



**2022 Recipient ~ Hanna Stoeckhert  
Rye Neck High School, Class of 2022**

In September of 2012 my older brother needed to get community service hours as a graduation requirement. My mom was looking for different opportunities and stumbled upon a Food Pantry called the Larchmont Mamaroneck Hunger Task Force, where they organize food drives by packing non-perishables and produce in bags for people from varying backgrounds in the Mamaroneck-Larchmont Area.

Over the course of the past 10 years I was able to cultivate and acquire close to 600 hours of service to my community helping people who needed the extra help. Throughout these past 10 years I grew as a person because I saw those who needed help and this gave me the opportunity to become someone who was in charge of a group in this organization where I guided them and helped with restocking foods and recycling so that they process faster. Here I never fully realized how important a bag of rice or a jar of peanut butter can be to a family in need.

Being able to help my community in times of need, whether it was every week on a Tuesday or during a time where everyone was affected by hardships like the COVID pandemic or recent flooding our village experienced, has helped me see people from all walks of life come together to help or receive help during a difficult time. As I grew older I matured and found other interests where I helped my community in other ways I was able to grow even more and become a better person mentally and physically.

During the summer of 2021 I was looking for volunteer opportunities either in hospitals or some place in the medical field. My mom suggested working for a volunteer ambulance agency called Larchmont Volunteer Ambulance Corps, or LVAC for short. So far currently working for this agency has been a very eye opening and very humbling experience because I am able to help serve the community by responding to and dealing with emergency situations, natural conditions that pose a threat to life and property, and incidents of service to the people who are in our area. Volunteering here has served to build my confidence in handling critical and fast-paced unpredictable situations and grow as an individual. Here I have dedicated almost 300 hours to my community when they need help in an emergency over the past 8 months.

Both of these experiences tie into the St. Vincent's Hospital's mission of believing in respect and compassion for ourselves and others, excellence in service, the dignity of human life and commitment to the community because

of what their experiences did for me as a person as well as my community as a whole. For both, I was able to develop a greater appreciation for the differences in culture and for the hard work that some people provide for their community in order to help others who are essentially strangers to them. Being respectful, having empathy, and being open minded will help me grow as a person and guide me as I pursue my dreams of helping others.