

*15th Annual
Youth Recognition
Banquet*



Presented by the
Genesee County
&
City of Batavia
Youth Boards

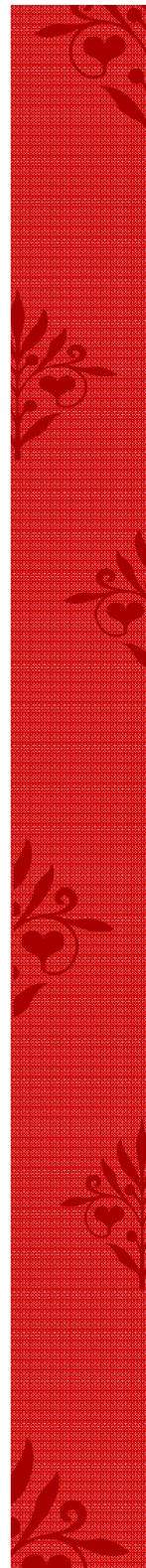
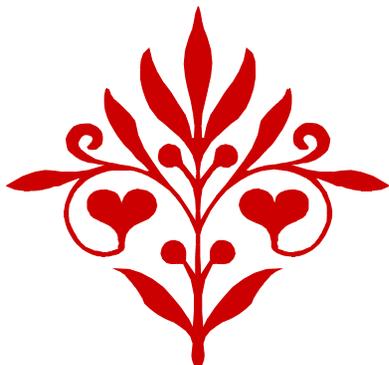


Wednesday, March 30, 2011

6:00 p.m.

Batavia Party House

Stafford, New York





2011 Recipients



Youth Recognition Awards

Cody Blakeman
 Taylor Bloom
 Jeremy Crawford
 Triton Drock
 Kelli Dumuhosky
 Kaitlin Emerson
 Joseph Falkowski
 Melissa Fite
 Patrick Guarino
 Jenna Hume
 Grace Judge
 Felicia Kennedy
 Joe Kurch
 Brian Laird
 Jon Laird
 Kaitlin Logsdon

Patrick Long
 Aubrey Maryniak
 Connor Nesbitt
 Ashley Oehler
 Jaden Ohlson
 Jamie Patnode
 Jessica Pcionek
 Zarina Supueva
 Paul Teresi
 Melissa Thater
 Kayla Underwood
 Keith Welch
 Eric Williams
 Erica Williams
 Tessa Williams

Adult Volunteer Award

Richard Ohlson

Adult Youth Worker Award

Julie Walsh

Business Appreciation Award

Tops Friendly Markets

2011 Genesee County Legislature

Mary Pat Hancock, Chair, District 4

Hollis Upson, Vice Chair, District 8

Raymond Cianfrini, District 1

Robert Bausch, District 2

Annie Lawrence, District 3

Jerome Grasso, District 5

Esther Leadley, District 6

Robert Radley, District 7

Edward DeJaneiro, District 9

2011 Batavia City Council

Marianne Clattenburg, President

Tim Buckley, President Pro-Tempore

Frank Ferrando, Councilperson-at-Large

William Cox, First Ward

Kathy Briggs, Fifth Ward

Sam Barone, Third Ward

Patti Pacino, Second Ward

Rose Mary Christian, Sixth Ward

Bob Bialkowski, Fourth Ward



Genesee County STOP-DWI

Genesee County has a STOP-DWI program that operates as a County Department. This department collects DWI conviction fine money from within the county and uses it to fund a diversity of programs all aimed at combating alcohol abuse and drinking and driving.

The Genesee County Youth Bureau has worked with the STOP/DWI Program for nearly 20 years providing public information and education programming for youth and the community at large.

We would like to thank the STOP-DWI Program for supporting this event.



Acknowledgments

2011 Genesee County Youth Board

Jay Lazarony, Job Development Bureau, **President**

Amy Barone, Batavia

Melissa Fite, Youth

Mike Fleming, Mental Health

Katherine Hens, LeRoy

Annie Lawrence, Legislative Liaison

Emily LeMaster, Youth

Patrick Long, Youth, **Secretary**

Ashley Oehler, Youth

Loren Penman, City of Batavia

Catherine Plaisted, Stafford

Laura Platt, Byron/Bergen, **Director**

Robert Riggi, Social Services

Dawn Rindell, Town of Batavia

Doug VanSlyke, Health

Paul Webster, Cornell Coop. Ext.

