



*14th Annual  
Youth Recognition  
Banquet*

Presented by the  
**Genesee County  
&  
City of Batavia  
Youth Boards**

Tuesday, March 23, 2010

6:00 p.m.

Bohn's Restaurant & Lounge

Batavia, New York



# Honoring the 2010 Recipients



## Youth Recognition Awards

Matthew Boyle	Breanna Hurlbut
Philip Casper	Kimberly Hyback
Karleigh Chatt	Teiona Kemp
Sydney Chester	Brandon Kohorst
Breanna Clark	Jennifer Lichtenthal
Anna Dembowski	Hannah Miller
Conlan Edwards	Alexandra Mruczek
Audrey Foppes	Michelle Nanni
Matthew Gabriele	Chelsie Pangrazio
Savannah Gill	Ryan Seward
Chantal Hickman	Jonathan Wolcott
Shamiqua Hickman	Helen Zickl
Gregory Houseknecht	

## Adult Volunteer Award

Denise Chatt  
Laurie Napoleone

## Adult Youth Worker Award

Jay Lazarony

## Business Appreciation Award

USTA Eastern/Western Region

## AmeriCorps Spirit of Service Award

Kellie Fairchild

## 2010 Genesee County Legislature

Mary Pat Hancock, Chair, District 4

Hollis Upson, Vice Chair, District 8

Raymond Cianfrini, District 1

Charles Zambito, District 2

Annie Lawrence, District 3

Jerome Grasso, District 5

Esther Leadley, District 6

Robert Radley, District 7

Edward DeJaneiro, District 9

## 2010 Batavia City Council

Marianne Clattenburg, President

Tim Buckley, Councilperson-at-Large

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

## Acknowledgments

### 2010 Genesee County Youth Board

Carrie DiFrancesco, President, City of Batavia

Annie Lawrence, Legislative Liason

Loren Penman, City of Batavia

Dawn Stiles Rindell, Town of Batavia

Laura Platt, Byron/Bergen

Sandy Wojtaszczyk, Elba

Katherine Hens, LeRoy

Emily LeMaster, Youth

Melissa Fite, Youth

Ashley Oehler, Youth

Jay Lazarony, Job Development

Robert Riggi, Social Services

Mike Flemming, Mental Health

Kevin Wright, Probation

Linda Van Linder, Health Dpt.

### 2010 City of Batavia Youth Board

Dave Twichell, President

Phil Ricci, Vice President

Paula Fischer, Director

Bonnie Mc Jury, Secretary

Sam Barone, City Council Liason

William Cox, City Council Liason

Eric Mancuso, Youth

Angel Ramos, Youth

Joseph Mahler

Amy Barone

Jeff Bartz

Maria Mallow

Diane Paine

## Program

**Master of Ceremonies** Dave Twichell  
Batavia Youth Board

**Welcome** Jay Lazarony  
Genesee County Youth Board

**Special Acknowledgements**  
Frank Ciaccia  
Genesee County STOP-DWI

**Invocation** Jeff Bartz  
Batavia Youth Board

### Dinner

### Special Presentation for Patricia Dieck

Patrick Burk  
Former Batavia Youth Board President

### Awards

#### Youth Recognition Awards

Presented by: Eric Mancuso & Daphne Paine, Batavia Youth Board;  
Emily LeMaster, Ashley Oehler & Missy Fite, Genesee Co. Youth  
Board

#### Adult Volunteer Awards

Presented by: Barbara Sturm, Genesee Co. CCE; Linda Conroy

#### Adult Youth Worker Award

Presented by: Scott Gage & Kathleen Sullivan, Genesee Co. Job  
Development

#### Business Appreciation Award

Presented by: Toni Funke, Batavia Youth Bureau

#### AmeriCorps Spirit of Service Award

Presented by: Kathy Frank, Genesee County Youth Bureau

### Closing

Annie Lawrence  
Genesee County Legislature

# 2010 Youth Recognition Awards

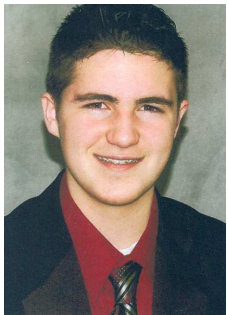
*These awards are presented to youth who have demonstrated outstanding or extraordinary contributions to their communities or families.*



