



**2023 Recipient ~ Kevin Ayapan
Salesian High School, Class of 2023**

The Service hours I have completed throughout these four years while attending Salesian High School have instilled in me a great appreciation for what the faculty and my fellow classmates have done for me. I first aided at Don Bosco Soup Kitchen with Br. Bernie and other students, where we carried bags of groceries, and served the homeless food as they lined up. Afterwards, we cleaned the cafeteria. This experience gave me a better understanding of what it meant to be an aid for others in less fortunate circumstances. I began to also appreciate what my teachers and staff do for me at Salesian.

This experience encouraged me to want to continue serving others, so I signed up to help at Camp Echo Bay. During my junior year, I volunteered for the maximum of 362 hours. My experience working at camp was fun. I enjoyed helping out the campers, serving lunch and snacks for them, and leading them from their cars to their groups so they could attend their activities for the day. The work I performed in the cafeteria serving food, pouring drinks, and mopping the floors at the end of the day, has given me an even better understanding and appreciation for the staff members who work in the cafeteria during the school year and work hard to serve the students lunch. Another reason I enjoyed volunteering at Camp Echo Bay is because I know what it was like to be a camper. I attended the camp for about 4 or maybe 5 years and the experience I enjoyed as a child inspired me to want to work there for 3 years. I was able to discover new friends and hang out with good people, especially at the Thursday Meetings where we would socialize and eat pizza. I was able to have fun at work and help others, following the teachings of Don Bosco. Due to my efforts, I was even promoted to CIT, and was so grateful to earn my first paycheck at the end of the last year.

I have also performed other works at Salesian, such as helping set up the Winter Wonderland event at my school, where I decorated the property with Christmas ornaments and lights. The dazzling event brought a diverse crowd of parents and children. In addition, I've participated in The Blood drive at my school during my Junior and Senior year, donating blood twice annually. I was nervous at first, but knowing that I could save a life made me determined to volunteer. With each time I donated, I grew more confident.

The service I have done for Salesian High School has impacted my life providing me with dignity and helping me fulfil my human destiny. Participating in all these acts of service has encouraged me to choose an occupation that I can enjoy and continue helping the world. When I volunteered to donate blood at the school, it gave me pride, knowing I was helping to save a life by sharing my own blood for others at a time when they needed it most. When I volunteered for

Camp Echo Bay, it also gave me confidence and a greater responsibility of serving and helping a younger generation, just as the older generation had done for me when I was younger. I have grown inspired to serve the community and live a life of charity, further developing myself as I continue to mature and live out the teachings of Don Bosco.