Kevin Wright, Probation, **Director**

Sandy Wojtaszczyk, Elba

2011 City of Batavia Youth Board

Dave Twichell, **President**

Sam Barone, **City Council Liaison**

Bill Cox, **City Council Liaison**

Colin Dentino

Andrew Fischer, Youth, **Vice President**

Paula Fischer, **Director**

Lisa Grice

Bev Hoy

Bonnie McJury

Joseph Mahler

Eric Mancuso, Youth

Miranda Moore, Youth, Ex-Officio

Diane Paine

Christopher Sputore, **Director**

Gail Stevens, **Secretary**

Program

Master of Ceremonies Jay Gsell
Genesee County Manager

Invocation Annie Lawrence
Genesee County Legislature

Dinner

Welcome Dave Twichell
Batavia Youth Board

Anniversary Reflection
Deborah Kerr-Rosenbeck
Genesee County Youth Bureau

Special Presentation Jason Molino
Batavia City Manager

Awards

Youth Recognition Awards

Presented by: Melissa Fite & Patrick Long, Genesee County Youth Board; Andrew Fischer, Miranda Moore & Eric Mancuso, Batavia Youth Board

Adult Volunteer Award

Presented by: Todd Crossett, Batavia Police Department

Adult Youth Worker Award

Presented by: Theresa Asmus, Planned Parenthood/
Rape Crisis Services

Business Appreciation Award

Presented by: Paula Fischer, Batavia Youth Bureau

Closing Frank Ciaccia

Asst. Genesee County Manager
Genesee County STOP-DWI

2011 Youth Recognition Awards

These awards are presented to youth who have demonstrated outstanding or extraordinary contributions to their communities or families.



Cody Blakeman, 17, from Batavia High School is the treasurer of All Types of People Living Chemically Free (ATOP), initiating, planning, and attending numerous events. What separates Cody is his commitment, follow-through, and willingness. He has often stepped into other officer roles when others were unavailable. Cody has volunteered at a day care center and is planning on doing work at a local nursing home. At school, he works in a self-contained classroom during his study halls, helping out with activities and just being available to his peers. Cody's compassion and energy has benefitted his peers and the community.

Parent(s): Annette Gimlin, Duane Blakeman

Nominator: Heidi Meides-Judge, Batavia Middle/High School



Taylor Bloom, 16, from Batavia High School has dedicated over five years to the Students United for Positive Action youth group. Through her involvement, she has helped with Sticker Shock, Pringle Park Clean Ups, and National Night Out. Taylor also volunteers at the Genesee County Nursing Home with the Batavia Youth Bureau and helps out when she visits the Youth Center. For the past two years, she has been a student advocate at the Youth Leadership Forum in Albany, discussing the importance of youth development with state legislators. Taylor is genuinely kind and respectful and is a great leader in our community.

Parent(s): Diana Bloom

Nominator: Lisa Barrett, GCASA



Jeremy Crawford, 17, from Oakfield-Alabama High School has been "buddy" volunteer with the YMCA Challenger Sports Program for three years. He attended a Disability Awareness and Sensitivity Issues training and applied what he learned to all his interactions. Jeremy attends each soccer session to help the athletes with techniques, team cooperation and game rules. More importantly, he has been a mentor and support to the participants. He has formed a special bond with several of the athletes. Jeremy displays inspiring dedication to Challenger Sports, encouraging his peers to volunteer for the program's different leagues and activities. He is a true asset to the community and is sure to have a bright future

Parent(s): Norm & Lynette Crawford

Nominator: Shelley Falitico, Genesee Co. ARC

GENESEE COUNTY YOUTH BUREAU

Established in 1971, the Youth Bureau provides quality prevention and intervention programs devoted to the welfare and protection of all youth ages 0-20 in Genesee County. Its mission is to

Promote positive youth development and youth participation

Develop local strategies that meet the needs of young people

Help plan and coordinate services for youth

Assess youth needs to determine funding priorities

Promote partnerships with agencies to provide comprehensive services

Provide funding to youth service agencies

Monitor and evaluate Youth Bureau funded programs to ensure quality services

Advocate for legislation, systems change, and funding to improve/assist the youth services system

The Youth Bureau and its Advisory Board are responsible for county-wide planning of youth services. Programs for counseling, leadership training, educational support, youth-at-risk, family support and leisure services are subsidized through population-based funding that is made available by the New York State Office of Children & Family Services (OCFS). Grants are awarded to programs that address a gap in service.

