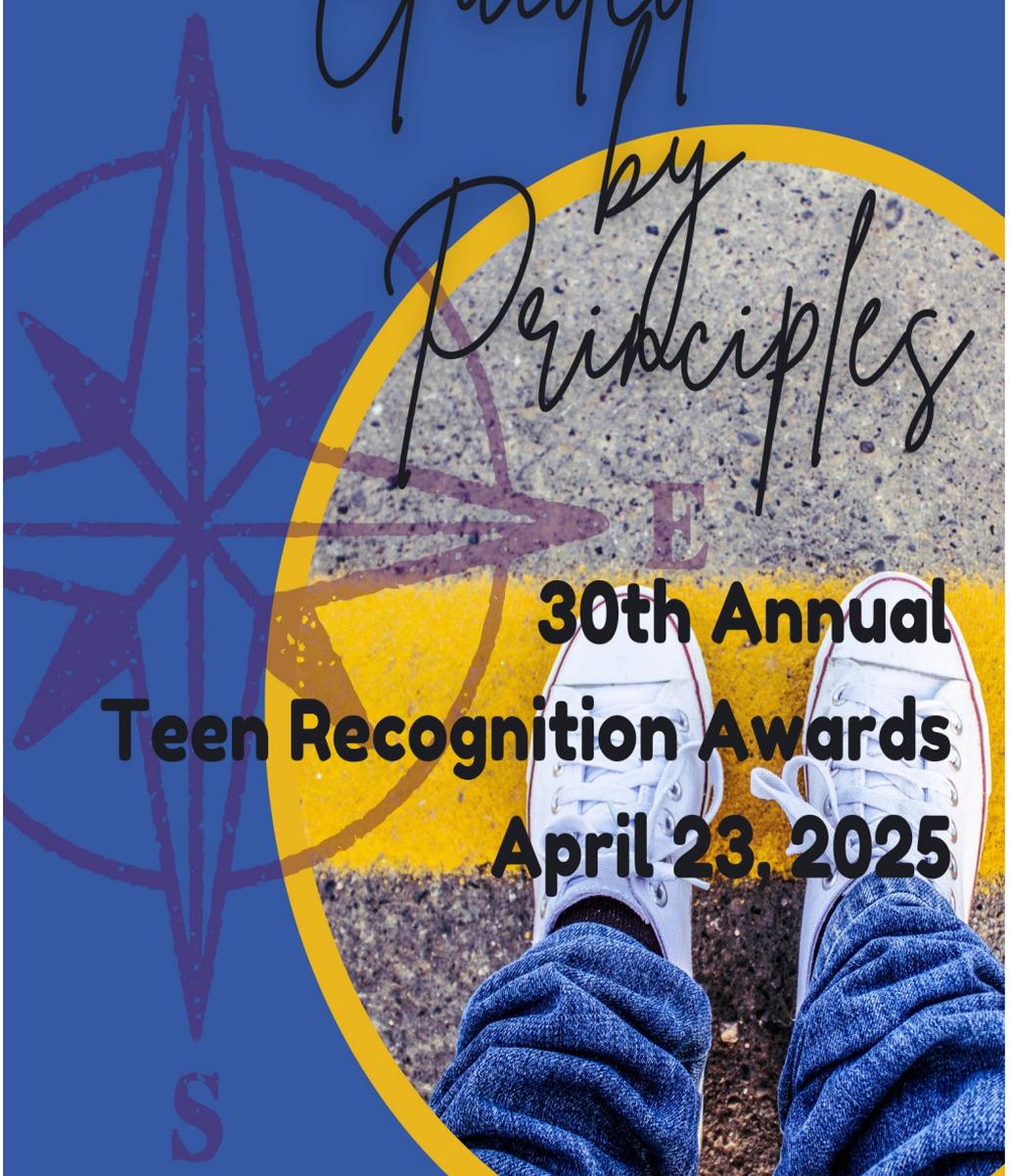


LIVINGSTON COUNTY YOUTH



*Guided
by
Principles*

**30th Annual
Teen Recognition Awards
April 23, 2025**



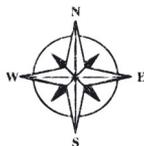
WELCOME

2025 Teen Recognition Awards Celebration

Welcome to the 30th Annual Teen Recognition Event brought to you by the Livingston County Board of Supervisors and the Youth Board. 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 show empathy, kindness, and helpfulness towards others. Since 1995, more than 2,200 youth have been recognized.

Opportunities for and recognition of prosocial involvement is known to be a significant protective factor in youth developing into thriving, contributing members of the community. What follows are the summaries of teens *guided by principles* of empathy, reciprocity, and a desire to help without expecting anything in return. These are actions we aim to amplify through this recognition event.

Human connection is as essential as food, water and shelter. It bonds people together in a way that makes them feel valued and worthy. Nominators create connection and this recognition is not possible without them. They come from a variety of settings: schools, churches, neighborhoods, civic organizations and clubs. We appreciate the time they took to shine a light on the good in these youth.



PROGRAM

6:00 PM

WELCOME

David Pribulka, Livingston County Administrator

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Robert Holt, Administrative Sergeant, Livingston County Sheriff Dept.

BUFFET DINNER

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION OF KEYNOTE SPEAKER

David LeFeber, Avon Town Supervisor

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Rob Sanford, 2000 Town of Lima Teen Recognition Recipient

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. 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 before you return to your seat.

CLOSING REMARKS

Katie Dunn, Chairman, Livingston County Youth Board

GROUP PHOTO

KEYNOTE

ROB SANFORD

Rob Sanford is an assistant principal at Honeoye Falls-Lima High School. He has dedicated the last twenty years to educating young minds as a teacher, coach, and leader at HF-L. Rob graduated from HF-L High School in 2000, the same year he received the Livingston County Teen Recognition Award himself. He earned both his bachelor's and master's degrees at SUNY Geneseo and completed the



Educational Leadership program at the University of Rochester in 2018. He and his wife recently moved to Fairport to raise their two young children.

Rob's leadership extends beyond the school, having served as a summer recreation program director, a Venture Crew leader, and a travel leader for the People-to-People Student Ambassador program. His commitment to global education is evident through his work in Central American countries, helping to build schools in Nicaragua, volunteering to teach English to students in poor neighborhoods, and collaborating with English teachers to develop strategies to better engage their students. In 2016, Rob was inducted into the Honeoye Falls-Lima Alumni Hall of Fame in part due to his contributions to communities both local and abroad.

In addition to his educational and community efforts, Rob has coached Odyssey of the Mind teams as well as modified cross country, track, and lacrosse. Outside of his professional life, Rob enjoys reading, listening to podcasts, kayaking, traveling, spending quality time with his wife and kids, and playing percussion with the Pittsford Fire Department Band. His passion for education and commitment to fostering a supportive learning environment where all students can succeed continue to inspire students and colleagues alike.

HONOREES

2025

Avon

Kayla Bird
Evan Blye
Thomas Christian
Caleigh Cottone
Jasmine Flora
Maria Geary
Josh Harter
Laura Krasinski
Isabella Larson
Addison Urbanik
Katelynn Vukosic

Caledonia

Hannah Harmon
Chloe Murray
Ryan Years

Conesus

Onnolee Shutt

Geneseo

Anna Ferrero
Elizabeth McDonald

Groveland

Madelyn Levey
William Levey
Cheyenne Sargent
Lorelei Weingaertner

Leicester

Haley Diamond
Liam Ezard
Jaelyn Fanaro

Leicester Cont'd

Isabella Fischer
Javen Jackson
Jayden Jackson
Hailey Nearhood

Lima

Raegan Banker
Ethan Cole
Anthony Hage
Marley Ross
Ava Yusko
Matthew Zygadlo

Livonia

Ziggy Bepko
Sofia Choffin
MacKenzie Laursen

Kaddie Martin

Angela Minery
Brooke Minery

Grace Shantz
Olivia Smith

Ayden Szymanski

Molly Walker

Mount Morris

Savannah Ebersole
Rylee Lippens
Eliza Lonsberry
Morgan Luick
Marissa Maggio
Adriana Mann
Jayla Mowday

North Dansville

Thomas Adams
Hannah Bennett
Briana Blair
Coralyn Griese
Dennis Hanks
Journie Heiman
Abigail Kendall
Caleb Knapp
Carson Mays
Kalianne Nash
Brady Race
Wyatt Swift

Rayshana Torres
Alana Wyatt

Nunda

Ryley Benner
Kennedy Boss
Christopher Brink
Michaela Bugman
Seth Ebersole
Jaidyn Fox
Ryan Fox
Aiden Howe
Grayson Jackson
Lydia Lombardo
Riley Nageldinger
Aubrey Spencer
Lynn Stevens
Nolan Therrien

Ossian

Luke Conway
Blake Tonkery
Aiden Van Auken
Karlee Walker

Portage

Makenzie Buckley
Elizabeth Wood

Sparta

Taylor Hamsher
Amara Jerome
Jacob Kreiley
Haidyn Scollon

Springwater

Charles Caskey
Henry Caskey
Rachael Grace Gray
Micaiah Mattice

West Sparta

Kassidy Cole
Casey Youngers

York

Connor Boyd
Meredith Geary
Emily Vattimo

STORIES

2025

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 more than one nomination for the youth was submitted by separate nominators.**

Avon

Kayla Bird is a junior coach at the Avon Legends Recreation cheer team. She says that coaching has helped her bond with the kids and get to know the younger generation in her community. Seeing them compete doing something they are so passionate about is a very positive experience. And, seeing them so happy when she interacts with them is very special to her. She loves helping the kids and teaching them something she is passionate about. Kayla's leadership during her first coaching experience with Avon Legends was nothing short of remarkable. Despite being new to the role, she quickly demonstrated an innate ability to guide and motivate her team, earning the respect of both her players and fellow coaches. Her approach was grounded in patience, clear communication, and a strong sense of responsibility, all while maintaining a positive and encouraging atmosphere. Kayla consistently led by example, showing not only her sportsmanship but also her dedication to the team's growth and success. Her ability to connect with her players, understand their strengths, and help them improve made her a true role model. Kayla's commitment to fostering a supportive and inclusive environment sets a standard for others to follow and her leadership serves as an inspiration to those around her.

Ashleigh Herkimer, Coach, Avon Varsity Cheerleading

Evan Blye, a junior, was the starting Quarterback for the Avon Varsity Football team until he suffered an injury that took him out of play. But, Evan is to be recognized for how he handled the injury and what he did afterward. He volunteered to be an apprentice for the 10U and 12U youth football team and is now running most of the organization by himself. Evan is the offensive coordinator, quarterback coach, and administrator. In the offseason he mentors the whole 12U team (20 city kids, 25 Livingston County kids); 1:1 training with the quarterbacks, and zoom videos with the rest of the team. Evan does all the graphics for tryout forms, pamphlets, and logos and runs social media for the team; posting information, hype videos, and workouts. He also runs the team app, organizes practices, games, and team bonding events. Evan calls all the parents after tryouts and offers their child a spot on the team. He has been teaching the players discipline and hard work. He is an intense leader, leading by example. All corrective action that he makes a child do, he does right along with them. Every kid on the team loves and respects him, including the other coaches. He dedicates all his off time to the kids. What he is doing at his age is inspiring. Doing all this while handling school responsibilities and rehab for his knee is just remarkable.

David George, Team Manager, Livingston County Legends Military Football

Thomas Christian is an exceptional young leader whose dedication, enthusiasm, and unwavering commitment to his school and community make him an outstanding leader. A passionate and active member of the chorus program, Thomas consistently brings positivity and energy to every rehearsal and performance. His presence not only elevates the musical experience for his peers, but also fosters an environment of teamwork and encouragement. Whether performing on stage or supporting his fellow musicians, Thomas embodies the spirit of camaraderie and dedication. Beyond his contributions to the arts and the classroom, Thomas serves as the Student Council President, a role in which he has demonstrated remarkable leadership, initiative, and creativity. Under his guidance, countless schoolwide initiatives have come to life, including homecoming, spirit week, pep rallies, and other key events that have strengthened school pride and unity. Without his drive and organizational skills, many of these initiatives would not have been possible. Thomas's ability to lead with both vision and inclusivity has left a lasting impact on the student body, making the school a more engaging and spirited place for everyone.

Thomas does not just lead—he inspires. His enthusiasm is infectious, his work ethic unmatched, and his commitment to his peers unwavering. Whether through his leadership, creativity, or community involvement, Thomas continues to make a meaningful difference in the lives of those around him.

Michael Calzi, Principal, Livonia Central School

Caleigh Cottone, a freshman at Avon High School, has been involved in the Drama/Theater Club since fourth grade. She has performed in many plays including Scrooge and The Lion King. Caleigh has been a girl scout since she was in Kindergarten as a Daisy and now has reached the senior level. In girl scouts she has been involved in several different community service events. She has collected food for the local pantry, helped with activities for younger children during Avon’s Winter Spectacular, helped one of the local churches with their take out dinner, and helped one of the community’s nursery school programs with their fundraising yard sale. Caleigh is in the junior program with the Lima Ambulance where she attends meetings and classes to learn skills and tools needed to help save lives. She also attended the Livingston County Sheriff’s program last year where she learned different aspects of the police department, such as K9, 911 dispatch, investigators, court proceedings, and even parts of the prison system. Caleigh is in the process of joining the Avon Fire Department RAMS program; a step above junior firefighter. Here she is learning skills, techniques, aspects of different firetrucks, and traits of being a firefighter. Caleigh says she really loves these programs because it is a way to give back to the community she is growing up in. When she graduates she plans on continuing with the Lima Ambulance, traveling, and going to college.

Melissa Hayward, Co-Leader, Girl Scout Troop 50107

Jasmine Flora is an exceptional young woman who embodies the qualities of a true leader; dedication, resilience, and a global perspective. As a high honor student at Avon Central School, Jasmine has consistently demonstrated academic excellence while actively participating in extracurricular activities and maintaining a part-time job. Jasmine’s commitment to her studies is evident in her consistent placement on the high honor roll. She possesses a sharp intellect and a strong work ethic, always striving for excellence in her academic pursuits. Beyond her academic achievements, Jasmine has enriched

her school community through involvement in a variety of activities. She has shown her team spirit and dedication through her participation in both volleyball and tennis, demonstrating leadership and sportsmanship on and off the court. Her creative talents shine through passion with others. While balancing her academic and extracurricular commitments, she has also held a part-time job at Dunkin Donuts. This demonstrates her responsibility, time management skills, and her ability to contribute meaningfully to her own financial independence. What truly sets Jasmine apart is her genuine desire to connect with and learn from other cultures. She has been accepted to study in Japan next year, a testament to her initiative, her courage, and her global perspective. This remarkable opportunity reflects her open-mindedness and her desire to broaden her horizons, qualities that are essential for future leaders in an increasingly interconnected world. Jasmine's decision to immerse herself in a new culture speaks volumes about her leadership potential and her commitment to personal growth. Jasmine is a role model for her peers, demonstrating that it is possible to excel academically, pursue extracurricular passions, and plan for a bright future. She is a driven, compassionate, and well-rounded individual who possesses strong leadership qualities.

