has volunteered at the Mt. Hope Family Center and assisted with fundraising for Breast Cancer Awareness. She tutors her fellow students in math and is enrolled in the Health Dimensions program where she learns to take care of others. She balances helping others along with maintaining a job, athletics, extracurricular activities and the demands of taking advanced college classes. Elizabeth is someone who puts others first. Her maturity and selflessness is remarkable.

Greg Bump, Superintendent, Mount Morris Central School

## **North Dansville**

**Mary Catherine Aikin**, a student at Dansville High School is very involved in her community. She has always been a very willing and generous volunteer participating in a wide variety of community activities and events, including the Salvation Army Bell Ringing, the Toy Drive, and working as part of a Balloon Crew. Mary Catherine is a member of the Dansville Student Lighthouse Team, which recently held the Community for a Cure event. She was one of the coordinators for the event which raised over \$4,000 for the Ann and Carl Myers Cancer Center at Noyes Hospital. Mary Catherine takes great pride in her school and community and is an excellent example of our young leaders in community involvement!

*Zach Matzek, Counselor, Dansville Central High School*

**Emma Beardsley**, a senior, has been an outstanding member of not only Dansville High School but also the Dansville Community. She has participated in a variety of events and activities throughout her high school career with the goal of making her school and community a better place. Whether she has been involved in the coordination of the high school blood drive, served as a class officer, or worked on the Student Lighthouse Team, Emma always put her best effort forward. Emma was instrumental in coordinating the Community for a Cure event, sponsored by the Lighthouse Team. This event proved to be a huge success and raised over \$4,000 for the Ann and Carl Myers Cancer Center at Noyes Hospital. Emma is a perfect example of Dansville’s mission statement, in that she exemplifies the drive, capability, and compassion to achieve her full potential while contributing to our evolving local and global communities. Without a doubt, we will miss Emma’s hard work, determina-

tion, and consistently positive outlook but are certain she will continue her success in college and whatever she may choose to take on in the future!

*Zach Matzek, Counselor, Dansville Central High School*

**Kiersten Conrad** is a student at Dansville High School and very involved in her community. She is a member of the Dansville Student Lighthouse Team, which recently held the Community For A Cure event. She was one of the coordinators for the event which raised over \$4,000 for the Ann and Carl Myers Cancer Center at Noyes Hospital. There was a basket raffle, 50/50, face painting, t-shirt sales, bracelets, key chains, concession stand, and photo booth for the event. Her involvement in this event was critical to its success. Kiersten serves as an excellent example for others that if you want to make a difference in your community you need to get involved and do your part.

*Zach Matzek, Counselor, Dansville Central High School*

**Jasmyn Fox** has been an outstanding example of community involvement as a student at Dansville High School. She has volunteered at a number of events, including the Balloon Festival (6 years), the Dansville High School Blood Drive (3 years) and she is also a member of the Dansville Student Lighthouse Team, which recently held the Community for a Cure event. Jasmyn was one of the coordinators for this event, which raised over \$4,000 for the Ann and Carl Myers Cancer Center at Noyes Hospital. She always takes pride in her school and community and serves as an excellent role model to her peers and other students when it comes to being involved in her community. Jasmyn's infectious ambition will be greatly missed at Dansville and we wish her the best in all her future endeavors!

*Zach Matzek, Counselor, Dansville Central High School*

**Sophie Leuzzi** exhibits outstanding leadership skills and serves as a positive role model for her peers. As the vice president of student council, she helps plan and organize various school and community events and participates in numerous community service projects. Sophie attended the New York State Student Council Leadership Association conference in Lake Placid this past November where she met with hundreds of other student leaders to discuss ideas and further develop her leadership skills. Sophie is also involved in numerous other clubs including chorus, band, chambers singers, NAHS, drama club, and the public relations officer for her class. She holds leadership roles in chorus serving as the treasurer, and is secretary for NAHS. Sophie is an enthusiastic athlete participating in volleyball and tennis. She continues her responsibilities outside of school by being actively employed at Subway as

well as participating in community service events through her involvement in Rotary. Sophie is a prime example of a true student leader and goes above and beyond every day to make her school and world a better place.