The Bureau provides oversight to municipal programs that receive a portion of the county's population-based state aid. Each of the nine municipalities support summer programs that provide structured and positive use of leisure time including skill development, increased social skills and self-esteem enhancement.

Currently the Bureau administers three major grant programs. AmeriCorps is a national service program. Members provide valuable benefit to a variety of agencies in Genesee County. Reality Check is the youth component of the NYS Tobacco Control Plan. Youth Court is a peer-based program that provides alternatives to the court system. Visit our website for more info on our funded programs at www.co.genesee.ny.us.

The Asset Approach to Youth Development

Many factors influence why some young people have successes in life and why others have a harder time. Research by the Search Institute has identified 40 concrete, positive experiences and qualities –"developmental assets"- that have a tremendous impact on the lives of young people. They are things that people from all walks of life can help to nurture.

Families, schools, neighborhoods, congregations, and all organization, institutions, and individuals in a community can play a role in building assets for youth. For more information about this initiative or to schedule a training session, contact the Genesee County Youth Bureau at 344-3960.

Genesee County Youth Bureau Staff

Deborah Kerr-Rosenbeck, Kathy Frank, Jocelyn Sikorski, Angela Barbeau

Jennifer Waldron, Tracy Ranney, Victoria Rippel

BATAVIA YOUTH BUREAU

The Batavia Youth Bureau is funded by the City of Batavia with partial reimbursement from the NYS Office of Children and Family Services. The purpose of the Youth Bureau is to plan and coordinate programs and activities for young people in the City of Batavia. The Youth Bureau conducts needs assessment to determine what programs and services should be offered to our young people. Youth are involved in this process through their participation on the Youth Board and the Youth Bureau's leadership group, Youth Volunteer Connection.

Youth Bureau staff are active on many community task forces, committees and advisory councils. Participation in these groups provides staff with networking opportunities and valuable data and information which is utilized for program planning. In order to increase and augment services offered to young people, the Youth Bureau works collaboratively with many human service agencies in Genesee County including the YWCA, YMCA, County Youth Bureau, Genesee Council on Alcoholism and Substance Abuse, Cooperative Extension, Genesee County ARC, and the Batavia School District.

In addition to youth advocacy, needs assessment and program planning, the Batavia Youth Bureau provides direct activities for youth. The Youth Center, which is an after school program, provides social, recreational, educational, cultural and leadership activities for young people. To expand on the educational component, a Neighborhood Technology Center has been added to the Center with sponsorship from Time Warner.

The City's Summer Recreation Program/Parks Program, which has been in existence since 1956, is coordinated through the Youth Bureau as well. This summer program provides youth with a structured recreational outlet to occupy their free time. The Youth Bureau also coordinates and participates in a number of community events such as Family Bingo, Safe Summer Children's Carnival, Genesee County Youth Conference and STOP-DWI Day, just to name a few.

In 2006, the Batavia Youth Bureau implemented *Youth Connection/Open Gym Program* in response to a need for more recreational activities for youth in the community. *Youth Connection/Open Gym* offers a variety of recreational, educational, and cultural opportunities for city youth, between the ages of 10 and 18 years of age, at Batavia Middle School, on Saturday afternoons, at no charge to the participants.

The Batavia Youth Bureau is dedicated to offering quality services, in a variety of areas to youth and families in the City of Batavia. The mission of the Youth Bureau is to promote the healthy development of youth in the City of Batavia through services, opportunities, and supports.

Batavia Youth Bureau Staff

Toni Funke, Youth Program Coordinator

Lydia Schauf, Youth Center Program Assistant

Candace Steele, Recreation Leader

Kaitlyn Wood, AmeriCorps Member

Triton Drock, 16, from Batavia High School became involved with the Batavia Youth Football League when it moved from Dwyer Stadium to Lions Park. He has gone to the park every Saturday for the last five years to help set up, work in the concession stand, help in the field, assist parents, and clean up at the end of the day. He saw a need and took the initiative to help without being asked. Triton's love of sports, dedication, respect and caring were clearly demonstrated by his actions.. He has become a major part of the organization and earned the respect of leaders and his peers. He really understands what community service means and he will hopefully continue his involvement .