Karen Vanderbilt, Officer, Rotary Youth Exchange

Maria Geary, a junior at Avon High School, is an exceptional athlete in multiple sports. She runs cross country, dual sports in the winter, and is a member of the swim team. However, basketball is her primary sport where her efforts in practice and games is unmatched. She is one of the strongest performers in the county in both cross-country and basketball winning multiple athlete of the week awards while carrying the heavy load of each team's success. Take the skill and determination out of the picture and you will see the player that picks everyone up. Maria creates a positive environment so everyone feels they belong. She is an amazing person who shows passion, compassion, and authenticity. Outside of sports, Maria carries a 4.0 GPA and is a High Honor Roll student. She participates in Mathletics and is on the prom committee. She simply dedicates herself deeply to all that she sets her mind to. When she is asked to do anything or there is an opportunity to grow into the person that she is, she goes all in. This passion shows in her loyalty to friends and family, her tireless work to juggle athletics and academics both at the highest level, as well as being the best friend or mentor

she can be. She is part of the peer mentoring program where she is connected to younger students. She gives them advice and guidance as they journey through the path that she once traveled. She listens to others and truly cares. She takes it on her own shoulders to see how she can help and assist. She won the Kindness Hawk Award at school for just this reason. She is the type of leader that others look up to knowing that they are not alone. Administrators and coaches also see her strong sense of responsibility and task her to captain their teams and school community. Lastly, Maria is authentic. She carries herself with pride, not arrogance. It would be easy to get caught up in the accolades but she remains humble. She is easy to talk to, can be giddy and full of laughter, and is even confident enough to joke about herself. You have a strong leader in Maria that resonates to others simply by being who she is. That is a characteristic that some take a lifetime to find and Maria has already found it. It is simply one of the many great characteristics she carries as a true leader. She is something amazing and will represent her community well with wherever she decides to do in life!

Kevin Greenway, Basketball Coach, Avon Central School

Josh Harter is a true leader with the ability to show empathy towards others. He has always been someone who excelled in athletics, but carries himself in a uniquely humble and genuine way. Josh exemplifies the term "Role Model." He sets a great example to both his peers and the youth of Avon. Josh is captain of the basketball and soccer teams, member of National Honor Society, Communications Club (Digital Media), coach at CEB and volunteer coach at youth basketball and soccer camps. Josh feels leadership means making a positive impact on someone and leading by example towards a common goal. He feels his parents have been his positive role models showing him how to work hard, be disciplined in work and fitness, and deal with adversity. These character traits have definitely influenced how he approaches life and the impact he can make on others. Josh says he tries his hardest to stay focused on the important things in life that can help him succeed and keep the distractions to a minimum. Just like in sports - leading by example so you can help others stay out of trouble and accomplish their goals. Josh hopes that he has inspired upcoming athletes to not only be a great athlete, but a better person. He has tried to leave a positive impact on the community as a whole through his character and how he conducts himself both on and off the court or field.

Chris Cole, Coach/Teacher, Avon Central School

Laura Krasinski is a remarkable young woman who embodies the qualities of a true leader: courage, resilience, dedication, and a commitment to service. Laura's most striking demonstration of leadership is her decision to embark on a year-long exchange program in Belgium. Imagine, at just 16, choosing to leave the comfort of home, family, and friends to live in a foreign country where you don't speak the language. This incredibly brave choice speaks volumes about Laura's independent spirit, her willingness to step outside her comfort zone, and her desire to immerse herself in a new culture. This experience will undoubtedly foster invaluable leadership skills, including adaptability, cross-cultural communication, and problem solving unfamiliar situations. Beyond this extraordinary undertaking, Laura has consistently demonstrated leadership qualities within her community. She is a dedicated member of the Rotary Interact Club, actively participating in service projects and demonstrating a commitment to making a positive impact. Furthermore, Laura's commitment to academic excellence is evident in her enrollment in advanced courses. Balancing a challenging academic workload with extracurricular activities and a part-time job demonstrates exceptional time management skills, responsibility, and a strong work ethic – all essential qualities of a successful leader. This dedication to both academic and personal growth is truly commendable. Laura is a role model for her peers, demonstrating the power of ambition, resilience, and a commitment to service.

Karen Vanderbilt, Officer, Rotary Youth Exchange

Isabella “Bella” Larson has been an integral part of the Avon Legends Recreation cheer team, serving as a junior coach with dedication and enthusiasm. Her commitment to guiding and mentoring her peers and younger players has made a significant impact on the team's success and camaraderie. Bella's leadership, strong communication skills, and ability to inspire those around her exemplify the qualities of a true team player. Her positive attitude and willingness to go above and beyond have earned her the respect of both teammates and coaches alike. Bella's contributions extend beyond just her athletic skills; she is a role model for others, always leading by example and fostering a supportive and encouraging environment. Bella says she loves coaching Legends; all the girls are so sweet and coaching was something she looked forward to every day. Knowing that she could help them be better and love what they do is such a good feeling. She also loved

seeing their excitement when something worked or when they got first place, it was really so fun and a great experience.

Ashleigh Herkimer, Coach, Avon Varsity Cheerleading

Addison Urbanik has gone above and beyond to motivate members of the National Honor Society to complete service work. She often cheerfully takes on many responsibilities herself. She has a very impressive degree of initiative and intuitively knows what needs to be done. She is often instrumental in behind the scenes work of organizing the annual Candy Cane Gram fundraiser and Red Cross Blood Drive. She is comfortable communicating needs to other students and her positive spirit inspires other students to action. Addison takes her officer role seriously, and her positive impact and aura around school serves as a model for her peers and underclassmen. The school community is thankful for her contributions and proud of her leadership.

Alexe Dunham, National Honor Society Advisor/Teacher, Avon Central School

Katelynn Vukosic, is a senior at Honeoye Falls-Lima High School, whose maturity and thoughtfulness are far beyond her peers. This year she was voted secretary of the Executive Student Council, and she is simply incredible in the role. She is a founding member of her Scouting America Troup where she has held leadership positions every year. Her leadership ability is impressive, and she led a group to the National Conference in Boulder, Colorado and was elected as Vice Chief of Program. A member of the Order of the Arrow, a National Honor Society of Scouting, she has been the Conclave Committee Chair, the National Order of the Arrow Conference Chair, and on the Ceremony Team. Always looking to improve her communication and leadership skills, Katelynn has attended multiple leadership development programs. She is the Community Service Chair in Interact Club that works closely with the local Rotary Club. An outstanding student, she will graduate with seven advanced placement courses and has earned a 4.0 GPA. She was selected for National Honor Society and Spanish National Honor Society. The last three summers she has worked at Massawepie Scout Camp in the Adirondacks, moving from a volunteer to a counselor in training to a full-time paid staff member teaching nine different badges. She balances all of this with membership on the Green Team, as a crew member for musical productions, and as a member of track team where she made sectionals. She is always quick to step up and volunteer to take on a task and is completely

comfortable speaking to adults to assist with her responsibilities. She possesses confidence that is humble and always thoughtful. During the chaotic homecoming pep rally, Katelynn provided the organization and support behind the scenes while other members of the Council sought the spotlight. Katelynn is a strong leader and whatever she does with her career she will be at the top of her field, and she will make a positive impact with her empathy, leadership, and commitment to excel.

Patrice Matina, Counselor/Club Advisor, Honeoye Falls-Lima High School

Caledonia

Hannah Harmon is a hard working student who has received five Savvy Raiders Awards for academic success. She received the Citizenship Award in tenth grade and was selected to attend New York State Council on Leader and Student Activities conference. Academically, she takes multiple AP courses while doing a variety of extra activities for her school and community. Her community involvement includes working with elementary school students, overseeing the Raider Locker which provides basic necessities for students, volunteer work with the National Honor Society, Biddy Basketball, elementary musical, and helping Caledonia Recreation by volunteering at Breakfast with Santa. Hannah, over the past few years, was able to find an activity that she loves, musical theater. She has represented her community within the music field by being selected to attend RPO the past two years, singing at Church events, participating in musicals, and being selected to sing in All-County. In 2020, Hannah suffered an injury that involved multiple surgeries, physical therapy and more. While her injury made physical activities difficult, she never gave up. She has played volleyball, basketball and track since the injury and has always worked hard to overcome obstacles set forth by the injury. Hannah leads through the multiple activities she is involved in, is always stepping up to volunteer in the community, and has overcome a challenge that has left others amazed by her strength.

Kelly Beach, Caledonia Community Member

Chloe Murray, a senior at Caledonia-Mumford High School, plans to join the Coast Guard after graduation. She has been involved with the Caledonia Fire Department for several years through their Explorers program and is

continuing her training this year. Chloe is earning certifications that will enable her to continue volunteering with the department after completing the Explorers post. She is also a member of the school's Ski and Archery Clubs. Chloe makes a positive impact on the lives of others. She has strengthened the ties to her community and makes it a better place for everyone.

Robert Molisani, Superintendent, Caledonia-Mumford Central School

Ryan Years is a sophomore at Caledonia-Mumford High School. Because Ryan was born with a significant hearing loss, school has always required so much more effort, energy, and attention. This year, Ryan is taking a full schedule and has stretched himself to try his first AP class. He is hard-working, positive, and kind. He is an excellent influence to those around him because he has not allowed his success and growth to be defined by this deficit. Additionally, Ryan brings his love of music to band, chorus, and the school's musical productions. Last school year he also started the student-led rock band, where he was one of the older students. His leadership and dedication to the band helped result in an amazing performance at the school talent show. Ryan is an excellent student and someone who shows kindness, respect, and patience for everyone around him.

Sarah Curran, Counselor, Caledonia-Mumford Central School

Conesus

Onnolee "Onnie" Shutt is a wonderful teenager who sets a great example for others to follow. Above all, Onnie is kind to everyone. Academically, she always tries her very best and she has consistently been on the High Honor Roll at Livonia High School. In addition to her studies, Onnie is in chorus, plays the baritone in band, is a member of the school's Page Turners Club, and was on the Varsity Girls Swim Team in ninth grade. She takes guitar lessons after school. 4-H has been a big part of her life since she was old enough to join at five years old and she participates in multiple events yearly. She has presented Produced in New York (PINY) food demonstrations, public presentations, exhibited artwork, showed chickens at the Hemlock Fair, and sold her Market Poultry Projects at the 4-H Livestock Auction each July. Last year, Onnie served as Secretary of the Live, Laugh, Love Livingston 4-H Club and was elected in November to be club president for 2025. Onnie is part of

the youth group at Faith Fellowship Church in Lakeville. Over the summer, Onnie helped out for a week of Vacation Bible School at Conesus United Church where she led young children from one activity to another and assisted wherever else was needed. She also helped plant and care for the flowers at the Conesus Town Hall and plans to do so again this year. At home, Onnie is a vital piece of her family; helping care for the animals, and most importantly, being a great big sister and frequently babysitter for her three-year-old sister who looks up to her very much.

Donald Wester, Family Friend/Supervisor, Town of Conesus

Geneseo

Anna Ferrero exemplifies what it means to lead with dedication, compassion, and a strong sense of responsibility. She has demonstrated her leadership through a variety of academic, extracurricular, and community-focused initiatives, making a positive impact wherever she goes. Anna is currently working toward her Girl Scout Gold Award by creating a Little Free Library, a project that will serve as a valuable resource for the community. This initiative not only demonstrates her leadership skills in project management but also her deep commitment to promoting literacy and fostering a love of reading among people of all ages. Anna is also involved in a wide range of extracurricular activities, including band, chorus, Drama Club, and student council. She is also an active member of the National Honor Society, Brainstormers, and Mathletics, where she works collaboratively with peers to solve problems and reach academic goals. Her role on the Teen Advisory Board at the local library further showcases her leadership in creating engaging programs and advocating for the needs of young people in the community. Last year, she voluntarily worked in a first-grade classroom and, this year, in a second-grade classroom, giving up her study hall time to support young students. By stepping into these leadership roles in the classroom, Anna has shown exceptional initiative and a commitment to helping others succeed. Her ability to mentor younger students, foster their growth, and create a positive learning environment speaks volumes about her character. In addition to her academic and volunteer endeavors, Anna works a part-time job continuing to demonstrate a strong work ethic and responsibility. Her ability to balance work, school, and extracurricular

activities is a testament to her time management skills and leadership abilities. Anna’s plans to attend SUNY Geneseo to study Adolescent Education to further demonstrate her passion for guiding and inspiring future generations. Her leadership journey is only just beginning, and no doubt she will continue to make a significant impact wherever she goes.

Sarah Wilcox, Teacher, Geneseo Central School

Elizabeth “Lizzie” McDonald is a senior at Geneseo High School. When thinking of Lizzie, so many positive characteristics come to mind: perseverance, kindness, grit, integrity, intelligence, and so many more. She is one of the truest examples of overcoming challenges while becoming a better person every single day. Lizzie is an avid reader who fought through difficulties with dyslexia, accepting with gratitude the support she received along the way. She works to the best of her ability on every assignment and misses no chance to learn even more than required, because she has a passion for learning. Lizzie has worked all her life through struggles with Autism Spectrum and the result has been her continually growing understanding and empathy for others and her unfailing kindness. Not only has Lizzie refused to let any obstacles get her down, she has excelled! Lizzie was accepted into every college she applied to, even some honors programs. Lizzie is planning to use her personal growth by helping others and hopes to become an art therapist. She does not brag or boast about her accomplishments and this amazing story can be easily missed. She is truly an inspiration to those who know her.

Sarah Prinzi, Teacher, Geneseo Central School

Groveland

Madelyn Levey, a senior at Alfred-Almond High School, is a hardworking, and intelligent young woman. She has been officially a social member of the West Sparta Volunteer Fire Department since 2023. She was always there before that to help the fire department at annual fundraisers. You could see her in the spring serving people or washing dishes at the West Sparta Historical Society Spaghetti Dinner. In June, you could see Madelyn helping to set up, serving, and picking up at the fire departments annual chicken barbeque. In the fall, she would be the department’s Vanna White spinning the wheel at

the annual meat raffle. At all these functions, Madelyn knew her job and helped anywhere she could. Since she and her brother are third generation members of the department, she often brings him to the department so that he can do his training for junior firefighter. In the classroom, she is a natural born leader and very intelligent; she currently has a 96.86 GPA. She is Vice-President of the National Honor Society and class secretary. Her dedication in the classroom has led her to some accolades which include Scholar of the Month, and Scholar Athlete. On the field or track, her leadership, charisma, and determination have helped her as well. Madelyn was captain of her varsity soccer team and track team and a supportive force and inspiration. She has been recognized as Athlete of the Month, Most Improved Player in soccer and track, and selected to First Honors for Allegany County Female soccer team. She has big plans for herself coming in the fall as she plans on entering college and be leadership to the next generation. She wants to study biology and education to become a teacher. She has done some great things now, and undoubtedly will continue to succeed even higher.

