



2022 Recipient ~ Lola de Lasa
School of the Holy Child, Class of 2023

I am a current junior at the School of the Holy Child in Rye, NY. We are a Catholic all-girls school, and I became a part of the Holy Child community my freshman year. Since coming to Holy Child, community service has played a key role in my life. The rewarding feeling of accomplishment and gratitude is one of the many reasons I am constantly participating in community service work. Holy Child's mission is to have its students follow the Catholic Social Teaching calling for Catholics to respond to suffering with compassion and to put the needs of the poor and vulnerable first. I am constantly trying to bring about this mission and incorporate it into my everyday life, especially through the 150 hours of community service I have completed during the past 3 years at Holy Child. One of the biggest things I have learned throughout all my community service work is how grateful I should be for all the things I have and how impactful my work can be towards others who are less fortunate than myself. The work I have done has also allowed me to learn more about myself and my interests. Community service work has broadened my worldview and my perspective on others and has helped me to grow as a person morally, socially, and mentally. One of the most inspiring things about community service is how it has a ripple effect on my community. When someone helps other people, it is likely they will be inspired to go out and help others.

During my time at Holy Child, I have done a wide variety of community service, but much of my work has focused on serving people who are experiencing housing issues and food insecurity. In addition to organizing and participating in the Midnight Run for the homeless in NYC and organizing several food drives for the Carver Center and Feeding Westchester, I have been part of the Fuller Center club, which helps to build and repair houses for those who are homeless or in need. This club has been especially impactful to me because I see the change directly through the progress we make in the houses we have worked on. This past fall, I participated in a community service event called "Walk For Homes" where the Fuller Center was raising money for those who were affected by Hurricane Ida, specifically those in Mamaroneck. I live in the town of Mamaroneck and, luckily, I was not affected as badly as those who were displaced from their homes because of the hurricane. I especially love helping out those in my community, because I feel a closer connection to those around me.

Similarly, at my school, I am a leader of a club called the "Community Partners Service Club" where we help local nonprofit organizations. One of the

nonprofit organizations that we hold a close relationship with is the Community Resource Center in Mamaroneck. For this past Thanksgiving, our club collected, prepared and distributed food to many people living in Mamaroneck who were in need, especially those who were impacted by Hurricane Ida. Each meal that we distributed included a handmade card with words of encouragement from the Holy Child community. The Community Resource Center helped to connect us with those that we served food to. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to help out many communities such as New York City and towns in Westchester, but I will always greatly cherish the service work that connected me to my community and my town of Mamaroneck.

Another aspect of my service work that I greatly appreciate is mentoring students who are younger than me, especially the middle school students at Holy Child. Throughout my sophomore year, I tutored a seventh grade student in Spanish and fostered a really great relationship with her. In addition, there are many middle school students that are a part of the "Community Partners Service Club" that I lead. I am so happy that I get to inspire younger students to promote Holy Child's mission statement. I am very grateful for the educational and service opportunities I have been given at Holy Child because they have helped me to commit to a lifetime of community service and especially to helping those in my home town. I believe that my service work reflects respect and compassion for myself and others and my commitment to the community. I am extremely honored that my teachers at Holy Child have nominated me for the St. Vincent's Hospital Youth Award.