Parent(s): Linda Drock

Nominator: Steve Grice, Batavia Youth Football

Kelli Dumuhosky, 13, from Batavia Middle School is an executive member of Adolescents Helping Each Other Avoid Drugs (AHEAD). As the group's treasurer she keeps track of funds and manages all of the paperwork. Beyond this, she has initiated, planned and attended countless events for her peers at the Middle School. For example, she charged herself with fundraising, tallying and distributing Red Ribbon Week t-shirts to all Middle School Students. AHEAD is one of Kelli's many activities. She maintains high grades and is involved in drama club, sports, softball and Girl Scouts. She often goes above and beyond the basic requirements for any activity in which she's involved and continually looks for more things to do. Kelli is an extraordinary young lady who is dedicated to her school and community.

Parent(s): Lisa Dumuhosky

Nominator: Heidi Meides-Judge, Batavia Middle/High School

Kaitlin Emerson, 14, from LeRoy Jr./Sr. High School works with children who come to the LeRoy Christian Community Project After School Program and has done so for the past two years. She currently helps in the homework and reading labs, encouraging the kids to find books and spend at least 15 minutes each day reading. She is always willing to assist with any task ranging from cleaning to sitting one-on-one with a student. Kaitlin really enjoys working with the program. She is at the After School Program each day, ready to give her time and talent to anyone who spends time at LCCP.

Parent(s): Melissa Emerson & Paul Montoya

Nominator: Susan Wakefield, LCCP

No
Photo
Available





Joseph Falkowski, 14 from St. Joseph School is an altar server for his church during the school year and over the summer. He has pride in the St. Joseph School community and personally works to enhance it. For example, each spring he plants flowers in all the planters and tends to them over the summer. Joseph has also served in a mentoring capacity for new students and others who have experienced challenges or set-backs in their lives. In any role he assumes, his peers look to him for leadership and assistance. His teachers know he is of good character and believe he is an excellent role model for younger students.

Parent(s): Joseph & Ryan Falkowski

Nominator: Karen Green, St. Joseph School



Melissa Fite, 16, from Batavia High School has made contributions to the community in many ways. As a member of the Genesee County Youth Board, she has helped develop and promote youth programs throughout the county and has advocated for youth development funding with state legislators in Albany. Missy has been especially active in her work with veterans, making greeting cards for troops in war zones and planning the distribution of food to over 100 needy veterans. Other projects she has been involved with include Family Game Night, MLK Day of Service, an indoor garden at the Senior Center and several Youth Town Meetings that attempt to reshape our community and enrich the lives of young people in Genesee County. In any setting, Missy particularly stands out because of her strength and willingness to help other youth. She has authentic concern for her peers and tries to overcome obstacles for young people through her actions.

Parent(s): Jacqueline Fite

Nominator: Jay Lazarony, Job Development Bureau



Patrick Guarino, 17, from Alexander High School is involved with his church, Boy Scouts, school and community. He has volunteered for various events in Alexander, such as the Firemen's Carnival by parking vehicles, cleaning the grounds and working concession. Patrick also serves as an altar server at his church and helps out at the annual church lawn fete. He and his family have worked with Meal-On-Wheels and soup kitchens during the holidays. Through Boys Scouts, he's been involved with various projects for veterans and nursing home residents. Beyond these things, he is a member of band and chorus, various school clubs, National Honor Society and is on the cross country, swim and track teams.

Parent(s): Richard & Colette Guarino

Nominator: Steve Dedoszak, Alexander HS

2011 Adult Youth Worker Award

This award is presented to a youth-serving paid professional whose work exceeds expectations.

Julie Walsh has an amazing gift for working with children and teens who have undergone trauma. She is often the calm in the stormy lives of the children she helps. When Julie began at the Justice for Children Advocacy Center, she recognized the unmet need for a teen support group for those who had been sexually abused and decided to work with Rape Crisis Services. Her nominator, Theresa Asmus, has co-facilitated several of these now up-and-running support groups in Genesee County.

Julie's dedication goes beyond the direct contact she has with young people. She is also very skilled at empowering parents to be the support system their children need in the wake of victimization. Her peaceful demeanor often calms even the most distraught parent, increasing the chance that the support children receive from her office follows them back home. Julie is also very adept at guiding other professionals as they assist children in abuse cases. She inspires many people and she is incredibly deserving of this recognition.