Jeremiah Pratt, West Sparta Volunteer Fire Department Chair of the Board

William "Will" Levey, as a junior firefighter is a true legacy to the West Sparta Fire Department. He is a third generation firefighter behind his paternal grandparents, his parents, and two uncles. He is following in their footsteps by being in the department, learning the equipment, and operating it. He will probably lead the fire department someday! You can always see him participating in the department events, serving at spaghetti or chicken BBQ dinners, or working the table at the meat raffle. He is planning to take State Fire Education courses at the Office of Livingston County Emergency Management. As a triathlete in Alfred-Almond School District, he is a very active young man. He is a member of the varsity soccer team, varsity wrestling team, and track. As class president, he is responsible for overseeing fundraising and class projects. He also is vice president for the Outdoor Club where he plans and helps with outdoor adventures for the club. Will is thinking about going into welding after graduation. Indeed with his charisma, dedication, and leadership he will be successful in whatever direction he decides to go.

Jeremiah Pratt, West Sparta Volunteer Fire Department Chair of the Board

Cheyenne Sargent is a sophomore at Geneseo High School, and a genuine role model in Livingston County. She is an example of hard work and is an integral part of shaping youth in the community. Over the years, Cheyenne has been involved in many clubs at school, including band, chorus and student council. As her commitment to her athletics and academics increased, she was unable to continue in all extracurricular activities but remains involved in Drama Club. In academics, Cheyenne pushes herself to reach her dream of becoming an architect, taking AP Art courses and specialized classes to increase her knowledge of structural design. Her high academic achievement is displayed through her membership with Junior National Honor Society. Cheyenne's true passion, however, is athletics. She is a member of the varsity indoor and outdoor track teams, varsity soccer team, and plays on Premier, which is a club soccer team. Cheyenne's love of soccer has transformed into additional leadership opportunities. She volunteers her time as a youth coach with the Bronze Bears Soccer Program, imparting her own love of the sport and shaping youth in her community.

James Merrick, Family Friend

Lorelei Weingaertner is an all-around representation of what it means to be a teen leader. She is involved in sports and fine arts at Geneseo Central School. Lorelei is a member of chorus, plays multiple string instruments in orchestra, and has been featured in several Drama Club productions. Additionally, she is an athlete on the cross-country teams, as well as outdoor and indoor track. Despite her participation in many extracurricular activities, she is able to maintain high academic achievement and is a member of Junior National Honor Society. She is a positive role model to those around her. She is responsible and holds employment as a babysitter and more recently at Wegmans. Lorelei deserves recognition not only for her scholastic achievements, but for her unique and bright spirit.

James Merrick, Family Friend

Leicester

Haley Diamond, a senior at York High School, is very involved within her school community and leads by example. She is a member of National Honor Society and band. Haley designed, built and painted sets for the school

musical, *Once Upon a Mattress*. The music department greatly appreciated her willingness to help out. She also provided numerous hours helping to set up the school for the All-State event in November 2024. Haley also helped with sorting and organizing materials for teachers and staff throughout the building.

William MacKenzie, Teacher, York Central School

Liam Ezard, a senior at York High School, exemplifies the coveted traits of good character, honesty, leadership, reliability, kindness, and perseverance. Last spring, Liam received York Central School's most coveted award, The Anthony Lariton Award. This award is presented to a student who shows outstanding citizenship, is a friend to all in his/her school community, one who lends a helping hand wherever it is needed, and to a student who understands the value of a good education. Liam lives his life modeling these characteristics. His teachers describe Liam as a young man with integrity and very hard working, both in and out of school. He started his own landscaping business, which is very busy in the spring, summer, and fall. During the school day, Liam volunteers in the elementary school office, assisting the secretary. Additionally, Liam works at the school over the summer break. He is a student in the Building Trades program at GV BOCES in Mount Morris and also a three-sport athlete. Liam is reliable, trustworthy, and loyal. He gives a tremendous amount of effort to every practice and game, is loyal to his teammates, and receives a level of respect from his teammates because of his quiet leadership. Liam is truly an outstanding young man.

Sarah Santora, Relations Specialist, York Central School

Jaelyn Fanaro is a positive influence in the York school community. She is a member of the girls' soccer and basketball programs. She comes to practice every day for both sports even though she has had an injury this year and unable to play. She is always willing to help teammates and coaches. Jaelyn is a member of the Stand Up Club; which is meant to be a safe space for all students and a way to get younger students to feel included in the school community. As president of this club she is in charge of organizing and monitoring the school's clothing pantry. There is an extensive space dedicated to clothing, shoes and toiletries that are free to students and their families. She is also responsible for welcoming new students and families to the district. She give tours, and checks in with middle/high school students on

their first couple of days to make sure they are finding their way around and settling in. Something notable that she did this year was to come to school on a superintendent's conference day and deliver donuts and coffee to every staff member in the middle/high school. The York school is a better place because of her.

Kaitlin Kolb, Librarian/Coach, York Central School

Isabella “Bella” Fischer, a senior at York High School, is often described by teachers as a strong leader with flawless integrity. She is responsible for the creation of a student-led Bible Club that meets after school. Bella met with some resistance when she first approached the administration to ask for permission to form the club. She researched the laws and provided the documentation to support the request and continued her efforts until it was approved. Many students joined and enjoy the after school activity. As a member of the yearbook staff, Bella has taken the lead as being the student editor where she is an extremely dependable and self-motivated student. She can always be counted on to go above and beyond in her coursework and always follows through on commitments. Bella actively participates in the yearbook and has volunteered several times to cover school events as a staff photographer. She is also very active as a member of Odyssey of the Mind. In addition, Bella is very involved in her church, 4-H, and has a significant role in the technology needed for the high school musical.

Sarah Santora, Relations Specialist, York Central School

Javen Jackson, a junior at York High School, is a shining light in his school and community. He has not allowed circumstances to define who he is – he chooses life every day. Javen is a cancer survivor and was in remission until last spring when he received the news that cancer had returned and he would need treatment immediately. Consequently he was unable to attend school until January this year. Javen has never lost hope and dealt with the diagnosis with courage and determination. He is a bright spot in the day - always smiling, never speaking of the hardships he and his family have endured, but always uplifting others. He had been active in sports but that is currently on hold until he is stronger. He is participating in clubs and activities at school and plays in the band. He is also very active in his church; attending weekly services and volunteering time to different ministries, including helping to build other churches. He loves his church involvement and spending time with

family; “family is everything”. Students and teachers alike look up to Javen as a source of encouragement and an example of how to appreciate life, have gratitude, and keep shining his light in the world so others may see it and be blessed. Javen is an outstanding young man and beyond a shadow of a doubt he will do great things in the future.

Sarah Santora, Relations Specialist, York Central School

Jayden Jackson, a junior at York High School, always has a bright smile, kind and mannered disposition, and a positive attitude. He and his family have gone through numerous trials but through it all, Jayden has remained active in school activities and sports. He has performed in band and chorus concerts, played football, and participated in school events and clubs. What is most impressive is that Jayden had the fortitude to audition for the high school musical and held a lead role in the performance of *Once Upon a Mattress*. He was outstanding! While his friends and teachers were deeply moved by the Jackson family’s trials, Jayden remained a positive and encouraging friend and student. He gave his all to school and displayed courage in the face of adversity. Jayden is also very active in his church; attending weekly services and volunteering to different ministries, including helping to build other churches. He loves his church involvement and spending time with family; “family is everything”. Students and teachers alike look up to Jayden as a source of encouragement and an example of how to appreciate life, have gratitude, and keep shining his light in the world so others may see it and be blessed. Jayden is a very positive influence on all who know him.

Sarah Santora, Relations Specialist, York Central School

Hailey Nearhood has provided exceptional leadership and support to Mrs. Streb's students this school year. Hailey decided to set up an internship experience with an elementary school classroom to gain classroom experience and help prepare her for a future career as an elementary classroom teacher. She has provided both group and individual support and instruction for the students as well as helping out with organization and classroom decorations. Hailey has also helped out at school events, the Character Carnival, and blood drives. Hailey is a proven leader not only for her peers, but the younger students at York Central School!

William MacKenzie, Teacher, York Central School

Lima

Raegan Banker is an exceptional teen who demonstrates leadership in school, the community and within her own family. She is in tenth grade at Honeoye Falls-Lima High School and maintains a 3.9 GPA. Raegan is an older sister to a brother with severe autism. She is loving, patient, and takes the time to teach her brother daily life skills. She ensures that he is safe and helps her parents provide a loving environment where her brother can thrive. Raegan demonstrates leadership as a friend of Rotary and helps mentor younger students in softball. She likes to volunteer because she enjoys making a positive impact on her community. It's important to her that she makes a difference in Lima. For several years Raegan has truly enjoyed volunteering at many Rotary events. She states "everyone is very welcoming and hard working in Rotary. It's inspiring!" Raegan is a dedicated softball player. She plays softball year-round on several teams including HF-L JV softball, Lady Lions and The All American 14U Team. In addition to softball Raegan plays tennis. Sports aren't the only thing she excels at. Off the field and court, she shines on stage in select choir and Drama Club events. In the future Raegan hopes to go to college and play softball as well as go to medical school to become a doctor and continue to make a positive difference in the lives of others.

Melinda Fleming, Lima Rotary/Lima Village Trustee/Teacher, Honeoye Falls-Lima Central School

Ethan Cole is a diligent, authentic young person. Academically Ethan steps up to the most demanding college preparatory programs. Many advanced placement courses challenge his strong mathematical reasoning and problem solving abilities. Other APs grow his communication skills; Ethan now speaks eloquently and confidently before groups and writes clearly and comprehensively. Teachers find he asks questions that expand his knowledge and supports learning difficult material. Peers appreciate his willingness to assist them when struggling with ideas or topics. Ethan enthusiastically loves to learn and share his understanding with others. To support a career interest in computer science Ethan joined math and technology based groups. As a member of the Math Club, Ethan participates in math problem solving competitions and maintains team statistics from each meet. As treasurer for

STEM Club, he manages fundraising, pays for snacks, and assists with the annual holiday toy drive. To meet local National Honor Society service hour requirements, Ethan tutors math department students and participates in community clean up events with the Green Team and Rotary Interact. A trip to Europe through his French class inspired Ethan's interest in world language and culture and exposed him to a vastness of opportunities. Last summer Ethan worked in the district's technology department where he cleaned, repaired and set up computer equipment for staff and students. High school has given Ethan confidence and because of this, he will be able to step up to the challenges of a competitive university program.

Dianne Witkowski, Counselor, Honeoye Falls-Lima School

Anthony Hage, a sophomore at Lima Christian School, has overcome several challenges in his young life. As a result of bullying in elementary school, his parents transferred him to Lima Christian School when he was in fourth grade. Here he experienced kindness and love from the staff and students and began to heal. He said he "rebuilt himself and wanted to help others." When Anthony's parents suffered from debilitating health issues Anthony did not initially cope well with his situation and turned to negative coping mechanisms. At that time, he began to meet with his pastor on a weekly basis who helped him and showed him how to look outside himself to help others. Anthony said this humbled him and helped him to become calm and look out for other people's needs. Anthony experienced a severe concussion in ninth grade from playing soccer. He spent about three months at home recovering from the concussion and had severe headaches. He said it was difficult to keep up with his schoolwork and had to take medications for the headaches. He leaned on his faith and a bible verse, Romans 8:28, helped him get through this challenging time - how God works everything for good, even when we don't understand. He decided to take a break from soccer and basketball this past school year and joined the Drama Club and yearbook committee. He is also involved with Mentors for Minis where he mentors younger students. Through this program, he learned how to relate better to others, including parents and students. This year he is matched with a second grader and they have lunch together, play games in the gym, and pray together. Anthony also volunteers for his church, Crossroads Community Church in Lima, where he handles the technology for the worship team. During the summers, he volunteers on the Work Crew and was a junior counselor working with sixth

grade boys last summer. For summer 2025, he wants to apply to be a senior counselor. He goes with his youth group every year to one of the county nursing homes for Christmas caroling. Anthony has used his challenges to overcome difficulties in his life and works to make other people's lives better. He is sensitive to the needs of those around him and seeks how he can help others.

Christa Barrows, Family Friend

Marley Ross is a tenth grader at Honeoye Falls-Lima High School. Outside of her studies she participates in choir. After school she is a dedicated community member that makes a priceless difference in the lives of others. In April of 2023 Marley became a junior firefighter for the Lima Volunteer Fire Department and shortly after she joined the Lima EMS. As a volunteer, Marley has attended numerous training courses at the fire department and ambulance base. She has gone on several fire calls and attended drills. This winter she became eligible to go on ambulance calls and assist in saving lives. Marley became a volunteer for the local emergency service departments because she loves to help people, especially in a time of crisis. Her favorite thing about volunteering is teamwork because she has learned so much from the role models she volunteers with. Marley states that the chiefs at both departments demonstrate great leadership skills and really let her be involved. Previous to volunteering Marley wasn't sure what she wanted to do after high school. Currently, her plan is to get certified to be an EMT by the time she turns 18. She will attend EMCC her last two years of high school starting next year for healthcare and nursing. Marley would like to continue on to college to get her nursing degree where she can continue to serve and make a difference in the lives of others.

Melinda Fleming, Lima Rotary/Lima Village Trustee/Teacher, Honeoye Falls-Lima Central School

Ava Yusko exemplifies what it means to be an outstanding teen! She is deeply involved in numerous aspects of the Lima community, demonstrating a strong commitment to service and leadership. As one of the founding scouts of Lima Troop 5029, established in 2022, Ava actively participates in the annual food drive supporting the Lima Food Pantry and Light Up Lima (the village's annual Christmas Tree Lighting). Beyond local events, she also contributes at the council level, assisting with important tasks like preparing

and stocking firewood for the year at the council campground. In February 2024, Ava joined the Junior EMT program as she is dedicated to helping others. After completing her training, she began attending monthly meetings and accompanying EMT's on response calls where she assesses vitals and tracks patient information. Ava has also recruited five new junior members and participates in the Lima Bed Race and parade. Ava plans to become EMT certified when she is 17. Ava joined the fire department in April 2024 where she attends monthly meetings, completes training, and participates in emergency simulation exercises, demonstrating her dedication to learning and preparedness. In addition to her work with the community programs, Ava gives her time as a high school volunteer for the Honeoye Falls-Lima PTA, helping with the annual book fair and Parent's Date Night. She also contributes to environmental sustainability as a member of her school's Green Team, assisting with sorting recyclables. Ava's dedication extends to academics as well—she is an honor student who excels in her studies while balancing a remarkable array of activities. Her hard work and passion for community service make her a shining example of youth achievement.