*Shana Swain, Advisor, Dansville Central High School*

**Hannea Milliman** is Vice President of the class of 2020 at Dansville Central High School and has participated in numerous community projects and fundraisers; always first in line to sign up. She has rung the bell for Salvation Army, helped with Kids Day, Cards for Auron, Stony Brook Endowment for Children fundraisers, collected goods for the Hornell Humane Society, and purchased and decorated a tree for Winter in the Village. Hannea was one of the key people in making last year's Junior Prom a huge success. She attends class meetings and follows up on every assignment. In the role of Chief Editor of the 2020 Year Book she shares her photography, digital publishing program skills, along with her strong leadership abilities for a positive experience for all. She knows what needs to be done and will make sure that assignments are made and turned in on time. She rolls her sleeves up and will take on assignments that others are not available to do. In everything she does, Hannea is truly a kind person, has empathy for others, and will go out of her way to accommodate others. She is also smart, funny, talented and a loyal student and friend. An accomplished dancer, the Jim Kelly Foundation invited her to dance in the Hunter's Day of Hope and Prayer. Hannea says the Kelly family's outlook on life and the way they handle every obstacle inspires her "to do nothing but good in this world."

*Kim Derrenbacher, Class Advisor, Dansville Central High School*

**Erica Patanella** has demonstrated outstanding leadership skills throughout her high school career. As an active member of student council, she has organized multiple school events, participated in community service, and has worked hard to make her school a better place. She has held leadership roles in student council, president this year and treasurer her junior and sophomore years. Erica attended the New York State Student Council Leadership Conference in Lake Placid this past November where she represented her school in a positive fashion and interacted with other student leaders from throughout the state. She was honored with an award from this conference for her outstanding leadership abilities. Erica not only excels as a leader in student council, but she is also a member of various other school clubs, such as Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA), Mock Trial, and International Club, and helped her class organize a Kid's Day Out. Erica is a terrific student athlete, participating in indoor track, tennis, and soccer and during summer

months she has a job at Ice Cream Island. Erica is a positive role model to her peers, and goes above and beyond in all she does. She not only demonstrates leadership abilities, but is also a genuinely caring person.

*Shana Swain, Advisor, Dansville Central High School*

## **Nunda**

**Hannah Bacon** is a quiet young lady, but once you get to know her you realize how incredibly strong and hardworking she is. Hannah suffers from some serious health issues but she never complains or makes excuses to get out of doing work. She has taught her fellow students a lot through her actions and behavior. She is a role model, showing that overcoming an obstacle and continuing, persevering is the only option. She always completes her work ahead of time; tracking her responsibilities is her number one priority. She often leads students in Accounting and Law classes, teaching others how to complete tougher projects. She takes a quiet leadership role. Even though she is often sick or attending appointments, she tracks her work and hasn't missed anything. She is advanced in her learning and it shows. Hannah is an unsung hero at Keshequa among her peers, has an incredible work ethic, passion for learning, and the openness to help those around her.

*Mariann Bajus, Teacher, Keshequa Central School*

**Clay Davis**, a sophomore at Keshequa, has dealt with serious loss in his young life but through it all shines as a positive influence on others. Clay says he uses the loss of his mother as motivation, and when making choices, he thinks about what she would have wanted. He has served in many school leadership roles; Class Treasurer in 9th grade and Captain of the junior varsity soccer team. This year he is a member of the first Link Crew, a group of high school students selected to mentor 7th grade students throughout the school year. Clay is very close to his father and siblings, and they can often be found on a Saturday morning picking up litter on roadsides to help make Nunda a great place to live. Clay is a strong academic student, has a GPA of 96.7, and has scored above a 94 on two science Regent Exams. A modest, quiet leader, Clay has grown into a fine young man that his mother would've been so proud to call her son.

*Karen Bennett, Principal, Keshequa Central School*

**Allison Galton**, a senior at Keshequa, has strong leadership abilities and is committed to making her community a better place. Allison is a three sport athlete, works hard for academic success, and holds many leadership roles in school. Yet she finds time to volunteer in many community events, not as part of a school group, but as an individual. Each month, Allison works at community dinners offered at different churches. She has helped the Garden Society to decorate the Village of Nunda In the fall, bringing cornstalks and pumpkins from her family's farm. She has participated in Christmas in Nunda by delivering items to different businesses. As the softball team captain, she was instrumental in having the team put on a community breakfast as a thank you for the community support of their trip to Florida. The money raised at the breakfast was donated to Shelly and the Pink Ladies. Allison shows cows and enjoys mentoring the younger presenters on how to prepare and care for their animals. It is her choice to mentor these young presenters and has contributed to her desire to become an agriculture educator in the future.

