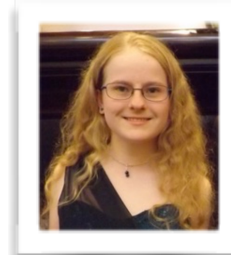


2018 Peace Awards Student Statements



Dana Brooks, Maryland School for the Deaf: “I feel honored to be selected for the Peace Award. As a deaf and black student, I took various leadership opportunities to advocate for my deaf community and my black community into becoming better leaders for the future. This award inspires me to become more successful and overcome any obstacles.”

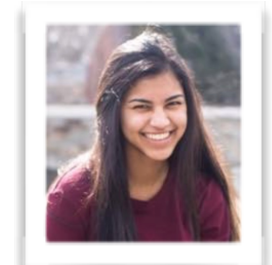
Devin Barge, Linganore H.S.: “Since Linganore High School is a predominantly white school with 14% of the population identifying as ethnicity other than caucasian, I wanted to create an opportunity for students to learn about the diversity that exists in our school. However after deliberating with our new student focus group and advisers, the idea grew to all sorts of diversity, including ethnicity, race, socioeconomic status, and sexual orientation.”



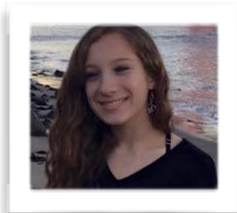
Arianne Browning, Friends Meeting School: “Being able to advocate and spread knowledge about LGBTQ+ rights is very important to me. If I can get just one person to be more aware of who they are or more comfortable in their own skin, then I have succeeded. My ability to help represent the student body in a committee like the Spiritual Life Committee committee, combined with my experience of intricate conversations in GLOW and my work with peer mediation, has helped me be more aware of other’s opinions, views, religions, and how to interact respectfully with others.”

Makayla Domathoti, Brunswick H.S.:

“Service Projects have always been a priority of mine. It’s a blessing to be able to serve others and contribute to improving others’ lives one project at a time.”

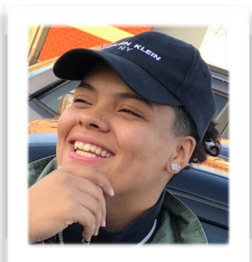


Chelsea (CeCe) George, Oakdale H.S.: “I was inspired to take on this service because of what I saw around me. When I first got to my school, the students were just cohabiting and not coexisting in peace. There was a huge division between the students of color and other students and the students of color felt out of place and their voices felt muted. I decided to give them a safe space to use that voice. When I realized there was no peace, I decided to make peace.”



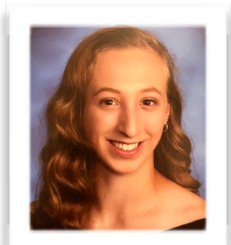
Sara Hendi, Gov. Thomas Johnson H.S.: “I started Patriot Pals because I saw a divide between special education students and general education students. When I realized that there were no clubs to promote integration of these students, I knew I had to do something about it.”

Kiana Jackson, Frederick H.S.: “The service I provide around my community isn’t so much a service to me, it is more a life style. Growing up having to struggle has taught me that rather than turn to negative things in life to ease your pain, you can turn your pain into good by doing everything you can to help others who struggle as well. Life is about sticking together to tackle challenges, and I feel nobody should have to go through anything alone. No struggle is too big, and no deed is too small.”



Holly Liposky, Urbana H.S.: “I started volunteering the summer after freshman year when my friend and I created a watercolor class at the Urbana Senior Center, where we have continued to teach most weeks. Since then, I had the amazing opportunity to go on a missions trip to Honduras, which inspired me to create the Community Outreach Club at my school. It connects volunteers and those in need in our local area. We have completed a food and coat

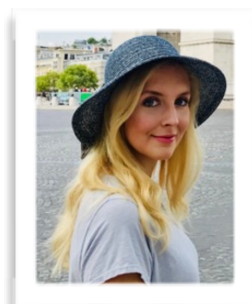
drive as well as a toiletry drive. We also help organizations such as Comfort Cases, which packs bags for children in the foster care system.



Keren Ott, Walkersville H.S.: “Community service has always been a big part of my life. From starting Girl Scouts at a very young age, to being captain 3 years of the field hockey team, being involved in numerous clubs such as Key Club, Lion's PRIDE Club, Safe & Sound Club, Chess Club, Senior Executive Board member, to being in the English, Science and National Honor Societies, I fell in love with helping others. I believe that the little assistance and change I can give adds up to something bigger. As a Senior leader and prior Student Ambassador, students are not afraid to come to me with any questions or concerns as well as look to me as an example. Being a role model allows others to take after and look up to you. I believe it is very important to always remain civil because, in doing so, the world becomes more united.”

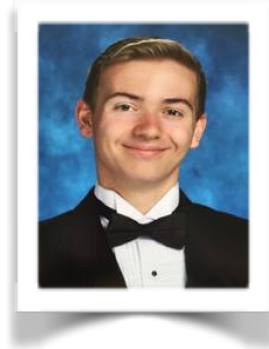
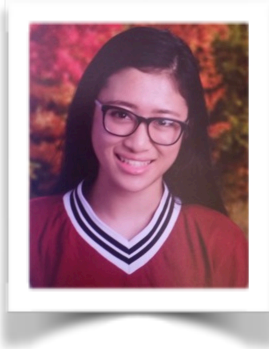


Hannah Prensky, Middletown H.S.: “Since 9th grade, I have been involved in volunteering at the Franklinton Center in Whitakers, North Carolina. I was inspired to volunteer at this former slave plantation and present-day community center by hearing stories from other high schoolers about how deeply the work they do there affected them. Our group makes improvements to the building and grounds and we help to address the food insecurity in the Whitakers community. This project is meaningful to me because we can help so many people in different ways, from giving them food to eat to giving them a community center to be proud of.”

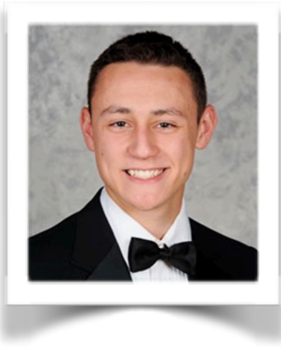


Selena Srirattanapirom, Tuscarora H.S.:

“Meditation gave me the inspiration to spread loving kindness and peace, which enabled me to undertake this service and then receive the Student Peace Award. As a high school student, I feel very proud and accomplished that I could become part of a society that would spread peace throughout the world.”



Solomon Weisgerber, Catoctin H.S.: “The name Solomon actually means peaceful and I act on this by helping others find peace with themselves and in their lives through Jesus Christ.”



Robert Velte, St. John’s Catholic Prep:

“Service has not always been a part of my life, but it has always been a factor in my family. Both my parents work in service fields, my father a police officer and my mother in health services. However, not until beginning my education at a Catholic high school did I truly realize the meaning of service, and how it improves lives. To this day, the sophomore class service trip to San Mar Children’s Home resonates with me. For the past four years I have served my school and the community at 5K fundraisers, school events, and mainly through the local Frederick Civil Air Patrol squadron where I have accrued hundreds of service hours and attended events like Wreaths Across America in Arlington, Virginia. Saint John’s has truly opened me up to the world of service.