Chrissy Petraitis, Scout Leader, Scouts BSA

Matthew Zygadlo embodies the spirit of service, leadership, and dedication to making a lasting impact in his community. As an active member of the National Honor Society, Matthew consistently demonstrates a commitment to scholarship, leadership, and service. He plays an essential role in community initiatives such as the Community Clean-Up and Breakfast with Santa, both of which bring people together and strengthen community bonds. Matthew's passion for environmental sustainability is evident in his role as Vice President of Climate Connections. One of his most significant contributions has been his involvement in the Maple Syrup project on campus. From initiating the first tap to witnessing the project's growth—now boasting nearly \$30,000 in resources. Matthew has been a driving force behind its success. Currently, he is collaborating with fellow Climate Connections members to organize a community pancake breakfast and open house, ensuring that others have the opportunity to engage with and learn about the project. Beyond his school involvement, Matthew is an active member of his church, where he volunteers at events such as the Pumpkin Festival and the Lima Crossroads Festival. His dedication to serving others is evident in his willingness to work with students of all ages, fostering a spirit of mentorship and community

connection. Matthew's unwavering dedication to service, leadership, and his contributions have had a meaningful impact not only at school, but the environment, and the greater community. His commitment to making a difference will continue for years to come.

Megan Hugg, Assistant Principal, Livonia High School

Livonia

Ziggy Bepko is a bright, thoughtful young man who shows a genuine enthusiasm for learning. Despite challenges, Ziggy has demonstrated persistence, determination, and a strong commitment to personal and academic growth. Although his cognitive processing differs from peers in certain ways, he approaches challenges with a unique perspective and a problem-solving mindset. Ziggy has developed strong strategies for managing his workload, seeking support when needed, and maintaining focus on his goals. In addition to Ziggy's academic talents, he has demonstrated outstanding leadership and empathy toward others. As president of the Genders and Sexualities Alliance (GSA) he plans thoughtful, caring activities to support members of his community. He is a member of National Honor Society and very involved in Climate Connections, a school-based group that focuses on environmental conservation and protection. What truly stands out about Ziggy is his determination to succeed, while features of Autism and TBI may present occasional challenges, these traits have not defined him; rather, he has used these experiences to shape a thoughtful, determined, and purposeful outlook on life.

Sarah Bell, Psychologist, Livonia Central School

Sofia Choffin moved to Livonia from Florida in the middle of her freshman year; she was a very quiet, reserved young lady. Asking for help was nerve-racking, especially being new to the school, so she often just struggled through her day. At the beginning of her sophomore year, Sofia joined the Livonia Fire Explorers program; a huge step outside of her comfort zone. She was inspired by her great-grandfather, great uncles, and her father who were all volunteer firefighters. She grew up fascinated by the work that they did and loved the idea of helping others. The growth and maturity that came from Sofia's involvement with the fire explorers has been impressive. Last year she

heard about the possibility of an EMS program at BOCES and was very excited. She visited BOCES to check out the program and knew right away that she wanted to sign up. This year she is a part of the first EMS program at BOCES and is not only loving the program, but is thriving. She has earned her CPR certification and will be a Certified First Responder by the end of this school year and was recently accepted to Livonia Ambulance as a trainee. The young lady who barely spoke louder than a whisper now stops to talk about her accomplishments and the exciting things she is learning. Her confidence has grown exponentially, which has translated to all areas of her life. She is so incredibly passionate about helping others and is willing to put in the hard work to become a firefighter/EMT. Sofia is an amazing young lady and it is exciting to see her continue to shine in a field that is so fitting for her.

Cindy Fitzsimmons, Counselor, Livonia High School

MacKenzie Laursen, a senior at Livonia High School, has had a positive impact on her community. Her participation in a wide range of extracurricular activities, including varsity soccer, indoor/outdoor track and field, and girls lacrosse, demonstrates her diverse talents and relentless drive. MacKenzie balances her athletic pursuits with her involvement in the Kindness Club, Theater Club, and Link-Crew, as well as her role as a school lifeguard. MacKenzie suffered a serious injury this year during soccer season, but did not let that deter her as a contributing member of the team. She has fought her way back to have a successful indoor track season and has done all of this with a smile, positively encouraging her teammates every step of the way and stepping up as a leader on the team. MacKenzie advocates for herself in difficult situations and stands up for what she believes in; she is a true example for younger students and athletes. MacKenzie's tremendous work ethic is impressive and will go far in all her future accomplishments.

Kate DeLano, Counselor/Coach, Livonia Central School

Kaddie Martin is a fine young adult leader in the Livingston County 4-H Teen Council. As a member of this team for the past two years, she has helped plan, coordinate, and carry out numerous community service projects for local community members and activities for younger 4-H youth. Kaddie has developed her leadership skills over the past few years through the 4-H motto of "Learn by Doing". She has served as a valuable and cooperative team member who has helped inspire and motivate younger members of the Teen

Council to be vocal and engaged. Her fun and encouraging spirit has helped her embrace the role of mentor and role model to others. This past year, Kaddie served as a judge's assistant for 4-H project judging at the Hemlock Fair. In this position, she recorded results, assisted a judge in the project evaluation process, and engaged youth in conversation about their project. The past two years, she has helped put on the 4-H Teen Council Community Spring Egg Hunt on the Mount Morris County Complex. As part of the leadership team, Kaddie helped plan and coordinate many games and activities for teens in addition to three different age division egg hunts. Her insightful ideas, organizational skills, communication, and excitement for the event helped to make it a great success. Kaddie has grown into a confident leader who has demonstrated a passion for helping her fellow younger 4-H members and the local community. Through this she has positioned herself as a role model and mentor for other youth.

Mark Wittmeyer, Cornell Cooperative Extension 4-H Educator

Angela Minery is a remarkable young leader whose dedication, initiative, and vision have significantly impacted Livonia Middle High School. Angela exemplifies what it means to be a leader, demonstrating a passion for fostering new opportunities for her peers and taking the initiative to shape the future of her school community. Angela has been instrumental in the development stages of multiple clubs showcasing her ability to inspire and organize her fellow students. She played a crucial role in founding the DECA Club (Distributive Education Clubs of America), a not-for-profit organization that helps students develop critical skills in business, marketing, finance, and hospitality. This initiative alone would have been an impressive accomplishment, but Angela's ambition did not stop there. Recognizing the ever-changing landscape of global politics and the importance of diplomacy, Angela proposed and successfully launched The Model UN Club (MUN) this year. MUN provides students with an opportunity to simulate the United Nations General Assembly, learn about diplomacy, and explore international policies. Angela's vision was to create an engaging platform for students to discuss global issues, promote civil discourse, and develop critical thinking skills. Her leadership in spearheading this club has opened doors for students to explore topics that shape our world and influence the future. What sets Angela apart is not just her participation in school activities, but her role as a trailblazer. Many students join existing clubs, but Angela had the foresight

and determination to create new ones—an endeavor that requires immense dedication, creativity, and leadership. Her passion for providing her peers with enriching experiences speaks volumes about her character and her commitment to making a lasting impact. Angela has demonstrated an exceptional ability to think ahead, take action, and empower others to engage in meaningful discussions and experiences. Her contributions will continue to inspire those around her for years to come.

Jon O’Keefe, Dean of Students, Livonia Central School

Brooke Minery is an exceptional young leader whose vision, initiative, and dedication have significantly impacted Livonia Middle High School. Brooke’s leadership is truly remarkable. Brooke has been instrumental in the development of several clubs and played a crucial role in establishing the DECA Club (Distributive Education Clubs of America), a not-for-profit organization that prepares students for careers in business, marketing, finance, and hospitality. Founding such a club demonstrates her forward-thinking approach and desire to provide her peers with opportunities for professional and personal growth. As if starting one club was not ambitious enough, Brooke spearheaded the development of another—the Model UN Club (MUN). This organization simulates the United Nations General Assembly and allows students to explore diplomacy, global policies, and civil discourse. At a time when political and global issues are at the forefront of shaping our societies and governments, Brooke recognized the need for a platform where students could engage in meaningful discussions and learn about international relations. What sets Brooke apart is not just her participation in school activities, but her willingness to create opportunities for others. Instead of simply joining existing clubs, she envisioned, researched, and implemented new organizations that would provide her peers with enriching and educational experiences. Her ability to generate excitement around these initiatives and encourage others to engage in thought provoking discussions is both inspiring and admirable. Brooke’s leadership extends beyond just founding clubs—she embodies dedication, purpose, and creativity in everything she does. Her ability to recognize the needs of her peers and take action to meet them speaks volumes about her character and determination. She is a true leader, innovator, and role model, making a lasting impact on her school and community. She exemplifies the qualities of a forward-thinking

leader, and undoubtedly will continue to make meaningful contributions wherever she goes.

Jon O'Keefe, Dean of Students, Livonia Central School

Grace Shantz is the type of young person who makes things happen! She walks to the Livonia Library after school ready to help with a smile on her face. She can be relied on for everything from shelving books to planning teen library programming. Grace's passion for reading is something she shares with others through volunteering at both the local and school libraries. At her school's library, Grace uses books as a way to connect with others. She volunteers her time reading with special needs students as a way to get to know them and their interests. She says reading with these students helps her to develop friendships and makes school a more inclusive place. This past holiday season, Grace and the students she has bonded with at the library went out together to purchase gifts for nonprofit Toys for Tots. Having seen the impact of her volunteering, Grace plans to become a special education teacher. She says her goal is to make people with special needs feel a sense of "belonging". Grace demonstrates a kindness and humor that draws people to her. When passing out hygiene products for the nonprofit "Hygiene Bank", Grace was mentioned by name by recipients in an exit survey as a person who made them feel welcome. Her work with the children at her church demonstrates this trait as well. Grace volunteers her time babysitting the children of her congregation and guiding them through the Christmas Pageant performances. According to Grace, community service is about helping people without any reward.

Emily Davis, Coordinator, Livonia Public Library

Olivia Smith is an extraordinary young woman whose resilience, tenacity, and unwavering determination serve as an inspiration to all who know her. Olivia has faced significant health challenges, yet she has emerged stronger, more determined, and more radiant than ever. Her return to Livonia High School has been nothing short of remarkable—she shines as a beacon of hope and perseverance. Instead of allowing adversity to define her, Olivia has used her experiences to fuel her passions, uplifting those around her with her positivity and strength. What sets Olivia apart is her relentless drive and the example she sets for her peers. She does not just overcome obstacles—she

faces them head-on with courage and grace, proving that resilience is not just about enduring hardships but about thriving despite them. Her tenacity is infectious, inspiring those around her to push beyond their limits and embrace every opportunity with gratitude and determination. Beyond her personal journey, Olivia's presence at school is one of warmth, kindness, and encouragement. She embodies what it means to lead by example, demonstrating that true strength comes from perseverance and an unwavering belief in oneself. She is not just someone to admire—she is someone to aspire to. For her resilience, her inspiring leadership, and her unwavering commitment to living life with purpose and strength, Olivia is a role model, not only for her peers but for anyone who has the privilege of knowing her.

Michael Calzi, Principal, Livonia Central School

Ayden Szymanski is a junior at Livonia High School, who has chosen to turn adversity into strength and use his experiences to uplift those around him. Due to family loss, Ayden struggled during his middle school years as he sought to find himself. However, instead of allowing these challenges to define him negatively, Ayden chose to rise above them, displaying remarkable perseverance and determination. His passion for helping others shines through in his commitment to the arts. Ayden dedicates his time to mentoring younger students in the middle school musical, instilling in them a love and appreciation for theater. His guidance and leadership have given many students the confidence to take the stage, and his influence has helped foster a welcoming and creative environment for young performers. Beyond the arts, Ayden plays a pivotal role in his school community. As a member of Link Crew, he warmly welcomes incoming freshmen, offering them support and encouragement as they embark on their high school journey. His leadership extends to his role as class treasurer, where he actively organizes events and initiatives to create a sense of unity and school spirit among his peers. Ayden's leadership is also recognized on the athletic field, where he has been named captain of the football team for the upcoming year. His teammates and coaches respect him not only for his athletic ability, but also for his unwavering dedication, sportsmanship, and ability to inspire those around him. The most remarkable aspect of Ayden's journey is the fact that he had every reason to take a different path, but he consciously chose one of perseverance, kindness, and leadership. He has turned personal struggles into

motivation, using his experiences to better himself and those around him. His strength and resilience are truly inspiring, and undoubtedly he will continue to make a lasting impact on his community and beyond.

Jon O'Keefe, Dean of Students, Livonia Central School

Molly Walker embodies the qualities of a true leader—initiative, vision, and a deep commitment to making a difference in her school and community. Seeing a gap in leadership and business opportunities at her school, Molly collaborated with two other students to establish both Model UN and DECA, providing students with valuable experiences in diplomacy, public speaking, and business strategy. Recognizing the absence of business classes, she proactively sought to fill the void, ensuring that students still had access to essential career-oriented learning. Molly's leadership extends beyond the academic sphere. As a leader in the Volleyball Club, she dedicates her time to supporting and encouraging younger athletes, fostering teamwork and personal growth among students in grades 8-10. She is also a leader in Cancer Kids First, an organization she connected with through social media, where she holds a management role on the event team, helping to coordinate initiatives that support children battling cancer. Molly's passion for leadership is evident in everything she does. Whether she is spearheading new programs, guiding younger students, or managing impactful events, she consistently steps up to inspire and empower those around her. With aspirations of a future in politics, Molly is already making a tangible impact, ensuring that leadership opportunities are available to all students. Molly is noted for her drive, dedication, and unwavering commitment to bettering her school and community.

Megan Hugg, Assistant Principal, Livonia Central School

Mount Morris

Savannah Ebersole has only been in Mount Morris for two years, but has become deeply involved in her local and school communities. She is an active member of her church, attending youth classes and participating in services. She is the top student in her class, and has also joined a large number of sports and extracurricular activities including Spanish Club, Key Club, the Social Justice Club, band, cheerleading, and track. She has been chosen by her

teachers as Student of the Month multiple times over. This has been her first year participating in cheer, but she has been an incredible role model for younger athletes and an integral member of the varsity team. In the past, she has volunteered her time at the nursing home, community events such as Breakfast with Santa, and at the youth exploration camp called The Learning Web. In just two summers, she volunteered almost 200 hours of her time. Savannah was just awarded a full scholarship to attend the HOBY World Leadership Conference in Chicago this summer; she is so excited! This will be an incredible opportunity for her to continue to find her voice as she paves her way through life. Savannah is incredibly kind-hearted, empathetic, and determined to always do what is right.