*Karen Bennett, Principal, Keshequa Central School*

**Abigail Halbert** would prefer to stay in the background, but being in music makes that hard. Abby continually pushes herself outside her comfort zone. For the NYS School Music Association competition she always performs a solo in front of a judge, even though it causes her to be very nervous. Abby also has been chosen to be in All Counties and Area All States, with many students from different areas, and always follows through and does a great job. None of this is comfortable for her, but she continues to put herself out there in order to hone her talent. She auditioned and was awarded the main role in the production of Chitty Chitty Bang Bang. This main role will be a big stretch for Abby but she persists, leaving those around her amazed at her natural talent and ability to persevere. I respect Abby for pushing herself into uncomfortable situations and admire her ability and desire to better herself.

*Kim Coffey, Teacher, Keshequa Central School*

**Collin Hallett**, a senior at Keshequa, is a leader by doing. He tends to quietly work in class, but takes the lead in presentations when others don't. By taking risks in discussions and presenting ideas he gives other students the confidence to speak and share as well. Other times, students will not want to work on a topic and Collin will take the lead in completing the work and tell them that the assignments are not that bad if you choose to complete them. Not

asked, Collin is always willing to help out. His help and leadership to younger students is much appreciated.

*Mariann Walsh, Teacher, Keshequa Central School*

**Jason Hierl** and his friend Bryce are responsible for the first men's volleyball team at Keshequa. He and Bryce had an idea and researched and proposed it to the school board. The boys developed a proposal and presentation, sought ideas for coaching staff, and even completed a cost analysis. As a result of their commitment and leadership, this year, Keshequa succeeded in creating the first men's volleyball team. Nice going guys!

*Mariann Walsh, Teacher, Keshequa Central School*

**LaTasha Johnson**, a sophomore at Keshequa Central School, loves being active and supporting her school and community. She is very involved in her church youth group, writes cards of encouragement to senior congregation members and young adults, and helps out with church dinners. Sunday mornings she can be found with the younger children playing games and doing crafts. She also enjoys participating in church services and Christmas caroling. LaTasha stacks firewood, gets mail, sweeps porches, plants flowers and gardens and loves raking leaves on a fall day with friends and neighbors! She doesn't play sports but appreciates the talent, effort, and energy her friends give and supports the volleyball and basketball teams by helping out wherever needed. She has been active in Earth Club and participated on several clothing drives, community clean-up activities, and planted pine trees at the Dalton Elementary School. Recently, LaTasha joined the Rotary Interact Club and rung the Salvation Army Bell for several hours, helped out with dinners and the annual Mr. KCS Talent Show. She also took the lead in helping to make 35 fleece blankets for the Livingston County Rehab Dialysis Center and supports the Heifer Project in raising money for families in third world countries. LaTasha is an all-around, helpful, devoted person and loves her school and her community.

*Doris Marsh, Nunda Rotary Interact Club*

**William "Billy" Johnson** is a senior at Keshequa High School and on his way to becoming a top notch auto mechanic. Before his death, Billy's dad taught him everything he knew about fixing cars. They spent many hours working together restoring a 1970 Chevy Chevelle. Billy was still struggling with the

loss of his father, when they had a devastating house fire losing everything and the family was essentially homeless. Despite these hardships, Billy is one of the most respectful and kindest students I have had the pleasure of knowing. School has not always been easy for him but he set his mind to attending CTE courses at BOCES in Auto Tech and pushed himself through high school. Billy has stated that working with cars makes him feel more connected with his dad and he wants to continue expanding his mechanic abilities by attending college next year. Billy has worked hard to overcome challenges to make his dreams come true and at the same time honor his father.

*Chelsea Meyers, Teacher, Keshequa Central High School*

**Kelsea Martin**, a tenth-grade student at Keshequa, enjoys volunteering and loves participating in community service projects. For the past several years she has volunteered at the Nunda Summer Recreation Program helping young children with crafts and games; especially focusing on lonely and shy children. She likes watching them gain confidence to intermingle with other children and at the same time has built her own confidence skills by accepting a leadership role as a team guide. Kelsea enjoys spending time with her elderly neighbors, listening to stories of years past, and helping with yard and cleaning projects. She was instrumental in taking a leadership role with Student Council during Community Clean-Up Day giving up a Saturday morning to sweep village sidewalks, pick up trash, and rake leaves. Kelsea also helps out the Nunda Fire Department by cleaning their banquet and meeting rooms. For several years she has served at the annual Thanksgiving Dinner for Senior Citizens, made centerpieces, set tables, served dinners, and helped clean after the event. As a member of the Junior Honor Society she participated in several fundraisers and recently joined the Nunda Rotary Interact Club where she teamed to make 35 fleece blankets for the Livingston County Rehab Dialysis Center. She also spent several hours ringing the Salvation Army Bell and assisted with Red Ribbon Week and Veterans Day recognition. Kelsie has lent her talents and time to the Nunda Rotary Club annual dinner and play and Mr. KCS Talent Show. This young lady is always willing to give of her time and energy to give back to her community wherever she is needed. She is truly an asset to both school and community.