Nominator: Theresa Asmus, Rape Crisis Services

2011 Business Appreciation Award

This award is presented to a business that supports the Youth Bureaus & youth development.



Tops Friendly Markets has been supporting youth programming for years. The store accepts placements for Job Development Bureau's Summer Youth Employment Program. Tops supervisors have been excellent at evaluating the youth and providing valuable feedback about their attendance, punctuality, job performance, attitude, relationship with co-workers, initiative, and general appearance. By providing this information, Tops gave the youth instant feedback as to the areas that needed improvement and the areas that they were doing well in. Many times, these placements become regular part-time jobs.

The store also assists with many projects throughout the year. During the holidays they have permitted STOP-DWI to hand out alcohol-free punch recipes and samples and have allowed our Students Against Destructive Decision Council hang the Chain of Life, a physical representation of the commitment from Genesee County youth to remain substance-free. Both Youth Bureaus have also received gift card donations to help offset youth and family event costs, something that is vital to them during these difficult fiscal times.

The Genesee County and Batavia Youth Bureaus would not be as successful if it was not for the generous donations and partnerships of local businesses like Tops.



Tessa Williams, 17, from Batavia High School has been an involved member in Students United for Positive Action for the past five years. Through SUPA Tessa has volunteered her time for such programs as “Sticker Shock” in which students combat underage drinking. Tessa has also participated in service events hosted by SUPA such as clean ups at Pringle Park. She has also committed time at the Genesee County Nursing Home through the Batavia Youth Bureau. Tessa has always been a willing and able volunteer whether the activity is pumpkin carving, cookie decorating or BINGO. Tessa has always been a favorite with the residents. She has also been a representative for the Youth Bureau at the New York State Youth Leadership Forum in Albany, attending workshops and speaking directly to our State Representatives regarding continued funding to youth programs. Tessa is also a member of her school track team. She has shown great leadership in her school and in the community.

Parent(s): Jeneve Reeves
Nominator: Lisa Barrett, GCASA

Jenna Hume, 17, from Batavia High School has served as “buddy” and coach in Challenger Baseball, Tennis and Soccer since 2007. While working with kids of varying physical and developmental challenges, she has embraced the opportunity of meeting each athlete’s individual needs in order for them to participate in practices, games, and special events. Jenna always takes on a wide range of tasks and roles to support the program. Although she is only required to stay for part of the program, she is often the first to arrive and the last to leave. Jenna serves the children and their families with an open mind and full heart. Through her work, she has developed strong relationships and is a tremendous role model for even the adults who help with the Challenger Sports Programs.

Parent(s): Roger & Mary Jo Hume
Nominator: Wess Audsley, GLOW YMCA



Grace Judge, 13, from Batavia Middle School is an active participant of Adolescents Helping Each Other Avoid Drugs (AHEAD). She has helped plan and implement several events for her peers. She has a strong commitment to the group and tries to be a role model for others, whether it means being “cool” or not. Recently she took part in developing an anti-bullying commercial with GCASA that will be aired on cable television. Grace also serves as an 8th grade mentor, assisting 6th graders with their adjustment to middle school. She has attended several trainings and activities in this role. Grace maintains strong grades and is in many other after-school activities such as math team and Beauty Shop Chorus.

Parent(s): Denise Judge
Nominator: Maureen Notaro & Heidi Meides-Judge, BMS

No
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 Available

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2011 Adult Volunteer Award

This award is presented to an adult volunteer who is a positive role model for young people.

Richard Ohlson has used his personal ups and downs in order to help others who have gone through similar situations. After fighting to overcome drug addiction, he and his son Jaden started Ride to Recover, a group in our community to assist others who are dealing with addiction. At first, Richard worked specifically with the individuals who were struggling with their problems, getting them to fix bicycles and take mountain bike rides. Over the years, though, this program has evolved to aid the young people who come from these difficult families.

When the kids enter the program, they often have many issues. Richard never gives up on a single one of them. Although he has a very long work-week, he will go without sleep if it means taking kids out biking and offering them some time to just be kids. Richard has also started a weeklong camp where he can have more uninterrupted time to help each young person work through his or her obstacles. These activities are available for everyone, even if they cannot contribute monetarily. Richard gives 110% of himself to everyone he works with and understands the importance of providing youth with opportunities to overcome their difficult situations.