Breanna Zabiegalski, Teacher, Mount Morris Central School

Rylee Lippens, is a junior at Mount Morris High School. While her academic and athletic achievements are impressive, her leadership, unwavering dedication to others, and ability to bring people together truly set her apart. Rylee is a quiet leader who leads not for recognition but to foster a sense of community, encourage teamwork, and to make a difference in the lives of those around her. Balancing multiple Syracuse University courses with a rigorous extracurricular schedule, Rylee sets an example of dedication and perseverance. Yet, what truly distinguishes her is how she uses her talents and time to uplift others. As editor of the school newspaper, she ensures that student voices are heard, and works collaboratively to create a publication that informs and unites the student body. Through her role in the Drama Club, Broadcast Media Club, band, chorus, and musical, she contributes not only her artistic talents but also her leadership, motivating others and fostering a supportive and inclusive creative environment. Her commitment to her peers extends far beyond the classroom and stage. As a volunteer for the baseball team, she steps up to help in a role that often goes unnoticed but is essential to the success of the team. She does so without expectation of recognition, embodying the true spirit of service leadership. As a multi-sport athlete and member of the Mountain Biking Club, she inspires others through her determination and teamwork, always demonstrating sportsmanship and encouragement. In addition to her demanding schedule, Rylee works at Dunkin' further demonstrating her work ethic, time management skills, and ability to balance multiple responsibilities. Despite her busy schedule, she remains kind, compassionate, and always willing to lend a hand to those in

need. Her ability to lead with kindness, support her peers, and bring people together in pursuit of common goals makes her a true role model.

Greg Bump, Superintendent, Mount Morris Central School

Eliza Lonsberry has many strong characteristics of a good leader. She is the first student to volunteer and a student who can always be relied on. She exemplifies the quality of leadership by modeling strong communication skills and by showing dedication and commitment. She is not only a leader by title but a leader by example to other students. Due to her strong leadership characteristics, Eliza was one of two students from the sophomore class chosen to attend the Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership Conference. She was also chosen to attend Girls' State as the primary delegate out of her Junior Class. Eliza demonstrates a strong connection with civic engagement, community service, and academic achievement. She is a role model through her actions and words to all her fellow students at Mount Morris Central School. Eliza demonstrates qualities of dependability, service, and civic duty in her academics, athletics, and extracurricular activities. Eliza was elected treasurer in her first year as a member of Key Club and Vice-President last year and re-elected for the upcoming service year. She was also elected as District Lieutenant Governor which is an outstanding achievement for the district. The Lieutenant Governor is responsible for supporting and growing the clubs within her division and serving as a liaison between the district and the club. Eliza is also consistently involved in the Social Justice Club where she identifies needs in her community and helps to empower disadvantaged and marginalized individuals. She has participated in the annual Wellness Fair at the school, and helped with the community garden. Eliza is a hardworking student who genuinely cares for her community. She is a student who not only has aspiring goals but is committed to completing the work necessary to achieve these goals. Eliza will be attending Yale University in the fall.

Ashley Stowell, Counselor, Mount Morris Central School

Morgan Luick, a senior at Mount Morris High School, is a leader in the classroom and on sports teams. She is a member of varsity soccer, basketball, indoor and outdoor track, and has been captain of the soccer and basketball teams for multiple years. Morgan is not an individual that you have to worry about not giving 100%; she encourages others to participate and holds

everyone to high expectations. In the classroom she strives for excellence at all times. She is a member of National Honor Society. Not only is Morgan a leader but she is a person that can be counted on by friends, family, and teachers. Morgan volunteers during summers to help 3rd-6th grade students learn and develop their soccer and basketball skills. Morgan is an excellent role model for peers and younger athletes.

Matthew James, Teacher/Coach, Mount Morris Central School

Marissa Maggio had an injury that caused her to miss out on athletics and many other extracurricular activities last year. Instead of sitting around and feeling sorry for herself, Marissa joined the Weightlifting Club and has made a profound impact. Marissa was so dedicated to her recovery that she ended up winning the Weightlifter of the Year Award! The Weightlifting Club has grown in numbers and much of that credit is due to Marissa taking over a leadership role. On top of her amazing improvement in the Weightlifting Club, Marissa is a highly respected student who never gets in trouble. Marissa is a true student leader and as a result of her hard work, she has been inducted into the high school National Honor Society! Last but not least, Marissa volunteers her time in the spring as the baseball team manager. Marissa is an excellent role model.

Jesse Hamilton, Principal, Mount Morris Central School

Adriana Mann, a junior at Mount Morris High School, excels in both varsity basketball and soccer. For the past two years, she has volunteered to keep the books for the JV baseball team at both home and away games. This is something that she wanted to learn and be part of during the spring season. She was quick to learn and did a great job helping the coach and team and has already agreed to keep the varsity baseball team books again this year. Adriana also helped out at the summer basketball camp where she assisted wherever needed. She is a leader both in the classroom and in athletics and definitely a positive role model to Mount Morris youth sports programs. Adriana is also a member of National Honor Society and has volunteered during the school blood drive. She eagerly completed all tasks and expressed that she enjoys helping out.

Wayne Swede, Dean of Students/Athletic Director, Mount Morris Central School

Jayla Mowday was selected to go to HOBY (Hugh O'Brian Youth) leadership conference in Geneva NY last summer. She had to interview to attend and was selected by the principal and counselors because of her leadership abilities and work ethic. Jayla learned how to be a leader and was involved in cooking lasagna to give to people in need in that area. Jayla also interviewed and was selected to attend Girls State conference which will be held in Brockport this coming summer. She also had the opportunity to go to Indiana with her youth group through Gateway Church in PA where her family is from. Jayla attended church services there daily and helped clean up at a local YMCA. Jayla is a member of National Honor Society and has helped with face painting at Family Fest held at Al Lorenz Park. She has helped out at the school blood drive doing anything needed and making sure everything ran smoothly. She has also helped out during school dances and junior high track meets during the school year. Jayla is a great role model and continues to lead by example.

Wayne Swede, Dean of Students/Athletic Director, Mount Morris Central School

North Dansville

Thomas “Tommy” Adams, a senior at Dansville High School, is an amazing athlete with a love for soccer and basketball. When his mother became ill, Tommy found himself shouldering responsibilities he hadn't anticipated. But he willingly stepped up to the challenge and learned invaluable lessons in empathy, perseverance, and resilience. While facing these challenges he remained positive and always had a smile. As captain of the soccer team he led them to sectionals; which hasn't been done in years. His positive attitude and hard work never slowed him down. He has a great sense of humor and his smile can light up a room. As a member of the varsity basketball team, his winning attitude sets the team on fire. Tommy has been awarded the Varsity D and Script D (awarded to a varsity athlete with 90 or above average). He plans to attend Alfred State in the fall for project management.

Mary Youngers, Secretary, Dansville Central School

Hannah Bennett, a senior at Dansville High School, is a dynamic young lady who is dedicated to her school. She has been an active member of student

council for her entire high school career and has been at the center of organizing numerous events including spirit weeks, pep rallies, assemblies, parades, and the list goes on and on. And even though she's a constant behind the scenes, she's also a guaranteed presence at the event in question, decked out in all the red and black she can muster. She's a pillar of Dansville High School and a steady presence in the community at large. She's helped the local PTO, Lions Club, and Legion Auxiliary with many of their functions, including dinners, dances, and parades. At Christmas time you can find Hannah ringing the bell (vigorously) for the Salvation Army holiday drive. She was a Girls' State representative, at which she held county offices and was nominated Lt. Governor. She's done all of this and kept stellar grades, including all of the foreign language that is offered. Maybe best of all is her dedication to cheerleading, where she is also a volunteer coach. This is a position she's held for the last two years in which she instills her passion and knowledge of the sport to a new generation. This has also been a great experience for her intended career as a teacher.

Andrew Sanderson, Teacher, Dansville Central School

Briana Blair, a senior at Dansville High School, is a high honor roll student, a three-sport athlete, and involved in many extracurricular activities. As a result of her commitment to excellence, Briana has a list of accomplishments including being accepted into the universities of her choice; a leadership award from Senator Pamela Helming; captain of her athletic teams; and is an accomplished musician having participated in a variety of solo fest events. Briana is a member of Student Council, Future Business Leaders of America Club, Interact Club, International Club, Mock Trial, Pony Express, and Yearbook Club. Additionally, Briana is the ex-officio student member of the board of education at Dansville Central School District. Outside of school, Briana has helped at fundraisers for the West Sparta Fire Department. She is the proud business owner of two small businesses; baking cupcakes and selling beauty products. Briana is also a member of Primetime585 in which she helps recognize student athletes and teams all over Section V. On the first day of school for the 2024-2025 school year, Briana delivered opening remarks to all school employees. Her confidence in public speaking, in addition to preparing a heartfelt message; left everyone feeling excited for the upcoming school year. She leads by example and carries herself with a

positive demeanor that is not only uplifting, but also encouraging. Briana Blair is destined to do great things in life.

Dave Moodie, Principal, Dansville Central High School

Coralyn Griese is an active teenager, and a three-sport athlete for the Dansville School District. She has been a member of the Dansville Cheerleading program for both fall and winter seasons since she was eligible to join in seventh grade. Last year she decided to try softball and plans to continue in that program this spring. She also enjoys gymnastics and is enrolled in weekly classes at Dansville Gymnastics as well as being employed as one of their junior coaches. She has been taking horseback riding lessons since she was four years old and continues whenever she has spare time. She has recently discovered snowboarding and that has become another new interest that she truly enjoys. With the American Legion Junior Auxiliary she participates yearly in Project Christmas, Wreaths Across Dansville, flag placement for Memorial Day and the Memorial Day celebration. She volunteered at ¼ Mile Kids Run and the Buddy Ball program last year. This will be her third year singing in the chorus for the Lions Club annual show. She is a member of Joellen Smith's balloon crew, Baby Autumn Air, and has helped with Up-C-Dazey Ballooning. Coralyn also volunteers annually for the Dansville Police Officers Association chicken BBQ and their bike rodeo. She keeps herself so busy that most people are completely unaware of the health issues she has dealt with; but, she doesn't let it get her down. She portrays a positive attitude around peers and continues to work hard to help her teams succeed. She demonstrates a high level of character and commitment to her endeavors. She is a role model to teammates, especially others overcoming health issues.

Laura Wadsworth, Social Worker, Dansville Central School

Dennis Hanks has a knack for knowing and anticipating the needs of others. Dennis has a natural ability to motivate his classmates for the good of the greater group simply by encouraging participation. Dennis worked on a team project in Entrepreneurship where they designed and created greeting cards with second graders to hand deliver to the Livingston County Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. Dennis is well versed in the graphic design program and willingly helped teach classmates how to create an industry worthy greeting

card. Dennis has grown into a natural leader from seventh grade to his final senior year. He is an ambassador for cross country, indoor and outdoor track and field. Sportsmanship for him comes organically; always encouraging others no matter their ability.

Lynn Auble, Teacher / Coach, Dansville Central School

Journie Heiman is a natural leader, leading gently, yet firmly with expectations. She desires the 2025 yearbook to be one of quality as well as allowing her classmates the opportunity to contribute their creative ideas. She welcomes all suggestions and gives great feedback on what might work better, while making her yearbook teammates feel validated. She has blended what she wants with what is best for the greater group. As head editor, that is often a difficult task when working with peers, but Journie makes it look easy! She is also a master at working with the teaching faculty and building staff. She is swift to see that an email gathering information for a certain page needs to be sent and drafts it without hesitation or prompting. Her talents will be missed next year!

Lynn Auble, Dansville Central School Teacher & Advisor

Abigail “Abby” Kendall, a senior at Dansville High School, has a deep understanding of the importance of helping others. Raised in a family where kindness is emphasized, she was taught the value of giving to others, whether through small acts of kindness or larger community initiatives. She quickly embraced these values, finding fulfillment in offering her time and skills to causes that matter to her. Abby is enrolled in the Health Careers Academy and hopes to become a Physician Assistant. She is a member of National Honor Society, Tri-M Music Honors Society, and volunteers at the Dansville Ambulance and Foodlink Community Pantry. You can always find her in the thick of it all whether it be sporting events, church, or in her community.

Mary Youngers, Secretary, Dansville Central School

Caleb Knapp stands out on his sports teams; whether football, basketball, or track, he consistently demonstrates exceptional leadership, guiding his teammates through challenges and helping them achieve success. But what makes Caleb’s leadership truly remarkable is not his natural talent or his ability to perform under pressure—it is his ability to inspire and uplift others. In every game, practice, and situation, Caleb exemplifies what it means to be

a leader. Caleb shows qualities such as bringing a team together, motivating others when the going gets tough, and maintaining a positive attitude even when faced with adversity. Caleb's leadership isn't defined by the victories he led his teams to, but by the impact he has on the people around him. His ability to inspire, encourage, and work hard alongside his teammates make him a true leader, one who brought out the best in everyone he played with. Through his actions, Caleb proved that leadership is about more than just personal success—it's about helping others succeed and working together as a team to achieve greatness.

Mary Youngers, Dansville Central School High School Secretary

Carson Mays is a young man whose leadership qualities shine brightly both on the field and in his everyday life. Whether he is playing sports, assisting his classmates, or offering a helping hand in his community, Carson demonstrates that true leadership goes beyond authority—it's about inspiring others, fostering teamwork, and leading by example. His ability to connect with others, his natural inclination to help, and his commitment to excellence serve as a powerful reminder that great leaders are made, not born. As a player, he is not only focused on his own performance but is always looking for ways to elevate his team. He understands that leadership is not about being the loudest voice but about encouraging others, staying positive, and showing a strong work ethic.

Mary Youngers, Secretary, Dansville Central School

Kalianne Nash, a senior at Dansville High School, has overcome many obstacles in her young life. She struggled in school, with absenteeism, and making positive choices. However, over the past two years, she has learned how to change those choices into positives. As her attendance improved, her grades increased dramatically, and she achieved honor roll or merit roll each marking period for the last two years. Kalianne joined the softball team last year, and she was one of the most intellectual people on the team. She has shown that she understands the game on a high level, as well as trying her best during practice. Kalianne was always asking questions to gain more knowledge about the game, and also how to become a better player and person. She has also taken on a leadership role in the Environment Club where she helps to collect recyclables around the school. She helps others to gain positive relationships within the group and around the school. Kalianne is

a student in the automotive program at BOCES and after graduation plans to move down south with her uncle and work in his automotive shop. Kalianne has shown great strength in all of her struggles, continuing to push through and come out on the best side for her.

Kelsey Snyder, Social Worker/Coach, Dansville Central School

Brady Race, a young man full of energy and kindness, has always been a beacon of light to those around him. His infectious smile and cheerful spirit make him the kind of person people want to be around.

Dealing with heart-breaking family loss, at first, Brady found it hard to navigate through his emotions. But deep down, Brady knew his mom would want him to carry on with her legacy of kindness and positivity. Even in the darkest of times, she had always encouraged him to be strong and to make a difference in the world. Brady began to use his pain as a source of strength. He turned his grief into empathy, understanding that many others around him were facing their own struggles, big and small. He became a source of comfort to his friends and classmates, always offering a listening ear or a warm hug.

