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MAYOR'S YOUTH AWARD CEREMONY



STARTING IN TOMORROW, TODAY!

Mayor Benjamin G. Blake and Milford Youth & Family Services

presented

The 30th Annual Mayor's Youth Award on Tuesday, May 1, 2018

at

Veteran's Memorial Auditorium

The awards were given to youth who demonstrated an outstanding commitment to improving the Milford Community. Teachers, parents, clergy, friends and group leaders nominated finalists for the awards.

The 30th Annual Mayor's Youth Award Recipients are as follows:

Elementary School: Joey Meade

Joey is an avid reader who enjoys helping others. His determination has sent him on a mission to collect recycled cans and bottles to allow him to donate a portion of his profits to the Literacy Volunteers of Southern Connecticut (LVSC). Joey wants to spread the joy of reading to both adults and children. He set up bins and boxes all over Milford and with help from his parents, has even created a Facebook page called "Joey Nickels" to help recruit friends and neighbors to assist with his mission. Soon after, many people loved the idea and began not only dropping off their own recycles, but encouraging others too as well. Since the beginning, "Joey Nickels" has collected and recycled over 45,000 items and has donated \$900 to the LVSC while saving \$1,000 towards his college fund. Joey is learning the true meaning of philanthropy and inspiring individuals of all ages.

Middle School: Mackenzie Powers

At such a young age, Mackenzie was bothered by the litter at our Milford beaches and expressed an interest to her dad that she would like to do a cleanup. That was 10 years ago, and every year Mackenzie's Annual Beach Clean Up grows with not only the number of volunteers, but also the amount of garbage that is collected. Mackenzie knows the true meaning of having "a big heart". She volunteers at the Boys and Girls Club, Clothes Closet, Hurricane Sandy Clean up, and also mentors her peers. She has been a Girl Scout since the first grade and is now a second year Cadette. On top of all this, Mackenzie has been able to maintain excellent grades and has earned Honors with Distinction for every marking period at West Shore. Her determination, compassion, and concern for the community are inspiring.

High School: Cristina Ludwig

Cristina exemplifies an extremely compassionate nature and dedication to community service. Her activities this year have included being President of her Junior Class, President of the Laurelton Crusader Club- which focuses on improving the school community environment, student council, school newspaper, Spanish Club, and the Stock Market Club. Cristina has also been an ongoing participant in Relay for Life, March of Dimes Walk for Babies, and the Girl Scouts for over 5 years. Several years ago, she also created a group called the "Kindness Crew", which consists of young people who spend their time making cards, baking treats, and visiting nursing homes. She is someone that is going to positively impact her community for many years to come.

Group Category: Mathewson Bulldog Brigade

The Mathewson Bulldog Brigade is comprised of 18 students in the 4th and 5th grades. The students that have been nominated by their teachers exhibit positive traits of leadership such as responsibility, compassion, problem solving and creativity. The purpose of the Bulldog Brigade is to provide support and service to both the Mathewson community and the larger Milford Community. Throughout this year, they have completed projects such as the Helping Houston Campaign. This campaign led them to raise over \$900 as well as collect Barnes and Nobles gift cards to benefit a Houston Elementary School whose library was destroyed during the hurricane. They have also organized a Stocking Stuffer at the Beth El Shelter, a coat drive for Button Up Connecticut, and participate in a peer mentor and classroom helper program.

Congratulations to all of the nominated youth, award winners and their families!!!