*Doris Marsh, Nunda Rotary Interact Club*



**Jada McQuarrie** was born in Florida but moved to Nunda in December of 2018. She had only recently connected with her father and was starting to build a relationship. It was a difficult decision to move to a new school, new town, and new family but Jada felt she was up to the challenge. The transition had a few rough spots but Jada never allowed this to get in her way and attended school every day. Jada has a strong work ethic and an innate thirst for knowledge. She is also a young lady who "likes to know stuff" and one day would like to be a therapist. With a GPA of 93 and her determination to overcome personal challenges, she will attain any goal she sets for herself.

*Karen Bennett, Principal, Keshequa Central School*

**Jillian Mitchell\*** is a student at Keshequa High School and a terrific volunteer both at school and in her community. Keshequa requires students to complete at least 30 hours of community service before graduation. Jillian is currently only halfway through her 10th grade year and has already logged 198 hours of service. She serves on the Link Crew at Keshequa, mentors at risk students, helps with library events, and at Foodlink for the past six years. For several years she has honored area veterans by placing flags on graves in local cemeteries for Memorial Day. She is a member of Rotary Interact, Junior National Honor Society and participates in all their activities and enjoys helping out at the Arkport Rescue Operation. She was instrumental in helping make Nunda Americana Day special by creating sidewalk artwork and passing out special newspapers. Jillian regularly attends youth group at Trinity Church, and volunteers at the Dalton Assembly of God Church. She has helped with fundraising projects at both churches, served at Wednesday Free Meals, and continues to assist the local church camp with their fundraisers allowing children to receive scholarships. She is quick to volunteer at Camp Cherith with pre-camp work days and interested in being part of the leadership program this summer. Jillian has also taken an active role in various events with the Parent Teacher Association and is always willing to assist elderly neighbors with various chores. She strives for success and takes great pride in all that she does, she is hardworking, high achieving and humble. Jillian is an incredible teenager who gives so much of her time to community service and helping others. She is extremely kind, always willing to help and always has a smile no matter the challenge she is facing that day. She is an exemplary citizen, and her kindness and desire to change the world inspires each and every day.

*Pastor Ron Duttweiler and church member Margery Foose, Trinity Lutheran*

*Church; volunteer Patricia Kanouse and friend Isabell Weir , Nunda Community; mentor Jackie Morgan and teacher Kayla Royce, Keshequa Central School; coordinator Lulona Pierce, Nunda Foodlink*

**Kearstin Scharet** is a young lady that has overcome significant challenges in her life. Due to the loss of her mother at an early age, Kearstin moved between several family members before settling with her Aunt in Nunda. Kearstin has significant learning challenges, but it is her work ethic and desire to learn which has allowed her to find success. She is always smiling and kind to others and has a deep desire to please family and teachers. She never complains or uses any of her personal challenges as an excuse not to do her best. She inspires others with her positive attitude and beautiful smile.

*Karen Bennett, Principal, Keshequa Central School*

**Emelye Wilkins** is a sophomore at Keshequa Central School who has always been a very caring, empathetic, young lady. She is an active member of the Nunda Rotary Interact Club participating in the Anti-Drug Awareness Red Ribbon Week activities, Veterans' Day recognition, a Salvation Army bell ringer, and teamed to make 35 fleece blankets for the Livingston County Rehab Dialysis Center. She has also willingly lent her talents to the Rotary Club's comedy play and the annual Mr. KCS Talent Show. Emelye struggled with the loss of her grandfather but has been able to turn that loss into a positive by reaching out to help others through their grieving process. When her friend's grandmother passed away recently, she listened and offered comfort by sharing her experience and suggesting positive activities they could participate in at school, with family, and at church. Emelye is truly a role-model for those who know her and a definite high school leader for her future years at Keshequa.