Mary Youngers, Secretary, Dansville Central School

Wyatt Swift has been an exceptional role model for others in Dansville as well as all of Livingston County. He is an outstanding example of true commitment to volunteering and leading by example in everything he does. Wyatt is a member of numerous organizations in school and in the community. He is a volunteer tennis camp instructor where he helps 9-12 graders understand the game of tennis and helps them improve. He sings at school and community events including the national anthem for multiple events. He is also a peer tutor in the Encompass program where he helps other students with homework and helps build positive relationships with the younger students. Wyatt is chorus president, student council vice president, tennis captain, a member of the National Music Honors Society, Area All-State Chorus, and All-County Chorus. He has been recognized Student of the Month for the business department and spring sports. Dansville is extremely proud of Wyatt and his leadership. He is a great example to others around him, and a perfect role model to others striving to be their very best. He is passionate, enthusiastic, knowledgeable, confident, and honest. On top of everything, Wyatt works a few jobs in town, and makes an amazing chai latte

at the Sugar Bowl in Dansville. Everyone would be lucky to have someone like Wyatt in their community.

Brittany Atwell, Teacher/Peer Tutoring Supervisor, Dansville Central School

Rayshana “Ray” Torres is an incredible young lady and truly an inspiration. Life changed for Ray four years ago and things started in a downward spiral. However, a friend stepped in and Ray moved to Dansville where she enrolled in school and slowly but surely, began getting her life back on track. Rayshana has fought, tooth and nail, to make school a priority for herself. It hasn't always been easy, but she has never given up on herself or her future. Every year, for the past four years, Ray has raised her GPA. She has decided that she wants to be a nurse, and enrolled in Health Dimensions at BOCES, She has spent countless hours caring for and nurturing others through the various activities that are required by her program, and pushed herself on a personal, academic and emotional level to achieve that goal. This year, Ray is having her best year in school. Her grades are the highest they've ever been. She has researched, visited, and applied to several colleges for nursing programs. She's completed her financial aid applications and has applied for multiple scholarships. Ray is also organizing a Black History Month project, on her own, to be displayed in school to help bring attention to and educate her peers on the important roles that African Americans have played, and continue to play, in our culture. Outside of school, Rayshana maintains a part-time job at a fast-food restaurant in Dansville. She is a shining example of what can be overcome with perseverance, hard work, and a will to succeed! Ray never gave up on herself, and now she stands poised to begin the next chapter of her life. Undoubtedly she will make as big an impact in the lives of the people she meets in the future as she has in the lives of the people she has met and worked with so far.

Erik Kastner, Counselor, Dansville Central School

Alana Wyatt, a senior at Wayland-Cohocton High School, is someone that others look up to. She is the quiet force that is calm and commanding when things are hectic. Alana is a senior member of the Dansville Ambulance Company Junior EMS Squad where she helps lead younger members through skills and assessments. She also assists with putting together training opportunities for other members. Alana exudes leadership qualities by taking charge of projects and mentoring others in order to elevate them to the high

standards the program and herself hold. Alana is also a member of the Perkinsville Fire Department, Wayland-Cohocton swimming team, and National Honor Society. Another project that Alana is leading the way for is a Junior EMS competition this summer which invites and encourages other juniors to build their skills and confidence in order to participate. Alana has handled all aspects including delegating, research, invitations, communications, and assisting with tasks. This is a prime example of someone who respects the responsibility of being a leader and exemplifies the characteristics needed.

Rebekah Schrier, Director of Program/Mentor, Dansville Ambulance Junior EMS Squad

Nunda

Ryley Benner is a great leader and role model. In class she is vocal answering questions and offering insights. She is always willing to do extra both during and after class. She is intelligent but doesn't flaunt it, helping others whenever possible. She is very well respected by her peers and adults. The respect helps her lead and so does her enthusiasm. She is willing to do the difficult things that require hard and sometimes tedious work. She also has a "we" approach – "We can do it"- Together Everyone Achieves More. She was voted head of Junior National Honor Society and did a lot to help with the student induction ceremony as well as lead it. Ryley is involved in all the Key Club activities. A special one for her is writing letters of thanks to our veterans. She diligently works as president of her class. She is responsible, on time, on task all the while with a sense of humor. She is a member of three sports teams always trying her best. Her personal motivation helps to fuel others.

Pete Piraino, Coach, Keshequa Central School

Kennedy Boss is a senior at Keshequa High School and a great athlete. She has been active in track, cheerleading, and soccer. As a young teenager she learned how important it is to spend quality time with loved-ones. When a beloved family member passed away very suddenly, she wanted to do something to help with the grieving process. So, she decided she would take upon herself to each day set aside time to talk to family members, spend time

with them, and tell them how much she loved them. She did small tasks around the house and encouraged her mother and grandmother to remember special times. She spent time with her grandmother playing cards, doing crafts, or shopping and she realized they were smiling more and remembering the good times. Kennedy shared that it is amazing how we can reach out to help others as we, too, can begin to heal from a family tragedy. Kennedy says “We shouldn't take things and lives for granted. In the blink of an eye, you may have to do grown-up activities and become strong to help the adults in your life in order to cope with unexpected tragedies”. She says to share with others, make the right decisions, because nothing in life is guaranteed. Tell your loved ones that you love them — she now does so every day!

Doris Marsh, Community Member, Nunda Rotary Club

Christopher “Chris” Brink is a remarkable young man who has shown incredible resilience in the face of challenges presented by being on the autism spectrum. Despite his obstacles, he has persevered and used his experiences to motivate and inspire others. His positivity and cheery disposition are contagious, and he consistently brings joy to everyone he meets. Whether it's sharing his picture of the day, introducing a new opera composition, or challenging peers and adults to a fun reaction time test, Chris has a unique ability to brighten the atmosphere around him. His enthusiasm extends to his creative pursuits, where he shares updates on his novel, offering insights into his imaginative world and showing others how to persevere in their endeavors. Chris is not only a source of joy, but also a dedicated student. His hard work in advanced math and science courses showcases his determination to excel academically, and his sense of humor adds to the warmth he brings to the school environment. Through his actions and attitude, Chris has become a beacon of positivity at Keshequa School, influencing his peers and adults meaningfully. His ability to turn personal challenges into a force for good is a powerful example of resilience and the impact of a positive attitude.

Chelsea Meyers, Teacher, Keshequa Central School

Michaela Bugman has been a member of the Livingston County 4-H Program for the past ten years and participated in several different projects. But her

passion lies within the animal science projects. Living on her family's sheep farm, she naturally began with showing breeding sheep and then started to expand into other species for an added challenge. Michaela also shows market poultry, market lambs, market steers, and beef heifers. Michaela can often be found helping young 4-Her's with their projects. She has helped to host a mini showmanship clinic while at the fair when she realized many of the 4-Her's were new to showing sheep. She also exhibited fitting demonstrations for the public. Michaela truly enjoys passing on her knowledge of fitting and showing sheep to others. Recently, Michaela has begun to expand her leadership opportunities serving as a teen member of the 4-H Advisory Committee for the second year where she helps to provide a teen perspective for discussion topics. Michaela is always providing an insightful and important point of view to educators. In November, Michaela was one of about 100 4-H youths to be selected to travel to Albany to participate in the Youth Agriculture Leadership Conference. She explored the many challenges and possibilities within agriculture and related industries, connected with other students and professionals regarding their own interests and aspirations, and discovered the vast array of career possibilities that await them in the future and reflected on New York States' future workforce needs. Michaela has grown into an exceptional teen leader within the 4-H Program and will continue to expand her leadership as she continues through the program and into adulthood.

Jennifer Schwab, 4-H Educator, Cornell Cooperative Extension

Seth Ebersole, a senior at Keshequa High School, is passionate about leadership, teamwork, and personal growth. As a dedicated student, athletically and academically, he has spent over a decade developing skills both on and off the field, demonstrating resilience, teamwork, and an unwavering commitment to excellence. Throughout his twelve years in soccer, two years in indoor and outdoor track, and four years in baseball, he has embraced leadership roles that strengthened his ability to inspire and support those around him. Serving as a captain, he took pride in mentoring teammates, helping them refine their technical skills and develop strong sportsmanship. One of his most rewarding experiences was assisting a fellow classmate in securing and supporting him in completion of his college application process as there was not help from home; an achievement that reinforced his dedication to guiding and uplifting others. The values instilled in

Seth through sports, teamwork, perseverance, and a drive to see others succeed are the same principles he aims to carry forward in his academic and professional journey.

Doris Marsh, Community Member, Nunda Rotary Club

Jaidyn Fox is a positive role model who willingly takes on tasks without complaint and works to the best of her ability to get the job done. As an active member of chorus, she has participated several times in All County festivals. She is a percussionist in the school band and also performs with local bands outside of school. Jaidyn has been an integral part of Drama Club – both on stage and in the sound booth. She has also worked on sets for various productions. Her participation in AV Club has given her skills when working back stage. Jaidyn has worked behind the scenes, done marketing, and performed on stage at her parents' concert venue. Jaidyn also uses her talents as a drummer to play for benefit concerts to help hurricane victims and cancer patients. She is the Easter Bunny and the Elf for holiday parties at the Dansville VFW. All in all she is a very well rounded young lady.

Sandra Thompson, Piano Teacher/Drama Club Costumer

Ryan Fox has come to understand that leadership is not just about personal success - it's about the impact you can have on others. Ryan has taken on the responsibility of being a role model for his classmates and underclassmen, especially when it comes to standing up to bullying. He believes that strong leaders don't stand by; they take action to create a positive and supportive environment for everyone. By encouraging others to stand tall, mentoring students on how to respond to bullies, and consistently modeling kindness he has worked to build a culture where respect and confidence can thrive. Bullying can make one feel powerless, but Ryan has encouraged his classmates to believe in themselves. Whenever Ryan notices someone being put down he makes a point to step in - not just to defend them but to remind them of their worth. Ryan tells students who are being bullied "Don't let them bring you down. You are stronger than their words." By reinforcing positivity, he helps others to realize that they have the inner strength to stand up for themselves. Ryan believes a strong leader becomes a role model for younger students. Underclassmen look up to Ryan admiring his confidence and are learning from his behavior. A leader who consistently stands against bullying earns the respect of peers, creating a positive effect throughout the school.

Ryan is planting the seeds of respect in his school culture, inspiring others to follow his example of leadership behaviors.

Doris Marsh, Community Member, Nunda Rotary Club

Aiden Howe, a tenth grader at Keshequa High School, is an excellent example of good sportsmanship on and off the field. He is a member of the Junior Honor Society and will be applying to the National Honor Society this year. He is an officer in his sophomore class, holding the position of treasurer, a position which shows that his classmates find him responsible and trustworthy. Over the past few years, Aiden has been on a travel baseball team. He also participated in a golf tournament as a volunteer to earn some of his community service hours. He is a well-rounded young man who has a bright future.

Sandra Thompson, Community Member/Substitute Teacher, Keshequa Central School

Grayson Jackson, as a dedicated student, athlete, and community volunteer, is committed to making a positive impact on his school and local community through leadership, teamwork, and service. As a high school senior, he proudly serves as treasurer of both Student Council and Class of 2025; roles that have strengthened his leadership and organizational skills. His passion for teamwork extends beyond student government as he has actively participated in athletics for several years including cross country, outdoor track, indoor track, and volleyball. Additionally, he plays on the community volleyball team weekly, fostering camaraderie and sportsmanship outside of school. Beyond academics and sports his dedication to service is reflected in his involvement with various organizations. As a member of Key Club, he has contributed to numerous community service initiatives, such as helping at Kiwanis BBQ's, assisting with the Halloween Trunk or Treat event and creating a haunted house. His commitment to the environment is demonstrated through his participation in the village and town recycling day in May. He also supported individuals in need by organizing the school clothes closet and creating arts and crafts projects for residents of the DDSO group home. As part of the National Honor Society he assisted in the maintenance of Stella Maris Camp, reinforcing his dedication to community upkeep and improvement. Grayson is also active in sports, Foreign Language

Club, Yearbook Club, and band. He definitely is committed to service and leadership.

Doris Marsh, Community Member, Nunda Rotary Club

Lydia Lombardo is an excellent example of teen leadership. She is a hard worker with a giving heart; willing to help wherever needed. At school she participates in Drama Club where for the first time this year she will be a performer on stage as well as using her artistic abilities for set design. She excels as a member of the cross country team and the spring track team and was named as a participant on the All Star Team. She has been invited to apply for National Honor Society this year. Outside of school Lydia is very involved with the youth at her church. Some of her recent volunteer activities have included cleaning, painting at a homeless shelter; helping an elderly couple with yard work and fixing their house, cleaning gravestones, yard work at Temple Hill Cemetery, and preparing meals for a couple with a new baby. She is also an excellent piano student; always open to correction and how to improve her skills.

Sandra Thompson, Piano Teacher

Riley Nageldinger is constantly involved in helping others through her service work. Riley was a member of the group 585 based out of Rochester where she worked on suicide prevention, a clothing drive, and providing Christmas gifts to the needy. An officer in the Keshequa student council, Riley helped with teacher appreciation week, homecoming, pep rally, fall and winter spirit week, door decorating and helping students and staff enjoy school community. As president of Key Club, she has helped the Nunda Kiwanis Club with fundraisers for the community park, worked at chicken barbeques, and cleaned the picnic shelter in the spring, summer, and fall. Riley is a student who gets asked when someone needs help. An example is her help with the senior citizen Thanksgiving luncheon put on by the third and fourth graders at the Dalton Elementary School. Riley is an outstanding young lady!

Pete Piraino, Coach, Keshequa Central School

Aubrey Spencer, a senior at Keshequa, is a phenomenal young lady and student. Perhaps because she is often more reserved at school, she is not

recognized for how great she truly is. Aubrey is a student with special needs who has defied all odds. She has made it to her senior year, passed all regents exams, and helped support her single mother in caring for younger siblings. Her life circumstances have not permitted her to be a “typical teenager”, but she is admired for her determination and grit as she pushed herself through school while remaining loyal and responsible for family needs. In and outside of school she is kind hearted, helpful to others and has the utmost integrity.

Amanda Guereri, Teacher, Keshequa Central School

Lynn Stevens* is a wonderful role model of leadership for all who live in the Nunda area and Livingston County. She is a remarkable individual whose ability to inspire and motivate others set her apart as a true leader. Lynn demonstrates outstanding leadership, cooperation, and mentorship within her school and community. She is a member of the Keshequa girls’ varsity soccer team and JV softball team. Throughout her time as an athlete she has shown a strong commitment to teamwork and collaboration. She approaches every challenge with a positive attitude and eagerness to do her best and encourage others to do as well. As an athlete, Lynn fosters a sense of encouragement among her teammates and supports them in all that they do. Lynn is also in 4H where she raises and shows various farm animals. She works very hard in this role and mentors other members with patience and support. Lynn is also a member of Key Club and works directly with the Kiwanis Club in Nunda. She enjoys volunteering at Kiwanis, working during clean up days, chicken dinners, and last year took on the role of the Easter Bunny at the yearly Easter Egg Hunt. Lynn is also the secretary for the class of 2027, and is applying to National Honor Society. Beyond her leadership and mentoring abilities, Lynn is an incredibly motivated and hardworking individual. She sets high standards for herself and consistently strives for excellence. In her spare time Lynn likes to read and draw and enjoys spending time with friends. She is often found supporting those that may be struggling, offering them guidance and encouragement. Lynn is very patient and understanding. She is dedicated to helping others and one can see this in the way Lynn actively listens, provides advice to others, and leads by example. Undoubtedly, Lynn will continue to be a strong and influential leader in any future endeavor.