**Matthew Boyle**, 13, from Batavia Middle School has a love of wrestling and enjoys teaching it to younger children. He gives three hours of his time each week to help out with the Batavia Little Devils wrestling group. Matt believes it is important to teach proper wrestling moves and techniques to avoid injury. He is also eager to offer a kind word and focus on the positive aspects of each child, building their self-confidence. In addition to wrestling, he has helped raise money for Batavia Youth Football and is an altar server at his church. Matt is an exceptional student who takes two high school-level courses and plays the saxophone.

**Parent(s): Kelly & Julie Boyle**

**Nominator: Bernadette Krumpek, Batavia Middle School**



**Phil Casper**, 16, from Elba High School is a member of Genesee County Youth Court, a program through which young people who commit transgressions in school or the community go before a group of their peers to receive a fit consequence for their actions. Phil attended a multi-week training and serves in various positions on the court, such as judge and defense. He has volunteered to hear over 20 cases since his swearing-in and has helped interview potential new members. He most recently attended a Youth Leadership Forum to speak to state legislators about youth issues and programs and will also be achieving his Eagle Scout ranking.

**Parent(s): Jay & Maria Casper**

**Nominator: Jocelyn Sikorski, Genesee Co. Youth Bureau**



**Karleigh Chatt**, 18, from Batavia High School has participated in 4-H for 10 years. She serves as a teen leader in the Mystic Riders Horse and Shaggy Paws Dog Clubs and as a teen representative for the NYS Region 2 Horse Education Committee. Karleigh's leadership skills have also helped her plan and participate in Produced in NYS Contest, photography, food/nutrition, and community service. This year, she's serving on the planning committee for the NYS Teen Action Rep Retreat where teens build leadership skills through team building, youth community action, and adult partnerships. Karleigh has been a strong example of the essential elements of 4-H and role model to all those who participate in 4-H activities.

**Parent(s): Denise Chatt**

**Nominator: Barbara Sturm, Cornell Cooperative Extension**

## 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](http://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, Lauren Paluta, Kelsey Wolcott

## 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 Batavia. The Youth Bureau conducts needs assessment in the community 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 computer lab has been added to the Center with sponsorship from Time Warner.

The City's Summer Recreation 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 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* in response to a need for more recreational activities for youth in the community. *Youth Connection* offers a variety of recreational, educational, and cultural opportunities for city youth, between the ages of 10 and 18 years at no charge at Batavia Middle School. In 2008-09, the County Youth Bureau staff assisted with supervision of this program.

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, Interim Executive Director

Lisa Barrett, Recreation Specialist

Cassie Westphal, Recreation Leader

Candace Steele, Recreation Leader

Jessica Gary, AmeriCorps VISTA Member

Anna Tatro, Genesee Co. AmeriCorps Member

**Sydney Chester**, 13, from LeRoy Central School has served as a volunteer at LeRoy Christian Community Project (LCCP) for two years. Sydney works with the boys group, encouraging them as they work on homework, playing games with them, and providing them with a listening ear and a helping hand. Her dedication is obvious to those with whom she works. Every day, she is the first volunteer to arrive, and she is always excited and willing to help with anything that needs to be done. Her excellent service and care for the children and community continues to make a difference in the lives of those who know her.

**Parent(s): John & Glenna Chester**

**Nominator: Susan Wakefield, LeRoy Christian Community Project**



**Breanna Clark**, 13, from Batavia Middle School is the type of student who always gives 100%. She donates 2 ½ hours each Thursday to participate in various community service activities with her Girl Scout troop. Breanna is also a member of Youth Court, a program through which young people who commit transgressions in school or the community go before a group of their peers to receive a fit consequence for their actions. She has completed her training and began working with students who come before the Court in need of disciplinary action after being referred from school or law enforcement. At school, she helps run the Tonawanda Valley Federal Credit Union and is a mentor to 6<sup>th</sup> graders transitioning into the middle school. Breanna always looks for ways to help and inspire others.

