



PRESS RELEASE- FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

6/3/2020

The City of Bristol's Department of Parks, Recreation, Youth and Community Services, in conjunction with the Youth Commission, is pleased to announce the winners for the 2020 Youth Recognition Awards: Bristol Central's Lexi Michaud and Emma Lewis, as well as, the Kids in the Middle program at Chippens-Hill and West Bristol schools. Established in the 1990s, this award spotlights young people who have and continue to go above and beyond to serve the Bristol community through their extraordinary volunteer efforts. This year's young individuals have demonstrated what it means to be "All Heart" and have made exceptional contributions to their school, respective organizations, and the community.

Over the past year, Bristol Central's Lexi Michaud has completed over 75 hours of volunteer work as a student-teacher at the Dance Arts Centre, where she helps to teach dance classes and provides aspiring dancers with individual support. Her dedication has not only helped every single dancer become more skilled, but also more self-confident and more willing and able to work as part of a team. Lexi credits volunteering each week with teaching her the importance of persistence and patience.

Bristol Central's other individual winner, Emma Lewis, volunteers with the Bristol Police Explorers and Bristol Health, where she expedites the recovery of patients by assisting doctors and staff with their daily needs. Her community service often has her volunteering at community events, helping to make sure that everything runs smoothly and assisting those in need. Emily believes one act of kindness can change the world and thoroughly enjoys the opportunity to give back to her community.

For the second year in a row, the Kids in the Middle program, run by Amy Campisano at Chippens-Hill Middle and West Bristol School, has been awarded the group recognition award for their outstanding efforts and support for numerous community programs. Throughout the

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year, Kids in the Middle students have volunteered at events hosted by the Imagination Museum, Bristol Public Library, Bristol Parks, Recreation, Youth and Community Services, Indian Rock Nature Preserve, Special Olympics of Connecticut and more. Kids in the Middle Students also assist in preparing books for the Appetite for Reading Program, labeling books for free bookshelf sites.

Chippens Hill Middle School Kids in the Middle awardees include: Laiba Ali, Paige Ansah, Isabella Arborio, Migdalia Astacio, Jabreea Boxley, Sydney Braccia, Shawn Ali Burhan, Savannah Caban, Ava Camerl, Elizabeth Chambers, Kaci Cistalli, Alexa DeMatteo, Hailey Dube, Allyson Fetzer, Zoe Friend, Emily Gao, Rita Gao, Callie Gagne, Eva Gammell, Ashley Gezelman, Ben Giles, Kaelyn Gonzalez, Shawn Gonzalez-Miranda, Angie Guzman, Gabriella Hernandez, Tori Hogan, Abby Jakobeit, Aniyah James, Mia Jiron, Selina Kielb, Megan Krok, Emma Kulak, Lianda Long, Jenelise Lozado, Vayda Martinez, Alyssa Munger, Savannah Piantek, Eleni Prytko, Isaac Ramos, Isabella Rodas, Nyjaiha Ross, Valeria Rojas Ubinas, Jamelin Sagbay, Kayla Sagbay, Cameron Sanford, Madeline Sanzone, Nicole Semba, Sophia Shao, Azelia Sigmund, Landyn Sigmund, Kyleigh Sutula, Sophia Swanson, Gianna Tomasi, and Helena Wright.

West Bristol School Kids in the Middle awardees include: Kiley Anderson, Malreek Dixon, Daigelis Figueroa, Serenity Fortier, Mia Giantonio, Rachel Griffin, Allyson Hassler, Dorothy Jacqueline, Haylee Kissler, Cameron Kubanek, Taylor Labbe, Samantha Licki, Madilyn McGrane, Aaliyah Montanez, Gianna Newell, Genesis Nunez, Aidan Perchiano, Izabella Richardson, Brooklyn Rivera, Miguel Salguero, Emily Tata, Amber van Alstyne, and Nikolas Vanbeveren.

The Youth Commission also recognizes Kids in the Middle alums, who dedicate their time running meeting, volunteering at events, and serving as role models for their middle school counterparts. These high school students include: Julia Armington, Olivia Cameryl, Nicola Campisano, Cecelia Gilbert, Abby Giles, Lauryn Hamel, Cassandra Lattarulo, Gina Marino, Veronica Marino, and Kaidyn Sigmund.

“Creating engaged citizens who are involved in meeting the needs of their community starts with inspiring a passion for service in our youth,” Mayor Ellen Zoppo-Sassu stated, “These 2020 Youth Recognition Award winners are Bristol’s future and that future is going to be All Heart.”

The award ceremony will be hosted by Mayor Ellen Zoppo-Sassu, the Parks, Recreation, Youth and Community Services Department, and the Bristol Youth Commission on Wednesday, August 12, 2020 at Page Park Pavilion at 6:00pm.

Superintendent of Parks, Recreation, Youth and Community Services, Dr. Joshua Medeiros emphasized the importance of the 2020 Youth Recognition Award, “In these times of

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uncertainty, it is now more important than ever, to recognize and celebrate those who dedicate themselves to making our community better, these youth represent the best our community has to offer.”

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