Patrice Forrester, Coach/Teacher, Keshequa Central School and Sandra Thompson, Community Member/Substitute Teacher, Keshequa Central School

Nolan Therrien is a good athlete and positive role model for his fellow students. He is a quiet, thoughtful young man who is always a good sport. On the basketball court or the baseball field, Nolan is an encouragement to teammates, especially if they miss a shot or get an out. He tries to keep the bench positive with his words and his humor. He works in his uncles' plumbing business which is giving him valuable skills to use later in life. Nolan has done a lot of community volunteering. He worked with his baseball team at a Kiwanis chicken barbeque, handing out dinners. For the past two years he has helped cook for a chicken barbeque to benefit the Canaseraga VFW. He has also volunteered at the PTSA Fun Night, helping with the petting zoo area.

Sandra Thompson, Community Member/Substitute Teacher, Keshequa Central School

Ossian

Luke Conway, is a quiet, yet confident young man. A junior at Dansville High School, he has excelled in his entrepreneur class where he has shared in the creation of several community service projects. Luke has designed and made Christmas cards. He then visited, played games, and shared his cards with patients at a local nursing home. His group has put together candy packages with inspirational messages to help raise money for a fellow classmate with a serious medical condition. Currently he is working on putting together carnival games to help raise money for a local animal shelter. In the spring, he and his classmates are planning to run an event to help shed light on mental health. Luke has also volunteered at the YMCA helping to setup and take down pickle ball nets. Luke is a member of the golf team where he often assists younger players with tips to improve their play. He is a good role model instilling character values while representing the team. Luke has helped his farming community as a dedicated worker, doing whatever is needed from cutting, to transporting and storage of hay. Luke started working at a construction job last year. He learned a variety of skills during this project, but mostly he credits this experience as one that has taught him how team work helps to complete a larger task. He expresses that this insight has helped working with others when planning, designing, and making his community service projects. Family is important to Luke. He recognizes his

grandfather, uncles and stepfather as people who have shown him the aspects of hunting and fishing. He reflects on these outings as a tradition and way to build family ties. Luke plans to continue with his carpentry this summer but is considering college, military, or a law enforcement career after graduation.

Heather Pero, Neighbor, Livingston County Youth Board Member

Blake Tonkery, a junior at Dansville Central School is intelligent, thoughtful, and insightful. He showcases his leadership through his love of music and participation in concert band, jazz band, rock band, and chorus. Blake started band as a trumpet player. When asked to change to euphonium, he gladly took the challenge to help the band. To fill a void in rock band and jazz band, he is learning to play the bass guitar. And next year, Blake is planning to learn to play the tuba as there will be an anticipated vacancy for that part in concert band. In addition, Blake plays a key part in keeping sound equipment functioning as well as helping other members with rhythm and reading music. Blake's selfless acts and contributions to these groups have allowed these groups to continue to grow and enhance each members' love of music. Blake enjoys performing and creating music. He states, "I like how we are all equal and how everyone adds to the music." Blake also displays leadership as a member of the golf team. As a more experienced player he often helps younger members with the nuances of the game. From etiquette, to reading greens, and course knowledge, his insight is helpful to all members. His humble, calm demeanor, willingness to help others and positive attitude make him a great role model for others. When home, Blake likes to play his guitar and enjoys the tradition of family game nights. Blake has challenged himself with several AP courses and ultimately would like to attend college, majoring in chemical engineering.

Heather Pero, Neighbor, Livingston County Youth Board Member

Aiden Van Auken, a junior at Dansville Central School, is a modest young man who thinks of his community before himself. Aiden has been very active in his local church since he was a young boy. He is the go-to person for setting up and serving dinners, fundraising, and social events. He often helps to decorate the church for special holiday services. He has enjoyed being a greeter and liturgist. Visiting patients at the county nursing home has been one of Aiden's favorite community activities. He says, "It feels good making

people smile.” Aiden has also volunteered his help at the American Legion serving food for various dinner events. He has also had the opportunity to place wreaths on the graves of soldiers at Arlington National Cemetery and local cemeteries. This experience had a tremendous impact on Aiden who summed it up best by saying, “It was an honor to recognize those who served.” Aiden is also a member of the golf team at Dansville High School where he enjoys the challenge of every course and every swing needed when competing. When home, Aiden is always busy. He works on his neighbor’s farm where he takes responsibility for doing whatever is needed. Everything from milking cows, cleaning stalls, feeding calves, operating and maintaining heavy equipment to training new workers; Aiden knows what to do without being asked. For fun, Aiden likes to play the guitar and ride dirt bikes with his dad and younger brother. After a bike accident last summer, Aiden spent months working through physical therapy and hopes to return to riding soon. The experience taught him that hard work is the only way to get you where you need to be. Aiden is currently a student in the metal trades at BOCES. He is striving to compete in the American Welding Society (AWS) welding competition this year and hopes his hard work will help him find a job in the metal trades after graduation.

Heather Pero, Neighbor, Livingston County Youth Board Member

Karlee Walker, a senior at Dansville High School, engages in community involvement every chance she gets. She is an active member of the Dansville Ambulance Company Junior EMS Squad where she applies knowledge and skills to help those in her community who need medical attention. Karlee also belongs to the Leadership Club, has attended the Junior Police Academy and is active with the Trap Club as well as the Dansville Fish and Game Club. While her efforts can be subtle, they have outstanding results and effects that ripple through the community of Dansville. Her drive to help others in their time of need is an amazing testament to what she can and does accomplish.

Rebekah Schrier, Director of Program/Mentor, Dansville Ambulance Junior EMS Squad

Portage

Makenzie Buckley is a sophomore at Keshequa High School and is truly amazing! Having suffered a life-altering accident four years ago, she missed her entire freshman year at Fillmore High School. The following year she enrolled at Keshequa where she came in determined to make up for lost time. She is currently taking tenth grade and some twelfth grade classes, and is signing up for summer college courses, as well. All of this will allow her to graduate next year. She is extremely conscientious about her grades. She consistently checks them and follows up with teachers. If she is absent, she sends emails to all of her teachers to see what she missed. She gives up study hall time to meet with teachers when she needs help. She is truly the epitome of a good student. It is Makenzie's hope to one day become a nurse, and no doubt that she will make an excellent nurse. Makenzie shows true concern for others, has a strong work ethic, and dedication to her studies; but most of all, a positive attitude. She truly has a heart of gold.

Heather Macomber, Teacher, Keshequa Central School

Elizabeth Wood is a senior at Keshequa High School and has done a lot for her community. She is involved in Key Club, PTSA, Kiwanis, and her church. As a leader of the Key Club, Elizabeth took the lead and organized a toy drive for Golisano Children's Hospital. Elizabeth made posters to hang around town. She decorated large boxes for the donations and placed them around to five different locations. She helped to bring joy to many kids and made their Christmas brighter. Elizabeth assisted in organizing a Halloween haunted house sponsored by the KCPTSA for the elementary and middle school students. Elizabeth has volunteered over 200 hours in elementary school classrooms benefitting many students. She is a huge help in the classrooms and the teachers greatly appreciate her. For Kiwanis, she has volunteered at their chicken BBQ's; serving dinners and helping with clean up. Elizabeth has also given her time and helped with fall clean up by raking leaves around town and singing at Christmas in Nunda. Lastly, Elizabeth is often found helping out at her church dinners. Elizabeth is very giving with her time and wants to give back to her community. The world needs more caring and generous people like Elizabeth who embody the true spirit of compassion.

She inspires those around her, proving that even the smallest acts of kindness create a ripple effect of positive change in the world.

Elisha Jines, Teacher, Keshequa Central School

Sparta

Taylor Hamsher can be described as a reserved quiet leader who prefers to stay in the background rather than seeking the spotlight. Taylor is a junior at Dansville High School and has maintained an 85% or above average since ninth grade. She consistently makes Merit or Honor roll each semester. She has played varsity softball, soccer, and basketball. Taylor has volunteered at the Mini Mustangs soccer and basketball camps for the past three years. As a member of Pony Express, she helps seventh graders in transitioning into the high school setting. Taylor is a member of the Yearbook committee where she specifically works on the layout and design of sports pages. This year, Taylor is in the Entrepreneurship class where she has had many opportunities for volunteer work. She spent a day at the Livingston County nursing home visiting with patients in the dementia wing. She also spent time with second graders making cards for the patients at the nursing home. Taylor was part of the fundraiser that sold toy ducks to raise money for a fellow student who needed a heart transplant. She often goes to Alfred-Almond Central School where her mom teaches and works with her students with special needs. Taylor sustained an injury during a sectional basketball game in 2023. She continued to play the remainder of the season, earning a place on the All-Tournament Team in the sectional finals. After surgery she was unable to participate in the spring softball season, but acted as a captain of the team and was a leader in a different role. She is co-captain of her basketball team this year. Her basketball and soccer coach stated that Taylor does a ton of behind-the-scenes communication and organization. She is wonderful about including everyone, which is evident on the teams, but also at camps as well. She is always willing to work with some of the most challenging youth campers and give them 1:1 instruction. She is the glue that holds her teammates together. Taylor has served as the bridge to unite the kids from different grades, social groups, and athletic abilities. She often does the dirty work which may not show up in stats or media, but is necessary for teams to

function and be successful. Taylor would like to go to college and become a PE teacher with specialization in adaptive education.

Lorilyn Doe, Neighbor, Town of Sparta

Amara Jerome has been an active Livingston County 4-H member for eight years and has served as an inspiring mentor and role model to younger 4-H members over the past two years. Her confident and engaging personality, especially when working with younger youth, has established her as a valuable resource and young leader within the 4-H Program. Amara served as a judge's assistant this past year for 4-H project judging at the Hemlock Fair. In this position, she recorded results, assisted a judge in the project evaluation process, and engaged youth in conversation about their projects. For the past two years, she has helped put on the 4-H Teen Council Community Spring Egg Hunt and was responsible for organizing and leading games for over 100 children, in addition to helping conduct three different age division egg hunts. Amara has thrived as a leader, mentor, and role model in the 4-H small animal program at the Hemlock Fair. She spends a great deal of her time in the small animal barn engaging with, helping, and teaching younger exhibitors as it relates to exhibiting and showing animals. Even though Amara has her own animals to prepare and show, she always makes time to help a younger member in need of assistance or one who is struggling in some way. Amara's experience, knowledge, and willingness to help others helps to put new exhibitors (and parents) at ease during what can be a nervous, anxious, and stressful situation. She is also a great 4-H ambassador while in the barn engaging with the public and answering questions. Amara has become an important extension of 4-H staff at the fair.

Mark Wittmeyer, 4-H Educator, Cornell Cooperative Extension

Jacob Kreiley* a junior at Dansville High School, is a hard-working, motivated, and confident leader who consistently maintains a positive attitude. As a dedicated three-sport athlete, he always gives his best effort and inspires those around him to do the same. Jacob is one to often put personal accomplishments aside for what is best for the team. With this team first mindset it allows others to play while strengthening the team as a whole. Jacob has completed training to become a junior umpire for baseball and actively encourages younger students to get involved in athletics. During

previous summers he has volunteered to teach swim lessons during summer recreation, helping young swimmers develop confidence in the water. Jacob is always willing to help others improve and build confidence, whether by mentoring younger athletes or offering encouragement to both teammates and competitors. Beyond athletics, his leadership extends into academics and mentorship, as he was chosen as a Pony Express Leader, guiding younger students through their transition to high school. As a National Honor Society member, Jacob has also performed many community service activities, including volunteering at the pop-up food pantry and helping with set-up, clean-up, and parking at various community events. His dedication to supporting others, both on and off the field, makes him an outstanding role model and leader.

Lorilyn Doe, Neighbor, Town of Sparta and Andy Leyden, Dansville Central School Athletic Director

Haidyn Scollon* a senior at Dansville High School, is an active leader, both in school and community. She is a member of National Honor Society, Rotary Interact Club, Senior Class secretary, Student Council president, School Store, and much more. Over the years, Haidyn has received the NYS Section V Leadership Award, her Varsity D, and has been a LCAA All-Star. She has been recognized six different times as a Mustang of the Month for her commitment to academic excellence and selected as a Dansville Rotary Club Student of the Month. Haidyn took on a leadership role when her Entrepreneurship class decided to help a young Dansville boy who was facing serious health issues and ultimately needed a heart transplant. She was instrumental in heading up a fundraiser that engaged the entire school district in contributing funds. This year, Haidyn was made captain of the varsity swim team. She motivated and challenged her teammates to put in the work and try their best, resulting in the team making it to the sectional championship. She works at the local YMCA as a lifeguard and swim instructor where she has received "Employee of the Quarter" and much praise from members for her patience and kindness. Once a week, she is a peer tutor at school where she helps lowerclassmen to get better grades for success and help make the transition through high school a little easier. Haidyn has supported the Dansville community with Thanksgiving meal prep and delivery, cemetery cleanup, placing flags for veterans, and so much

more. Haidyn embodies qualities of integrity, collaboration, and resilience that inspire others around her. Her ability to balance multiple responsibilities while maintaining a positive attitude is a testament to her maturity and strong character.

Julie Drollette, Counselor, Dansville Central School and Deb Halpenny, Councilperson, Town of Sparta and Dave Moodie, Principal, Dansville Central School

Springwater

Charles “Charlie” Caskey, a senior at Wayland-Cohocton High School, started serving his community from a young age. As a Springwater Sons of American Legion member, he has become an important part of the yearly events honoring veterans. He can be counted on to show up early every Memorial Day to participate in cemetery services. His service to the veterans is also shown each year at the Veterans’ Day dinner where Charlie helps to serve dinner. Charlie loves to play sports and has been named captain of both his soccer and track teams for his ability to lead and motivate others to always do their best. He has also helped out the local youth by helping at baseball tryouts and being an umpire when needed. Charlie enjoys helping others! He has become a skilled woodworker and enjoys using his skills to help both at home and school. His teachers often call on him to help fellow classmates in the workshop or entrust him with projects others may not be doing. Throughout high school, Charlie also challenged himself academically by taking a variety of college classes. He was honored by being named Student of the Marking Period multiple times for leadership. He can also be counted on to help out others who live near him, including an elderly neighbor.