Felicia Kennedy, 16, from Byron-Bergen High School is a member of Students United for Positive Action and is one of its most dedicated young people. She faithfully attends every meeting and has volunteered over 100 hours in her two years participating in such activities as Sticker Shock and Project 365. Felicia has also helped with GCASA-sponsored events such as Pizza Gobble and National Night Out. Additionally, she is an active member of her school’s Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) group and Assembly of God Youth Group. Her positive attitude and sheer kindness towards others make her a wonderful asset to Genesee County.

Parent(s):
Nominator: Lisa Barrett, GCASA





Joe Kurch, 17, from Pembroke High School demonstrates self-motivation and enthusiasm through his involvement in school and community activities. He volunteers at the Darien Fire Department and two local farms. Joe has also joined Shooters Committee on Political Education, traveling to Albany to speak with elected officials about the importance of political education for environmental issues. He puts his family first and is an active member of their church. His very busy schedule includes the Pembroke wrestling team as well as hunting and fishing with his father. Sometimes he even helps his dad on construction jobs that help support his family. He is indeed a remarkable student.

Parent(s): David & Katherine Kurch
Nominator: Toby Beahan & Sherry Grande, Pembroke HS



Brian Laird, 16, from Batavia High School volunteers time with several different community organizations. He frequents the Genesee County Nursing Home with the Batavia Youth Bureau for pumpkin carving and cookie decorating with the residents. Brian is also a member of Students United for Positive Action through which he has done park clean-ups and volunteered at the GCASA Pizza Gobble. He also participates in the youth group at the Assembly of God church. No matter what Brian is working on, he is always respectful and has a positive attitude. He is a great youth leader in our community.

Parent(s): Gina Laird
Nominator: Lisa Barrett, GCASA



Jon Laird, 17, from Batavia High School often lends a helping hand at the Batavia Youth Center. During the winter, he sometimes shovels snow, and he assists Youth Bureau staff load and unload supplies for the center. Jon also goes regularly to the Genesee County Nursing Home with his peers to play BINGO with residents and help with other holiday activities. As a member of Students United for Positive Action, he has volunteered over 200 hours. He has proven to be a natural leader, working on projects like Sticker Shock and various park clean-ups. Jon remains involved in his church's youth group and is a part of the Batavia cross-country and track teams.

Parent(s): Carla Laird
Nominator: Lisa Barrett, GCASA

Keith Welch, 16, from Batavia High School volunteers much of his free time to the Batavia Youth Bureau and Students United for Positive Action. He shows great leadership potential in many activities. Keith has given time to visit seniors at the Genesee County Nursing home, decorating cookies and carving pumpkins. He has also been involved in projects like the GCASA Pizza Gobble and various park clean-ups. Keith is also an active member of the Assembly of God Youth Group, through which he participates in many other activities. At school, he is a member of National Honor Society and the Batavia soccer team. His positive attitude and dedication makes him an outstanding member of our community.

Parent(s): Gina Laird
Nominator: Lisa Barrett, GCASA

Eric Williams, 16, from Batavia High School has his hand in just about everything; he is a member of Students United for Positive Action through GCASA'S Drug Free Community Coalition. He has helped them with such projects as the clean ups at Pringle Park and their campaign called "Sticker Shock". He is also an avid volunteer for the Batavia Youth Bureau working with the elderly at the Genesee County Nursing Home, carving pumpkins or calling for BINGO. Eric is a member of the Batavia Track Team and just represented his school at the State Qualifier for indoor track with his sister. Additionally Eric has been a member of the school chorus and the Link Crew, helping in-coming Freshmen become acclimated to their new school. Eric possesses many leadership qualities and we can look forward to a bright future from this young man.

Parent(s): Jeneve Reeves
Nominator: Lisa Barrett, GCASA

Erica Williams, 16, from Batavia High School is a member of Students United for Positive Action through GCASA'S Drug Free Community Coalition. Erica has volunteered her time for such activities as the group's "Sticker Shock" campaign and Pringle Park clean up. Erica has also been faithfully involved at the Batavia Youth Bureau. She has committed herself to service projects at the Genesee County Nursing Home assisting the residents with BINGO, crafts and other activities. She has also been willing to pitch in when and where she is needed at the Youth Center, from collecting trash to volunteering for National Night Out. Erica is also very active in both indoor and outdoor track. She represented her school at the State Qualifier. Erica has great potential to become a great leader in this community.

