

2014 Governor's Youth Volunteer Service Award Winners

New Castle County - Individual

Basilio Nicolo Bautista III
Community Service
Nominator: Kay Wood Bailey

Since the age of 11, Basilio Nicolo Bautista III has assisted the Child HELP Foundation, whose mission it is to promote extended health care and programs to enhance the quality of children with disabilities in Delaware. Through his long-term involvement, Nicolo was inducted as the first president of the group's Junior Board. In addition to his work with Child HELP, Nicolo also presented a musical recital to raise \$5,000 for those devastated by Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines and participates in the school choir.

Peyton Beard
Community Service
Nominator: Amy Donohue

Peyton Beard has volunteer roles, both in school and out. As someone living with Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome, she's made it her mission to educate others about it by leading school assemblies and writing about the disease for Delaware Today. Peyton is an active volunteer at the Brandywine Zoo and the Ronald McDonald House, organized the HOPE Phone Drive, and much more.

Haley Chambers
Environment
Nominators: Hannah Starke and Joe Sebastian

For the past two years, Haley Chambers has volunteered with the Delaware Nature Society (DNS) as a summer camp counselor, accumulating almost 400 hours of service. She taught several different age groups, but her talent for science education was most apparent when working with the 3- to 4-year-olds. Outside of the Nature Society, Haley maintains an active role in the A.I. DuPont Key Club, Science Olympiad, FIRST Robotics Team, and even tutors her classmates after school.

Chris Coulston
Human Needs
Nominator: Esther Stieska

Chris Coulston has served as an active volunteer at the Kutz Home since July 2011. In his role as Bingo caller, he encourages the residents, offers assistance when needed, and is inclusive to all. Chris doesn't stop there, he escorts those who has difficulty with mobility to the Bingo room, listens to their stories, and makes each person feel valued. It is easy to see why Chris is a "crowd favorite!"

Kate Goorland
Social Justice and Advocacy
Nominator: Linda J. Raineri, LPC

Kate Goorland began her volunteer work at the Special Olympics during her sophomore year at Ursuline and never looked back. She is an active member of the Project UNIFY Youth Activation Committee and plays a vital role in advocating for individuals with intellectual disabilities. Kate's support is "sincere and contagious," motivating everyone in which she comes into contact with. Because of this, she was chosen to attend the 2013 Special Olympics North America Conference and is a Youth Leader for Project UNIFY.

Julianna Lewis

Education

Nominator: Jim Berman

As a senior at Delcastle Tech, Julianna Lewis has cemented her role as a leader within the Culinary Arts Department through her involvement with the Annual Great Gingerbread House Construction Tour. This event brings together families to create houses. The houses make nine "stops" throughout the area where people are asked to bring a donation for the Food Bank of Delaware. This event equates to 1,000+ participants, 600 volunteer hours from the Cooks and Bakers, and 1,200 items of food collected. Julianna didn't stop there, she is also an active leader of the "Bake the Night Away" event and others, accounting for 700 hours of service over the last three years.

Aamir Majeed

Community Service

Nominator: Murat Kose

Aamir Majeed is described by others as "passionate about community service." This enthusiasm for helping others shines through in his work with the "99 Orphans" Project, which sponsors children in foster care in Delaware as well as orphans in countries around the globe. Aamir is also a tutor for elementary and middle school children, helps at soup kitchens, and volunteers at a local hospital.

Braeden Mannering

Community Service

Nominators: Barbara Lawson and Beatrice Speir

At the age of 9, Braeden Mannering created his own charity project -- Brae's Brown Bags -- which packs and distributes brown bags filled with healthy snacks, water, contact information for shelters, and a personal message to people who are homeless. To date, almost 600 bags have been handed out and he has created specialized bags -- the Workforce Bag, the Winter Bag and a Child Bag-- to fill specific needs.

New Castle County ~ Group

Delaware Autism Program

Education

Nominators: Pat Birchenall and Linda Llanso

For more than 25 years the Delaware Autism Program (DAP) members have volunteered at the Newark Free Library. Through their work, the DAP volunteers gain transferable skills for working such as experience in dealing with others and how to follow procedures. During the 2013-14 academic year, the 29 students volunteered more than 600 hours at the library.

SwapShop-The Visser Sisters

Arts and Culture

Nominator: Tracey Welson-Rossman

Through their program, SwapShop, the Visser Sisters encourage children who are in the midst of long hospital stays to make and trade homemade art cards. The therapeutic benefits of art is well documented and by trading their handmade cards, the children in the hospital are connecting to others on a personal, as well as a creative, level. Through this program, these imaginative young women have reached children as near as Wilmington and as far away as Hungary.