Lawrence Gnau, American Legion, Kern Robinson Post 905

Henry Caskey, a junior at Wayland-Cohocton High School, began serving his community at an early age. Each Memorial Day he reads the poem Flanders Field at all the cemeteries in Springwater. He also honors the veterans of his town by serving dinner at the annual Veterans’ Day dinner at the Legion. Henry looks for ways to get involved in school. He is currently a member of the National Honor Society which allows him to help many people. Each week he volunteers in a second grade classroom. He also takes part in a Backpack

Program where he helps pack bags with food for families in need. Henry has challenged himself academically by taking many college classes throughout high school. He has been honored with the Golden Eagle Award for dependability and positive attitude. He also received multiple Student of the Month and Marking Period Awards. Henry enjoys playing sports and is a team captain for indoor track. He is a great example to his teammates of an individual who works hard and keeps improving. He has also helped out local youth by helping at baseball tryouts and being an umpire when needed. He is always kind and encourages others to do their best. Last year, Henry was honored with the Athlete of the Month for indoor track. Henry is always willing to help others in his neighborhood and he can often be seen at a neighbor's house helping out with whatever they may need.

Lawrence Gnau, American Legion, Kern Robinson Post 905

Rachael Grace Gray, a senior at Wayland-Cohocton School, is a hard worker. She is always focused and concerned about not only getting the answers right, but also to understanding the concepts being taught. Rachael is always willing to help her classmates better understand what is happening. As a, accomplished athlete (cross country, indoor and outdoor track), no one is going to outwork Rachael! She is always the first one at practice and leads the stretches. She doesn't complain about a hard workout, but instead leans into it knowing that it makes her faster. She encourages the rest of the team to do the same, knowing they all have specific goals to reach. Under Rachael's leadership, the girls' team won sectionals which entitled them to race at the state level. The girls' team has the same goal this year and Rachael has been the leader getting them ready to race and showing what true dedication and hard work looks like. As a senior, Rachael is even more pivotal in leading the girls' team. Many of the girls have commented that they are not sure what they will do without Rachael's leadership next year. She has always been the quiet leader, leading by example, but the girls always knew what she expected of them and they more often than not rose to that occasion. Rachael is an amazing young woman.

Michelle Curtin, Teacher/Coach, Wayland-Cohocton Central School

Micaiah Mattice, a junior at Wayland-Cohocton High School, is extremely cooperative and a wonderful role model. He displays friendliness and

leadership with his peers and children at church. The teens look to Micaiah for support and help. He is always willing to help others when needed with any task. He has a great sense of humor which helps diffuse difficult situations that may occur in a group. Micaiah is gifted at enlisting others to help toward a common goal. He has been a leader for a large Vacation Bible School sports class for several years. He organizes the games and directs volunteers. The children love having him for a teacher. He also mentors younger baseball players to help them prepare and practice for their positions and is often a leader for his own teams as well. In addition, he has helped support a local hospice through his volunteering to sell tickets and deliver meals for their fundraisers. He confidently has approached the community for support in its events. Micaiah takes initiative when he sees a need in the community whether it is shoveling, mowing, or helping seniors. He is always willing to gather friends to work together to meet someone's need. Micaiah was also instrumental in a fundraiser that provided luggage and personal items to youth in the foster care system. Whatever he does, he will continue to be a leader of good character and motivate other youth.

Joyce Gifford, Family Friend/Former Choir Leader

West Sparta

Kassidy Cole* has continuously volunteered throughout her high school career. She is a great student with high academic honors, and a three-sport athlete. As a member of the Junior and National Honor Society she has completed many hours of community service; written cards for Noyes Hospital employees, worked canned food drives, helped with the New York State Festival of Balloons, and many other events. She is also a member of Student Council, consistently helping with the Carnation Sale, Hot Cocoa Sale, and Homecoming and Winter Carnival pep rallies. She has been a member who can be relied on to help in any situation, she is always eager to volunteer her time and ideas to help whatever and wherever she can. During the summer, Kassidy has attended Camp Stella Maris as a participant and now as a leader. She completed leader-in-training last summer prior to camp, and then attended camp as a leader. She has shown that she is responsible, respectful, and wise beyond her years. Kassidy is a member of the Entrepreneurship class, where she has participated in the collection of

canned goods for the local food pantry, helped facilitate Summer Send Off for the seventh and eighth graders, and been a part of organizing a mental health prevention event in the spring. Cassidy's willingness to jump in to any activity, and always have a smile on her face has been such a joy. She has shown her peers that being involved is important in becoming a well-rounded person. Cassidy does all of these things with grace, energy, and a willingness to participate. She is an excellent young woman with an excellent attitude toward others.

Kelsey Snyder, Social Worker/Coach, Dansville Central School and Lynn Auble, Teacher/Coach, Dansville Central School

Casey Youngers is an outstanding student who welcomes the challenges and rigorous work presented to her in her mathematics courses. She frequently takes the initiative to engage in further discussion after class when her academic curiosity takes her thoughts to the next level beyond the lesson being taught. She is extremely hard working and truly insightful; these two traits combine to produce an especially outstanding student. Casey's academic ability is first-rate. She displays impressive logical thinking, excellent problem-solving skills, and a natural curiosity beyond that of her peers. She is an active participant in class, always on task, and never afraid to raise questions. Casey has an extremely strong academic background in all areas, and her performance consistently places her as one of the top two students in every course she takes. This includes accelerated courses, honors courses, pre-AP courses, and AP courses in all content areas. There is no academic goal that Casey cannot achieve once she has set her sights on it. The same work ethic that has made Casey such a strong academic student, also contributes to her being an exceptional athlete in all sports that she participates in. She pushes herself at every practice and even harder during an actual contest. Casey leads by example and her level of effort tends to set the standard for all those around her. Casey's hard work and dedication to her sports has made her well-liked by her teammates and has earned their respect. Casey has been the president of the Junior and National Honor Society, a member of the Yearbook Staff, a peer-tutor, stage manager for the high school musical, and a volunteer for community programs such as Christmas bell ringing and the Mustang Clothes Closet. Whether it's the time she commits, the effort she puts forth, or the knowledge she brings with her, all programs benefit greatly as a result of Casey's contributions. Casey clearly knows the importance of

being a contributing member to her school and community and how gratifying it is to help others. Casey willingly accepts all challenges presented to her and does nothing but her absolute best to take on those challenges. Casey does everything possible to make herself the best person she can be while also making time to help support those around her.

Craig Harris, Teacher, Dansville Central School

York

Connor Boyd is a sophomore at York High School and a member of the National Honor Society. He is active in the peer-to-peer program and enjoys helping seniors with shoveling snow, raking leaves, and caring for pets. Connor is traveling this summer to Monjas, Guatemala to serve as a missionary at the Shadow of His Wings Orphanage. This is a great experience and very humbling to help children that have been abused and neglected. To donate the time, money, and effort to this trip is quite extraordinary for someone at such a young age. Connor is quite helpful in school and the surrounding community. This venture this summer will only help to expand his altruistic nature into larger arenas that need volunteers.

Michael Barret, Teacher, York Central School

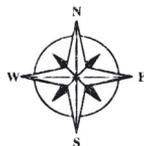
Meredith Geary is a senior at York High School and very active within the school community. She is a member of band and on the yearbook staff. Meredith helps out at sporting events, and sang the National Anthem before many athletic contests. She is also a mentor for Close Up trip students, sharing excellent information and answering questions about the DC trip that she attended last school year. She was involved with the Project ELF event this school year and helped make blankets for elementary students as well as read to students before winter break. She is very involved with her church where she has helped with shoveling snow and many other church functions.

William MacKenzie, Teacher, York Central School

Emily Vattimo joined the Livingston County 4-H Program as a Cloverbud at age seven. In her many years in the program, she has gone from being quiet and reserved to an exceptional teen leader. From a young age, Emily had a passion for the poultry program. She began showing a few bantams and

quickly began to excel in the program and as a teen leader. Through the years she has earned Champion Bantam, Champion Other Fowl, Master Fancy Poultry Showmanship, and Master Poultry Showmanship. While she has been successful in earning several champion titles, that did not come without setbacks. Whether she won the champion title or not, Emily showed exceptional sportsmanship to set an example for younger youth. Along with wanting to set an example, Emily is always quick to lend a helping hand. Not only is she always there to help in the barn, but she is also willing to help other 4-Her's with their projects. It is not uncommon to find Emily in the barn teaching showmanship, even if the youth is her competition. Through her participation in the Grand Master Showmanship Contest, Emily has worked with fellow 4-Her's to learn showmanship for other species and teach poultry showmanship to 4-Her's who have no experience with poultry. Emily has also taught several poultry focused 4-H programs and helps to judge and moderate the NYS Fair 4-H Poultry Judging Contest. In addition to her success with showing, Emily has had the opportunity to participate in State and National Contests for Poultry Judging, Turkey Barbeque (placing 2nd at the National Contest), and Chicken Barbeque. She has also expanded her animal projects to include rabbits to challenge herself with another species. Guiding youth to become a mentor and leader is something our 4-H Program thrives on. Emily has certainly grown into an exceptional mentor and leader for younger youth.

Jennifer Schwab, 4-H Educator, Cornell Cooperative Extension



YOUR HOSTS

Livingston County Board of Supervisors

Avon	David LeFeber
Caledonia	Daniel Pangrazio
Conesus	Donald Wester
Geneseo	William Wadsworth
Groveland	William Devine
Leicester	Richard White
Lima	Michael Falk
Livonia	Eric Gott
Mount Morris	David DiSalvo
North Dansville	Gregory Horr
Nunda	Merilee Walker
Ossian	Dwight Knapp
Portage	Ivan Davis
Sparta	Mark Schuster
Springwater	Deborah Babbitt Henry
West Sparta	Susan Erdle
York	Gerald Deming

YOUR HOSTS

Livingston County Youth Board

Avon	Kelley Greenway
Caledonia	Betty McClenney
Conesus	Cristyn Reynolds
Geneseo	Jeffrey Rose
Groveland	James Merrick
Leicester	Renee Fanaro
Lima	Jennifer Killenbec
Livonia	Susan Bell
Mount Morris	Deborah Bump
North Dansville	Laura Wadsworth
Nunda	Doris Marsh
Ossian	Heather Pero
Portage	Vacant
Sparta	Lorilyn Doe
Springwater	Vacant
West Sparta	Adrienne Wilbur
York	Katie Dunn
Cornell Cooperative Extension	Mark Wittmeyer
Council on Substance Abuse	Andrea Richter
Department of Social Services	Tracy McCaughey
Department of Health	Margaret Betette
Probation	Chris Kendall
Public Schools	Vacant
Sheriff's Department	Robert Holt
Youth Representative	Vacant

GRATITUDE

“It takes a village to raise a child.”

Like the proverb above, this celebration takes a village. Planning for this event begins in the fall and is a cooperative pursuit with many contributing to the effort and to its success. With gratitude we recognize keynote speaker, **Rob Sanford**. Your actions make you stand out as a leader, mentor, and overall good human.

We wish to thank **Willow Creek Venue** and **Forest Hill Catering** for their generous presence, elegant ambiance, and savory nourishment bookended with heavenly cake-pop desserts by **Sweet Arts Bakery**.

We wish to thank the **Livingston County Board of Supervisor’s** for their unwavering trust, support, cooperation, and generosity; **Livingston County Board of Elections** for making the finishing preparations to this booklet; **Livingston County Highway Department** for the town signs; **Livingston County Real Property Tax Services** for address verifications, and the **Livingston County Workforce Development** team for their individual contributions to the event.

Thank you to **Oak and Stone Photography** for capturing tonight’s special moments. The photos can be viewed on the Livingston County Youth Bureau web page.

Thank you to our NYS Legislature, **Senator Helming** and **Assembly Woman Bailey** for the certificates awarded tonight.

We wish to extend a special thank you to the **Livingston County Youth Board** full membership for their combined effort to bring this celebration to life; to the **Nomination Committee** who review the teen nominations; and to the event’s **Planning Committee** for their creative assistance.

40 Developmental Assets® for Adolescents (ages 12-18)

Search Institute® has identified the following building blocks of healthy development—known as Developmental Assets®—that help young people grow up healthy, caring, and responsible.



Support

- Family support**—Family life provides high levels of love and support.
- Positive family communication**—Young person and her or his parent(s) communicate positively, and young person is willing to seek advice and counsel from parents.
- Other adult relationships**—Young person receives support from three or more nonparent adults.
- Caring neighborhood**—Young person experiences caring neighbors.
- Caring school climate**—School provides a caring, encouraging environment.
- Parent involvement in schooling**—Parent(s) are actively involved in helping young person succeed in school.

Empowerment

- Community values youth**—Young person perceives that adults in the community value youth.
- Youth as resources**—Young people are given useful roles in the community.
- Service to others**—Young person serves in the community one hour or more per week.
- Safety**—Young person feels safe at home, school, and in the neighborhood.

Boundaries & Expectations

- Family boundaries**—Family has clear rules and consequences and monitors the young person's whereabouts.
- School boundaries**—School provides clear rules and consequences.
- Neighborhood boundaries**—Neighbors take responsibility for monitoring young people's behavior.
- Adult role models**—Parent(s) and other adults model positive, responsible behavior.
- Positive peer influence**—Young person's best friends model responsible behavior.
- High expectations**—Both parent(s) and teachers encourage the young person to do well.

Constructive Use of Time

- Creative activities**—Young person spends three or more hours per week in lessons or practice in music, theater, or other arts.
- Youth programs**—Young person spends three or more hours per week in sports, clubs, or organizations at school and/or in the community.
- Religious community**—Young person spends one or more hours per week in activities in a religious institution.
- Time at home**—Young person is out with friends "with nothing special to do" two or fewer nights per week.

Internal Assets

- Commitment to Learning**
- 21. **Achievement Motivation**—Young person is motivated to do well in school.
 - 22. **School Engagement**—Young person is actively engaged in learning.
 - 23. **Homework**—Young person reports doing at least one hour of homework every school day.
 - 24. **Bonding to school**—Young person cares about her or his school.
 - 25. **Reading for Pleasure**—Young person reads for pleasure three or more hours per week.
- Positive Values**
- 26. **Caring**—Young person places high value on helping other people.
 - 27. **Equality and social justice**—Young person places high value on promoting equality and reducing hunger and poverty.
 - 28. **Integrity**—Young person acts on convictions and stands up for her or his beliefs.
 - 29. **Honesty**—Young person “tells the truth even when it is not easy.”
 - 30. **Responsibility**—Young person accepts and takes personal responsibility.
 - 31. **Restraint**—Young person believes it is important not to be sexually active or to use alcohol or other drugs.
- Social Competencies**
- 32. **Planning and decision making**—Young person knows how to plan ahead and make choices.
 - 33. **Interpersonal Competence**—Young person has empathy, sensitivity, and friendship skills.
 - 34. **Cultural Competence**—Young person has knowledge of and comfort with people of different cultural/racial/ethnic backgrounds.
 - 35. **Resistance skills**—Young person can resist negative peer pressure and dangerous situations.
 - 36. **Peaceful conflict resolution**—Young person seeks to resolve conflict nonviolently.
- Positive Identity**
- 37. **Personal power**—Young person feels he or she has control over “things that happen to me.”
 - 38. **Self-esteem**—Young person reports having a high self-esteem.
 - 39. **Sense of purpose**—Young person reports that “my life has a purpose.”
 - 40. **Positive view of personal future**—Young person is optimistic about her or his personal future.

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