Parent(s): Jeneve Reeves
Nominator: Lisa Barrett, GCASA





Paul Teresi, 17, from Oakfield-Alabama High School has been a volunteer for the Michael Napoleone Memorial Foundation (MNMF) for three years, helping with major activities such as the Memorial Baseball Tournament and Pediatric Cancer Awareness Day. Paul is also the President of Genesee Countywide SADD and his school's SADD group. He has helped organize several fundraisers, presented positive decision-making workshops, and raised money and goods for the Salvation Army. Annually, he visits Albany to advocate for youth programming with our state officials. Paul continually volunteers for the several Youth Bureau activities throughout the year, fitting them into his busy school and work life. He is a great asset to Genesee County.

Parent(s): Joe & Mary Beth Teresi

Nominators: Laurie Napoleone, MNMF & Angela Barbeau, Genesee Co. Youth Bureau



Melissa Thater, 17, from Pavilion High School has used her leadership skills to help younger 4-H members and perform many service projects through the program. She is involved in many of the 4-H programs, including Genesee County Goat Gang, Junior Master Gardener, and the Tractor and Farm Machinery Safety Certification Program. Melissa is best known for her Entomology Project which is recognized in a fair world as being of the highest quality. Her passion and drive for precision is evident in all her projects. Youth and adults seek her advice, and she is always willing to help anyone who asks. Melissa shows a high level of maturity for a young person and she demonstrates this especially through her inclusion of all her peers.

Parent(s): Doug & Meg Thater

Nominator: Paul Webster, Cornell Cooperative Extension

Kayla Underwood, 15, from Pembroke Jr./Sr. High School works with her family to raise awareness about cancer and help people whose lives have been affected by it. She participated in "Bald for Bucks" to raise money. Kayla was part of an effort through Key Club that raised over \$8,000 for cancer research. She has volunteered at Millard Fillmore Suburban Hospital during the summer. During the autumn and winter, Kayla and her peers travel around the community, raking leaves, gift wrapping, and shoveling snow. She is genuinely giving and is very deserving of this recognition for her high character and selflessness.

Parent(s): Thomas & Sue Underwood

Nominator: Toby Beahan & Sherry Grande, Pembroke HS



Kaitlin Logsdon, 16, from Batavia High School is involved with many extracurricular activities but still finds time to volunteer with the Michael Napoleone Memorial Foundation (MNMF). She has played a role by not only by volunteering but also recruiting a number of her peers to also help with events and fundraising. She maintains a list of people whom she contacts to ensure all activities are adequately staffed. Kaitlin has worked tirelessly at the Foundation's major fundraisers including the New Year's Eve event, Pediatric Cancer Awareness Day and the Memorial Baseball Tournament. Whether it is setting up, running a concession stand, or face-painting, Kaitlin is ready to dedicate her time to any task.

Parent(s): James & Seana Logsdon

Nominator: Laurie Napoleone, MNMF



Patrick Long, 17, from Oakfield-Alabama High School completes community service at several events and activities. He is a vocal member of the Genesee County Youth Board. As a member of the board, he traveled to Albany to advocate for youth programming with our Senator and Assemblymen to ensure the young people in their constituency had a voice. Patrick also makes holiday cards for soldiers and assisted with a food giveaway for veterans. Beyond this, he volunteers for other things like Family Game Night and Youth Town Meetings. At the Career Center he can often be found helping the staff to move supplies in and out of the office. He represents his peers well.

Parent(s): Rosemary Long (Grandmother)

Nominator: Jay Lazarony, Job Development Bureau



Aubrey Maryniak, 14, from Batavia Middle School has been introduced to many service opportunities through Girl Scouts. Her troop created greeting cards for patients and thank you cards for patients and nurses of HomeCare and Hospice. She also sanitized and rejuvenated used toys and books to be distributed through the Supervised Visits Program with other members of the Emmanuel Baptist Church. Aubrey has also worked at hot dog sales and car washes in order to raise money for a youth group mission trip in the summer of 2011. At school, she has been a mentor to 6th graders helping them transition to middle school life as part of the BMS "Connect" Program. The sixth graders she works with as well as her other peers have an wonderful example in Aubrey.