**Parent(s): Tammy Clark**

**Nominator: Bernadette Krumpek, Batavia Middle School**



**Anna Dembowski**, 15, from Alexander High School is involved in a variety of activities at school and in the community. At school she participates in drama and band, helping set up for concerts and raising money for both groups. She also works for the Tonawanda Valley Federal Credit Union branch at Alexander and assists with book fairs. As a part of Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD), Anna has volunteered for blood drives and gives time as a babysitter on evenings when the group provides child care. For her church congregation, Anna has spent countless hours working in the nursery, helping with praise band, Pie and Praise, and Youth Sunday. This past summer, she set up for and helped with vacation bible school. Anna is very generous with her time.

**Parent(s): Mr. & Mrs. Gregory Dembowski**

**Nominator: Steve Dedoszak, Alexander Central School**







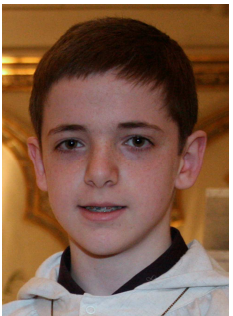
**Conlan Edwards**, 16, from Notre Dame High School is a well-rounded young man who manages to balance a variety of volunteer activities, three sports, Civil Air Patrol, Scholastic Bowl, Mock Trial, Science Club, and the school newspaper. For the past two years, Conlan has taught Red Cross swim lessons. He is also involved with theater, working as a crew member for Batavia Musical Society, Westside Productions, WNY Arts Society, and Encore Theatre Group. Conlan has spent a great deal of time training to become a member of the Civil Air Patrol search and rescue team. In addition to all these activities, Conlan maintains high honors in his challenging course load.

**Parent(s): Dr. & Mrs. Richard Edwards**  
**Nominator: Kate Scanlan, Notre Dame High School**



**Audrey Foppes**, 16, from Oakfield-Alabama High School always finds time to give back to her school and community. Over the summer, Audrey helped plan the Student Council 6<sup>th</sup> grade orientation to help students make the transition into middle school. As the assistant art director for drama productions she helps younger students develop their creative skills. She also leads discussions and team building with a middle schools girls' group. Her other activities include serving on the annual Christmas in the Village committee, planning a community luncheon and dialogue about bridging the gap between school and community, and implementing a computer class during which teens teach adults how to use Facebook and Microsoft Word. She's had a tremendous impact on her school and community .

**Parent(s): Peter & Janet Foppes**  
**Nominator: Tracy Schlagenhauf, Oakfield-Alabama Central School**



**Matthew Gabriele**, 13, from Batavia Middle School consistently demonstrates good character and outstanding academic achievement. He volunteers at Cain's Tae Kwon Do Academy three days a week. His dedication and love of children and Tae Kwon Do can be seen through the hard work and commitment he puts forth while at Cain's. Matt believes that he and the Academy can help younger students develop focus, respect, and self-control. Additionally, Matt often rakes leaves and shovels snow for neighbors who struggle with these tasks in the neighborhood.

**Parent(s): Fred & Kateri Gabriele**  
**Nominator: Bernadette Krumpek, Batavia Middle School**

## 2010 AmeriCorps Spirit of Service Award

*This award is presented to an AmeriCorps member who has performed exemplary service on his/her host site, our program, and the community.*



AmeriCorps is a program of the Corporation for National and Community Service. The Corporation's mission is to improve lives, strengthen communities and foster civic engagement through service and volunteering. Genesee County AmeriCorps brings this commitment to our area. During the first five years of our program, 154 members have served a total of 190 terms at 45 different agencies. Thirty-seven are currently enrolled in the program. Members earn modest living allowances while serving and receive a Segal Education Award Grant to help pay college costs or repay qualified student loans.

Each year one of our AmeriCorps members will be chosen for this honor. This year's recipient is **Kellie Fairchild**. Kellie is currently completing her second term of service at the LeRoy Christian Community Project, during which she will perform at least 900 hours of service over a one-year period. She works with the After School program, Teen Drop-in Center and Summer Day Camp. Kellie organized, planned and implemented the Summer Day Camp program almost from scratch. Along with other AmeriCorps members recruited for summer, she designed activities and events that made day camp a wonderful place for the young people who attended.