*Doris Marsh, Nunda Rotary Interact Club*

## Ossian

**Sawyer Barron** is a junior at Dansville High School and as he says "is just a regular member" of school activities, Boy Scout Troop 38 and sports teams. But being a "regular member" does not mean he doesn't give his best or that he sits back to watch others. Sawyer is a worker, a person who is willing to try new things and loves the adventures of traveling. He holds his soccer coach in high esteem for taking the time to inspire, giving tips for improvement, and for teaching them about volunteering. Sawyer has been to the mountainous areas of Peru making repairs and building an addition to an orphanage. A ter-

rific experience for a small town person to visit an area so different from home. This summer he will travel to New Mexico for a Boy Scout High Adventure camp where he will spend a week building and repairing hiking trails which will be enjoyed by hundreds of other Scouts. At home he spends time volunteering at the NYS Balloon Festival, Rotary Club Thanksgiving Day meal, Rotary Club Christmas bear give away at the hospital, and at church. He also fits in time to help an elderly neighbor. Way to go, Sawyer!

*Mary Ann Scharmberg, Town of Ossian Neighbor*

**Augustus "Gus" Swyers** has been a great influence on others this past year and throughout his young life. Last summer was a life changer for the Swyer family and especially Gus. While Gus was unloading and putting away hay bales in a barn on the family farm, some bales caught fire. The hay quickly ignited causing dense smoke and fire resulting in Gus being severely burned. He spent over a week in the hospital but Gus persevered through the pain and healing in time for football season. He practiced and played the whole season and was named defensive lineman of the year for the Mustangs. He was also named to the Homecoming Court this year as well. He continues to work on the family farm running the chopper, mechanical work, and helped build the new barn. In the past he has been involved in 4-H including showing animals at Hemlock Fair, he has volunteered his time helping at church dinners, and helped the Livingston County Dairy Princess Program when his sisters were involved. He has remained positive throughout his life and is always there to make you laugh. Since the fire, he has realized that he is not invincible and every day he has a new enthusiasm for life. He has shown others this year to be resilient, speak up for yourself and others, listen to people, use your talents, and focus on relationships with friends and family. He continues to attend BOCES for diesel mechanics and focuses on keeping good grades. He attends school functions to support his fellow classmates and cheer the Mustangs on at games. He is a great and talented young man who will do many things and influence others to do great things also. He has made the Ossian community proud and we are honored to call him a neighbor.

*Heather Overholt, Town of Ossian Neighbor*

**Michael Thomas** is a bundle of energy who loves helping others in his community, members of his track team, as well as co-workers at his job. When home, he often can be found cutting wood, caring for horses, mowing lawns, and cleaning barns for neighbors. When at work, his employer, Mr. Lang, describes Michael as "Head and shoulders above any of his peer co-workers. He is quick to teach new workers what is needed and he selflessly helps those

that struggle to keep up." At school Michael is an influential member of both the indoor and outdoor track teams where he shines as a high jump, sprint and relay specialist. Here too he is recognized as helping and encouraging his fellow teammates through practices and competitions, conducting himself as a leader and upbeat representative of his teams. Michael also speaks fondly of his involvement as a regular contributor to the Carter Davis Walk, helping to raise money for Juvenile Diabetes Research. Michael's favorite classes in school involve math, science, and technology. After graduation he hopes to enter the trades where he can put his outstanding work ethic, dependability and positive leadership skills to use. Always on the go, Michael is maturing into a well-rounded young man who cares greatly about his community and is compassionate about helping others.

*Heather Pero, Livingston County Youth Board and Neighbor*

**Savannah Tucker** is an exceptional young lady and the definition of a person dedicated to community and school. She regularly volunteers at the Ossian Presbyterian church and at Heath Homestead with cleaning and beautification projects, church dinners, and euchre card parties. She is a member of the Church Junior Youth Group and was involved with making greeting cards and singing Christmas carols to the housebound. Savannah helped with preparations for the West View Cemetery Association's dedication of their new sign. The Ossian Historical Society has benefited greatly from Savannah's help with various activities, dinners, delivering calendars, and especially with the Ossian Summer Recreation Program. At school, Savannah participates and helps with Girls on The Run, and this year would like to be a coach for the group. She has also been active in Girls in Power Through Technology and worked on the school yearbook. She is the reporter for Future Farmers of America and recently attended an FFA Leadership Conference in Syracuse. She has been nominated to attend an FFA Conference in Albany and won a scholarship to attend the FFA Leadership Conference in Washington, DC this July. Savannah is studying Agriculture Production at BOCES and is considering making agricultural business a career. Her willingness to be involved is a wonderful benefit to her town and school but she always makes time for friends in need. The town of Ossian is very fortunate to have Savannah as a member of our community and she will definitely continue to be an asset to the town and to any place or anyone in her future.