Parent(s): James & Barbara Maryniak

Nominator: Maureen Notaro, Batavia Middle School





Connor Nesbitt, 14, from Byron-Bergen Central School began his volunteer efforts as a toddler. He started out just holding doors open for the elderly at church and escorting people in and out of the elevator, but he has since become a very active member of the Byron Presbyterian Church. Connor has visited the Ronald McDonald House several times with his youth group to prepare meals, and he also helps out at the church's annual turkey dinner. Throughout the year he has also helped with up-keep of the church grounds. Connor raised cows and has participated in 4-H. He volunteer with his cattle at the Genesee County Museum and is a member of the Holstein Club. Connor was truly born with a giving spirit.

Parent(s): Tom & Melanie Nesbitt
Nominator: Laura Platt



Ashley Oehler, 16, from Batavia High School is a member of the Genesee County Youth Board where she puts her leadership skills to work, helping make funding decision for local youth programs. She has also been involved in making cards for military personnel throughout the US and overseas. Her enthusiasm for this project would inspire anyone to help out. In addition to card-making, she also participates in Youth Town Meetings, Family Game Night, making flower pots for seniors, and helping maintain a vegetable garden at the Senior Center in Batavia. Her participation makes her someone for other young people to follow.

Parent(s): Jessica Costley
Nominator: Jay Lazarony, Job Development Bureau



Jaden Ohlson, 16, from Oakfield-Alabama High School started Ride to Recovery with his father, Richard. This group was created to help people recovering from drug addiction. Jaden specifically works with his peers who come from families in difficult situations, making sure they always have someone to talk to because he can relate to them. Jaden and Richard implemented a week-long camp. Jaden gives his time to ensure all the attendees have a great experience and can forget about their troubles for awhile. He tries to help his peers because he knows that they can overcome their obstacles and excel in life. In addition to helping his dad, he is active in Royal Rangers, a Christian boy scouting group, and various school activities. Jaden knows that helping one person can mean reaching an entire family.

Parent(s): Richard & Jessica Ohlson
Nominator: Todd Crossett, Batavia Police Department

Jamie Patnode, 18, from Batavia High School is the vice president of All Types of People Living Chemically Free (ATOP) and a youth member of the Drug-Free Communities Coalition. She has worked on and attended many events with both groups. She frequently identifies tasks that need to be done or provides suggestions for improvement to programs, events, or activities. Jamie has taken a prominent stand against tobacco, drug, and alcohol use, helping set the school's zero-tolerance standard toward the behavior. Her sense of humor, persistence and ability to relate to people from diverse backgrounds gives her the makings of a strong leader.

Parent(s): Paula Price
Nominator: Heidi Meides-Judge, Batavia Middle/High Schools

Jessica Pcionek, 17, from Elba Central School readily volunteers for school and community activities. As a leader in Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD), she has coordinated food drives, drug and alcohol awareness during Red Ribbon Week, and organized a lock-in at the high school. She represents Elba on the Countywide SADD Council. Through National Honor Society she raised money for the Make a Wish Foundation and assisted with Operation Christmas Child and the Down Syndrome Support Group auction. An avid dancer, Jessica helps teach special needs children as well as other younger dancers. She is also a member of Library Club, Spirit Club, Chorus Club, Drama Club, and Friends of Rachel. Not only has she been an officer for all of these groups, she has been class treasurer and choreographs all the school musicals. Jessica puts in hundreds of hours each year for all of these activities. It would take several students to accomplish all that she has during her high school career!

Parent(s): Jim & Joyce Pcionek
Nominator: Kelly Carlie, Elba Central School

Zarina Supueva is a foreign exchange student at LeRoy High School. Even though getting used to an American high school is a struggle by itself, Zarina has found time to volunteer with the LeRoy Christian Community Project (LCCP). Every school day, she works with young students one-on-one to assist them with homework and prepare for quizzes, tests, and projects. Zarina is always encouraging them to do their best. She also cleans and helps in the reading room. Zarina is always ready to give her time and talent for the children.

Parent(s): Coley & Valerie Webb (Host Parents)
Nominator: Susan Wakefield, LCCP



No
 Photo
 Available