Kellie interacts with both elementary-age children and teen volunteers in the After School program. She shows the children that she cares while at the same time setting boundaries. Kellie is a mentor, a great listener and always enthusiastic. As her nominator said "The youth flock to Kellie because they know she cares for them and wants to see them happy and healthy."

Kellie is dedicated to the youth in the program and her community. She has made a real difference through her service.



## 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.

## 2010 Business Appreciation Award

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



**USTA Eastern** is a not-for-profit community service organization whose mission is to promote and develop the growth of tennis. Eastern is one of 17 geographic sections of the United States Tennis Association, the governing body of tennis in the United States. USTA Eastern boasts over 48,000 members throughout all of New York, Northern New Jersey and Greenwich, Connecticut.

Focused on "The Big Six," USTA Eastern is working to enhance the benefits to and increase the number of Adult League players, Jr. Team Tennis players, Individual and Organizational memberships, Sanctioned Tournament participants, and Volunteers. From the competition and friendship in your local area to the glamour and stars of the US Open, at USTA Eastern tennis is more than a game...it's a lifestyle. The Western Region of USTA is one of six regions that make up the Eastern Section, which spans from Onondaga up to the St. Lawrence River and back down to the Pennsylvania State line, with Genesee County sandwiched somewhere in between.

We are represented by Joe Steger, Tennis Service Representative and Maria Lirio, Tennis Program Specialist. These two individuals have provided both the City of Batavia and the Genesee County Youth Bureaus with an overwhelming amount of guidance and support over the years. They are responsible for assisting the Youth Bureaus in gaining thousands of dollars in financial support for local tennis programs. They have encouraged and have assisted both Youth Bureaus in not only applying for local and regional funding, but also grants on the national level.

The successful expansion of our tennis programming in the City of Batavia as well as Genesee County is attributable to the assistance and leadership provided to our organizations by USTA Eastern Western Region, more specifically, Joe Steger and Maria Lirio.

**Savannah Gill**, 13, from LeRoy Central School has been volunteering her time with the LeRoy Christian Community Project (LCCP) for the past two years. She works with small groups of children, helping them with homework, playing games, and doing arts and crafts. Savannah is a mentor to all the children. No matter what some of the young children need, whether it is a listener, advisor, or just a playmate, she is there for them. She listens to their problems, gives advice about situations going on at school or home. Savannah has been a great asset to the program and is a true example to the children in the program.

**Parent(s): Mary Gill**

**Nominator: Susan Wakefield, LeRoy Christian Community Project**



*Photo  
Unavailable*

**Chantal & Shamiqa Hickman**, 15 & 14, from Batavia High School were actively involved in Adolescents Helping Each Other Avoid Drugs (AHEAD) in middle school and now participate in All Types of People Living Chemically Free (ATOP). What makes the two girls stand out from other group members is their commitment, follow-through, and willingness to do whatever it takes to fulfill any given task. During the GCASA Red Ribbon Week Walk, 20 students had signed up, but Chantal & Shamiqa were the only two who showed up because of the inclement weather. They still walked down Main Street because they made the commitment to do so. ATOP also planned various activities at school during Red Ribbon Week. Both girls stayed after school to complete the remaining jobs. Although they are only underclassmen, Chantal & Shamiqa have shown such significant dedication that they've been chosen to represent Batavia on the Genesee Countywide Students Against Destructive Decisions Council. This group consists of representatives from each school in the County and plans activities, educational events, and service projects for all county youth. Neither girl has asked for or expected anything for their work and devotion. They are two teenagers who have gone above and beyond for their peers.

**Parent(s): Brandie Brown**

**Nominator: Heidi Meides-Judge, Batavia High School**

*Photo  
Unavailable*





**Gregory Houseknecht**, 18, from Batavia High School has been a tremendous help to his mother over the last several months. Greg has had to take on a great deal of responsibility in the house because his mother has been ill. He helps her with shopping, dishes, laundry, and other household tasks. Recently, Greg's mom mentioned that she wanted to have the kitchen repainted and decorated. Without her even asking, Greg got some of his friends together to give the kitchen a facelift. They scrubbed out the cupboards, cleaned, and repainted. Greg's mom is in high spirits, undoubtedly because of the contributions he's made to the family.