*Rhea Walker, Town of Ossian Neighbor*

**Kylie Young**, is a sweet, hardworking young lady who has found her niche in many leadership activities at BOCES where she has taken criminal justice for the past two years. Her leadership skills were evident early on as she was assigned as a Patrol Sergeant her first year and as a Media Sergeant her second year. These duties involved the management of her peers' daily logs, scheduling of student patrols, as well as establishing multiple media communications with fellow students keeping them informed of daily and future activities along with assignment deadlines throughout the year. Kylie has also participated in USA Skills competitions where she focused on leadership skills related to criminal justice. While at the competition she was selected as an Alpha Representative. This honorable position made her responsible for setting up, managing fellow criminal justice students, and securing a building during the skills competitions. This intense, real training has provided her the knowledge and confidence necessary to work in many aspects of law enforcement. Kylie is also a member of the BOCES Honor Guard where she is responsible for the care and presentation of the flag every day and during special events. Kylie has been active in her community cleaning Letchworth Park each fall and as a volunteer representative promoting USA Skills competitions to other schools and teachers. She has learned much from her criminal justice classes and as graduation nears she hopes to continue on this path working in one of the many facets of law enforcement.

*Heather Pero, Livingston County Youth Board and Neighbor*

## **Portage**

**Bryce Borden** is a student at Keshequa High School and an amazing young man. Bryce along with his friend Jason, had an idea and researched and proposed to the school board to start a new men's volleyball sport. The boys created the proposal and presentation, sought ideas for coaching staff, and even completed a cost analysis for the school board. This year, Keshequa succeeded in creating the first men's volleyball team, and this was completely from the leadership and idea of Bryce and Jason. Nice going guys!

*Mariann Walsh, Teacher, Keshequa Central School*

**Jacob Cobin** is a student at Keshequa and a very resilient young man. He has built a good high school transcript and is a valued member of Keshequa athletics. And, he has accomplished these things while experiencing some signifi-

cant family challenges; however, he has adjusted well and persevered in spite of them. He has progressed steadily in academics over the years, and fits in socially with his peers. He is a starter for his soccer, basketball, and track teams. Jacob continues to work hard, to get along with others, and succeed in sports and academics. Jacob has become a better individual due to his attitude and the way he deals with adversity. He is generally positive, active and involved, and he keeps his schedule filled with meaningful activities. After graduation, he hopes to enter law enforcement but is also considering enlisting in the military.

*Syd Houseknecht, Counselor, Keshequa Central School*

**Ryan Stevens**, a 10th grader at Keshequa, is an excellent role model and consistently demonstrates leadership qualities. He exemplifies Keshequa PRIDE: Perseverance, Respect, Integrity, Dependability, and Empathy. Ryan treats all people with respect, always willing to help out, and involved in many activities both in school and in the community. Despite reading being a significant challenge for him, Ryan has always pushed himself to do his best, never settling for less. He was in National Junior Honor Society in 7th and 8th grade, continues to maintain high academic standards for himself, and has been invited to apply to high school National Honor Society. As a longtime member of Earth Club, Ryan is a highly dependable and valuable member of the team and has held the offices of co-president and president. Earth Club takes care of all the school recycling and Ryan always goes the extra mile, even staying later to make sure everything is taken care of. He is very patient with new and younger members, helping and guiding them. As a member of Key Club, Ryan has played the Easter Bunny, dressed in costume for photos with little kids and tossed candy. He served hot chocolate during Christmas in Nunda, and he helps with Kiwanis Chicken BBQ's. Ryan already has 30 community service hours toward his graduation requirements. He loves hockey, has played since he was very young, and is goalie on a league team. He also plays soccer and golf at Keshequa and in the summer participates in tractor pulls. Ryan is close to his family, helps out with family chores, and loves his dogs. In all of his many pursuits, Ryan gives his all; he is calm, composed, and kind to others. Ryan is a wonderful role model for success.

*Holly Adams, Earth Club Advisor, Keshequa Central School*

## **Sparta**

**Aspen Griffing** has been a wonderful addition to Livingston County Youth Court this year. He jumped right in and has become a true leader on the Court. He attended an legislative visit to Albany for the Association of NYS Youth Bureau's Leadership Forum where he spoke with state legislators to advocate for continued funding for local programs such as Youth Court. He was an excellent leader on this trip, as someone so new to the organization, did a wonderful job speaking with the legislators explaining what Youth Court means to him. On the first day of Youth Court training, when asked why he wanted to be a member, Aspen responded "I want to help people and make a difference." While many people can make this statement, Aspen is the real deal. His compassion shines through in the way he treats the youth offenders who come before the Court and his desire to provide each youth a meaningful and therapeutic experience stands as a lead example to other members. Outside of Youth Court, Aspen is involved in Brainstormers, Mathletics, math tutoring, chess club, and chorus. He is also a very dedicated member of the Geneseo Central School District Drama Club. It has truly been a pleasure to have Aspen on the Court and wish him the best in his future endeavors.

*Casey Pagano Coordinator, Livingston County Youth Court*

**Johnathan Kaszuba** is currently a member of Livingston County Youth Court. Youth Court is a volunteer program in which he sits on a jury and listens to cases presented to him and then he deliberates with other jurors and decides on a sentence for the subject. The subjects are middle and high school students living in Livingston County that are first time offenders of non-violent crimes and have admitted guilt for what they did. The main purpose is to offer an alternative to harsher punishments by teaching them new skills, having them participate in community service activities, teach them how to cope with anger and make quality decisions. He and the jury deliberate and come to a decision on their sentence and complete the necessary paperwork. Johnathan has gained valuable leadership skills and the ability to work on a team successfully in this experience. He has learned that he can make a valuable contribution to helping troubled teens make the right decisions going forward.

*Debra Halpenny, Council Member, Town of Sparta Board*

**Bryce Quibell**, a senior at Dansville, has overcome many challenges throughout his young life. He had to be strong at a young age to manage family health issues and continues the care for his dad. His brother, Brad, is in the military

and been deployed twice. Bryce struggled with the separation but took a positive approach and helped put together military care packages. Through this process of helping, he discovered that there are many local men and women serving our country and this was helpful to him. Bryce has faced some challenges this year, but throughout everything he keeps a positive outlook and knows the importance of family.

*Debra Halpenny, Council Member, Town of Sparta Board*

## **Springwater**

**Trevor Donlon** is a student at Wayland-Cohocton, and even though he has been through a lot in his young life he always has a smile and willing to help wherever he can. Trevor and his family led a very active life, enjoying the outdoors with hunting, camping, and hiking. He and his dad were very active members of the Springwater Rod and Gun Club. When tragedy hit with both parents becoming seriously ill young Trevor stepped up to care for them and his younger sister. Even with added responsibilities, Trevor is a good student and enjoys participating on the school swim team. He is still very active at the Springwater Rod and Gun Club where he is a positive influence to younger members participating in trap shooting. Trevor is always willing to lend a hand and assist in community projects while still sharing and caring for his family in their daily changing lives. Trevor displays a strength and independence rarely seen in one his age and definitely a positive influence.

*Deborah and Allen Henry, Springwater Town Supervisor and Neighbor*

**Reagan Ferguson** is committed to community service and volunteerism. She joyfully gives of her time to make an impactful difference in the lives of others and commits many hours to working with children and adults in her community. She has always shown a love for children and willingly volunteers to help parents with childcare and she expects nothing in return. She willingly gives her time to help. She has a very special way with children and can easily console them which brings their parents peace of mind. She regularly serves in the church nursery and also watches young children during the annual Vacation Bible School. Reagan is a member of the church choir and is fully committed to dedicating her time to attending rehearsals, singing, and playing her flute for services. She is a good example of listening and following instruction. Reagan often accompanies her father, the Pastor, when visiting the sick, shut-ins and condolence calls. She participated in Christmas caroling at group homes and rang the bell for Salvation Army. Last summer Reagan went to



Arizona as part of the Nazarene Youth Conference and spent time handing out water bottles and information about cooling stations to the homeless during the excessive heat in Phoenix. Reagan is equally active in her school and was chosen to represent her volleyball team in Boston. She is a member of the Caravan Scouting Program and received the prestigious Phineas Bresee Award. If Reagan sees a young person needing a friend she willingly reaches out to them. In everything she does, she has a joyful spirit and a welcome smile. She never complains or acts frustrated by all the time she gives in service to others. She is happy to do it. She is cooperative and committed. She notices a need and then steps in to help meet it. Whatever path in life Reagan takes, she will be appreciated for her commitment, friendliness, and the time she gives seeing to the well-being of others.