**Parent(s): Suzanne Smith**

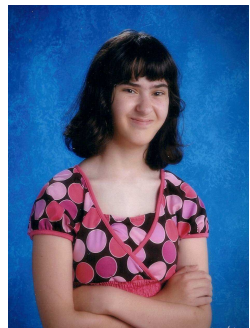
**Nominator: Cathy Hoytink, Batavia High School**



Breanna Hurlbut, 14, from Batavia Middle School volunteers much of her time at Grace Baptist Church. She works twice a month in the nursery supervising young children while the adults are at service. Occasionally Breanna operates the sound equipment at church and helps decorate for holidays and other special occasions. Through her involvement with the church youth group, she shovels snow and rakes leaves several times throughout the season for various community members. Breanna is also an 8<sup>th</sup> grade mentor, assisting 6<sup>th</sup> graders who have transitioned into the middle school with various struggles they face, from homework to social problems. She really takes the time to get to know the 6<sup>th</sup> graders in an attempt to make them feel more welcomed. Breanna is a dedicated student with a big heart.

**Parent(s): Mark & Doris Hurlbut**

**Nominator: Bernadette Krumpek, Batavia Middle School**



**Kimberly Hyback**, 14, from Batavia Middle School has demonstrated volunteerism in several ways. She helps the Salvation Army raise money during the holiday season for their Red Kettle Campaign and collects food for local pantries and toys for children in the community who may not get any presents during the holidays. Kimberly also performs many volunteer tasks with her church. Kimberly is always one of the first students who assists her peers when they may be having a difficult day. She's an outstanding young lady and deserves to be recognized for her work at Batavia Middle School and in the community.

**Parent(s): Sharon Hyback**

**Nominator: Heidi Meides-Judge, Batavia Middle School**

## 2010 Adult Volunteer Award

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



**Laurie Napoleone** and her family experienced the unimaginable loss of their son, Michael. Rather than becoming consumed in grief, she and her husband, Mark, decided that they would help other children and families who faced a similar situation by developing the Michael Napoleone Memorial Foundation.

After Michael died, Laurie wanted to give back to the community that reached out to her and her family. When she finds out about a family that is experiencing what her family did, Laurie is the first to get into her car and visit with them, encouraging and offering them hope. The Michael Napoleone Memorial Foundation has assisted

100 families and given over \$25,000 in support. They've donated \$20,000 to pediatric cancer research and \$10,000 to youth sports and organizations, including Batavia Minor and Little Leagues, Oakfield-Alabama Little League, Batavia Youth Football, the Dick Lexer Memorial Scholarship Fund, and the Batavia YMCA Challenger Program.

Laurie has spend countless hours of her time volunteering at the Foundation's many fundraisers. She is an amazing role model, demonstrating how one's tragedy can be used in a positive way to help others.

**Nominator: Linda Conroy**

## 2010 Adult Youth Worker Award

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



**Jay Lazarony** has a long history of successfully mentoring youth from a wide variety of backgrounds. As a Senior Counselor for Genesee County Job Development Bureau, Jay has assisted youth participating in the after-school Adolescent Vocational Exploration Program (AVE), the Summer Youth Employment Program, and the Workforce Investment Act for 13 years. One thing that all the youth participating in these programs needed was someone to recognize their untapped talents. Jay values each youth's hidden talents and develops a highly effective curriculum to engage each youth to build his/her skills.

Jay demands each youth be accountable for his/her actions, motivating them through mutual respect and empowering them to develop personal responsibility. He has created different curricula to help them understand decision-making and how it can affect their lives. He has assisted over 1,000 youth to obtain summer jobs and additionally mentors older youth participating in the AmeriCorps Program. He is involved with several organizations and activities in the community that serve the County's youth and families. Jay's qualities and dedication to youth services exemplifies the Adult Youth Worker Award.

**Nominator: Scott Gage & Kathleen Sullivan, Genesee Co. Job Development**





**Helen Zickl**, 14, from Batavia High School is involved with numerous charitable and volunteer activities. A volunteer was needed to work with an autistic student who was considering coming to BHS. The person would shadow the student throughout the day and even spend their time off with her. Helen was quick to volunteer. This meant Helen would be distracted during a time when most teachers were presenting valuable information that she would need for midterm exams. She took on the task, though, and even brought the student on a tour of the school. Helen made the person feel welcome at the school. Her ability to give of herself is truly inspirational.

Parent(s): William & Rachel Zickl

Nominator: Kevin Walkowski, Batavia High School

## 2010 Adult Volunteer Award

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

**Denise Chatt's** involvement with 4-H began when her daughter Karleigh joined 4-H. She is a dedicated volunteer on the 4-H Horse Advisory Committee through which she has a hand in horse shows, the county fair, and the Horse Banquet. Denise's knowledge, personality, and ability to work well with diverse groups gives her an excellent base to make positive differences through her local 4-H club. She is always exploring avenues whereby the programs can increase youth participation and involvement. Her peers greatly respect her working knowledge of rules and guidelines and her professional behavior. Because of her skills and characteristics, Denise was chosen to represent Genesee County at the Region 2 Horse Education Committee.

Denise currently serves on the Genesee County 4-H Youth Development Committee as a representative from the horse program. This committee felt that youth should be recognized for their achievements with something other than material awards. Denise played a crucial role in planning, organizing, and implementing the Achievement/Fun Night for the youth and their families. The pre-Halloween event was filled with fun activities for all ages, plenty of food and drink, and closed with an awards ceremony. Over 150 young people and their families were in attendance, all of them asking if the event will be held again next year.

Denise is an outstanding volunteer who has touched many lives through her work with Genesee County 4-H

**Nominator: Barbara Sturm, Genesee Co. Cornell Cooperative Extension**

**Teiona Kemp**, 13, from Batavia Middle School is always looking for ways to improve her community. She has been volunteering at United Memorial Medical Center for almost a year. In the snack shop, she washes dishes, stocks shelves, prepares food, sells items, and talks with customers. Teiona is also an 8<sup>th</sup> grade mentor, taking time out of her week to help 6<sup>th</sup> graders get adjusted to school. She works with them on their homework and teaches them about character and conversation skills. She says she does it because she was in their spot and wants to make their transition to middle school as comfortable as possible.

Parent(s): **Dan Kemp**

Nominator: **Bernadette Krumpek, Batavia Middle School**

**Brandon Kohorst**, 15, from Pembroke High School is involved with several activities in the Pembroke community. In middle school, Brandon was a member of Junior High Student Council and volunteered for all activities, including helping at Dragon's Bridge, an orientation for 6<sup>th</sup> grade students, visiting the VA Nursing Home, collecting gifts for the Salvation Army Christmas stocking campaign, and serving at several school events. Currently he is the 9<sup>th</sup> grade class historian and is a member of DECA, an international marketing and management club. This year, Brandon has been planning and managing fundraisers and social events as class officer. As a DECA member, he is working on a 30-page marketing plan. He is a skilled leader and communicator, someone who will go out of his way to help everyone.

Parent(s): **Douglas & Karen Kohorst**

Nominator: **Sandra Nawrot, Pembroke High School**

**Jennifer Lichtenthal**, 17, from Batavia High School has gained and demonstrated leadership skills throughout her involvement with 4-H. She has served in various positions for several 4-H events including the Genesee County and NYS Fairs and the 4-H Clothing Revue. A year ago, Jen took the lead on creating a newsletter to highlight 4-H happenings during fair week. After the idea was proposed at a leadership retreat, Jen initiated discussions with her peers and got the project underway. Her gentle but determined drive led the group of about 10 teen helpers to bring the task to completion. Additionally, Jen took the lead designing and constructing a new Teen Office/Headquarters at the fair. The teens in the program truly appreciated having a hand in the projects.