*Joyce Gilford, Choir Director, Springwater Nazarene Church*

**Jason “Jake” Mastin** has excellent community spirit and shows wonderful community leadership potential. He is very active in Springwater community projects. Jake can be found working at the Gala food tent during festivals, reading the poem *Flanders Fields* in cemeteries on Memorial Day, and working at special dinners and events hosted by the American Legion Post 905. He is a junior member of the Springwater Rod and Gun Club, a member of the local Trap Shooting Team and the Livingston County Trap League. Jake can always be counted on to help set up and work trap shoots and breakfasts at the Gun Club. He always has a ready smile and offers a helping hand to all.

*Deborah Babbitt Henry, Springwater Town Supervisor*

## **West Sparta**

**Devin Deuel**, is a senior at Dansville High School and a natural leader. Last year he was a member of the communications class, responsible for the high school yearbook publication. As the year progressed, he started to show his leadership skills while working with a small team of underclassmen. He took this group under his wing, and was an excellent mentor as they looked up to him for guidance and support which he easily provided. Being a student who did not want to be noticed at the beginning of the year, he rose in stature, literally and figuratively. By the end of the year, he was standing tall, looking fellow students and teachers in the eye and holding himself more confidently. While leading fellow students, he provided direction and guidance, asked

clarifying questions, and offered praise and support... all desirable qualities of a great leader. Timidly, he started sharing videos he had created and produced with fellow classmates. Last year he entered one of his videos in the school talent show and it was a huge success winning him an award. The School Resource Officer asked Devin to help with creating an educational video for teen alcohol and drug awareness. Devin went above and beyond spending time outside of the school day filming scenes for the video. His communications class team assisted him and followed his lead. Despite limited time, Devin continued with the communications class this year. He also joined the video productions club and teaches other students how to use video editing software. Devin attends the BOCES program for building trades with thoughts of a future in construction after graduation and is exploring the idea of combining this with video production. Devin has gained much confidence and his natural leadership skills are helping to foster future communication class and video productions club leaders.

*Lynn Blum, Teacher, Dansville Central High School*

**Lydia Kruchten** loves to spend her personal time helping and volunteering; either in her community of West Sparta or the village of Dansville. She began volunteering at the Dansville Public Library at the age of 10, making crafts with preschoolers and handing out pizza at family movie nights. She also has been a huge help to the Dansville Rotary Club with their annual Thanksgiving dinners and ringing the Salvation Army bell and singing Christmas carols at Tops. Lydia has volunteered at the West Sparta youth group for Halloween parties and Old Fashioned Days. In the summer, she volunteers with the GETT Program (Girls Empowered through Technology). She reached out to businesses for donations and helped raise \$2,400 for Ann and Carl Myers Cancer Center at Noyes hospital and another \$4,000 through her efforts with Student Lighthouse. Lydia is treasurer of Student Council and was selected to go to Lake Placid for a statewide leadership conference. As president of the BFF Club (Best Friends Forever) she has helped children with challenging disabilities. Lydia has lent her beautiful singing voice to school musicals and talent Shows. She takes pleasure in helping others and the community is blessed to have her.

*Thomas Pearson, Chief, West Sparta Fire Department*

**Alexis Patterson** has been the perfect role model for the Dansville Ambulance Company Explorer group. The Explorer group is comprised of young men and women (age 14 to 21) who have an interest in fire service. Through

classroom and hands on drills, these explorers learn the fundamentals of fire-fighting including: fire suppression, search and rescue, hose line advancement, rapid gear dress techniques, vehicle extrication, ground ladders, hand tools and skills for Emergency Medical Service. They train alongside and under firefighters. The Explorers also take part in helping with public relations events, fire prevention and fundraising. The Explorer program helps train and mentor the next generation of volunteer and career firefighters. Alexis is a dedicated member attending meetings and trainings and helping out wherever she can. In school, she maintains high grades while playing sports, bowls on a youth league and helps others out any chance she gets. Lexi is kind to everyone she meets.

*Jamie Jone, Explorer Advisor, Dansville Ambulance Company*

## **York**

**Harley Kuhn** is a senior at York Central High School and a great role model to young students. She has been involved in the Project Elf Program where seniors are paired with kindergarten students. Harley enjoyed spending time reading and completing activities with her young student and even made her a special handmade blanket. She has spent numerous hours helping out at the East Avon Fire Department cleaning equipment and vehicles. Harley is a busy young lady but always finds time to help out in school and her community.

*William Mackenzie, Teacher, York Central High School*

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Tyler Westcott

## Photographer

Julie Barry

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