Parent(s): **Tom & Jean Lichtenthal**

Nominator: **Chip Malone, Cornell Cooperative Extension**





**Hannah Miller**, 13, from LeRoy Central School has been working with the LeRoy Christian Community Project (LCCP) After School Program for the past two years. Hanna is a dedicated volunteer who works with the program five days a week. While there, she works with our girls' group. Hannah encourages the girls while they're doing their homework and plays games with them when they've completed. Often the girls come to her to just talk as well. She's always ready to listen, whether it's about the details of their day or a problem they are facing with their friends. Hannah is always willing to help out with anything that is needed. She is an excellent volunteer who cares about the community.

**Parent(s): Randy & Lori Miller**  
**Nominator: Susan Wakefield, LCCP**



**Alexandra "Sasha" Mruczek**, 17, from Batavia High School has maintained an outstanding academic and athletic record while still giving to her school and community. As a part of the Link Crew, Sasha helps guide underclassmen down a successful path in high school through mentoring and engaging activities. Although she is National Honor Society, her service well exceeds the number of hours required. In addition to Link Crew, she's volunteered for Hillside Family of Agencies, Michael Napoleone fundraiser, and the VA Nursing Home. Additionally, she coaches youth soccer and cheerleading. Sasha challenges herself every day and possesses admirable leadership qualities and a contagious positive attitude.

**Parent(s): Thomas & Barbara Mruczek**  
**Nominator: Joseph Hussar, Batavia High School**



**Michelle Nanni**, 16, from Oakfield-Alabama High School has been an excellent volunteer in her school and community. For Christmas in the Village, she sang carols for people waiting in line to see Santa Claus and organized the children's activities for the day. During the summer, she gave up time to assist with games and activities for the Student Council 6<sup>th</sup> grade orientation. She is also involved with implementing team and trust building among a group of middle school girls. One of Michelle's largest projects, however, is fundraising for Roswell Cancer Institute. Her goal was to raise over \$1,000, and to do this, she initiated a community event in which people got sponsors to either shave their heads in honor of chemo patients or cut their hair and donate it to Locks of Love. Michelle has become more involved as the years progress, and she gives her all to benefit others.

**Parent(s): Gary & Laurie Nanni**  
**Nominator: Tracy Schlagenhauf, Oakfield-Alabama Central School**

**Chelsie Pangrazio**, 18, from Elba High School is an active student who in addition to participating in several structured activities and service opportunities, epitomizes caring for others on a daily, continuous basis. Throughout the school year, Chelsie is actively involved in her student council, Future Teachers Association, National Honors Society, and three sports teams. Even with all these commitments, she still finds time to actively serve those around her. For example, every day during lunch, Chelsie sits with and reaches out to students who have disabilities. These students look forward to seeing her, and she has made a difference in their lives. This is only one example of how Chelsie's lifestyle of service positively impacts those in her community.

**Parent(s): Charles & Barbara Pangrazio**  
**Nominator: Jerry Piwko, Elba Central School**

**Ryan Seward**, 16, from Pembroke High School is a well-rounded student who is involved with his school, community, and church. As a member of First Presbyterian Church in Batavia, Ryan serves as a deacon. He ushers for worship services, helps raise scholarship money, and is generally concerned about the well-being of the congregation. For the last few years, Ryan has been a teaching assistant for Vacation Bible School and Sunday school. He also participates in mission activities with the church youth group and sings in the Westminster Choir. Ryan serves on the Genesee County Youth Court and has been trained to assume official roles. He hears cases of youth who have been referred to Youth Court by school or law enforcement for various infractions. Ryan does all of this in addition to his busy school schedule as well as chorus, band, and sports activities.

**Parent(s): David & Linda Seward**  
**Nominator: Erin Schubmehl, First Presbyterian Church**

**Jonathan Wolcott**, 17, from Notre Dame High School is a special young man who has generously served his community while offering needed assistance at home. Jon has been very active at several churches by volunteering for a number of Vacation Bible School sessions. He has also assisted with a tent revival. As a hockey goaltender, Jon has offered many hours of instruction to boys and girls who are learning to become goalies. While at home, he often helps care for his young brother. Jon is a very giving individual who is a great role model for others.

**Parent(s): Jerry Wolcott & Carrie Putney**  
**Nominator: Kate Scanlan, Notre Dame High School**



*Photo  
 Unavailable*