



**2022 Recipient ~ Megan McVeigh
Maria Regina High School, Class of 2022**

For as long as I can remember, I have enjoyed helping others. My mother loves to tell me the story of when I was three years old and would sit and teach my classmates how to tie their shoes in preschool when they needed extra assistance, and I have carried this helpful spirit with me throughout high school. Some of my volunteer and community service experiences in high school include participating in the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society's Students of the Year Campaign, working at events for incoming freshmen at my high school, keeping the scorebook for Catholic Youth Organization basketball games, aiding in preschool and after school at my elementary school, and leading the community service club Leaders for Humanity. Every service experience I have had has taught me the importance of compassion and empathy and has shown me the impact helping others can have.

Last January, my childhood best friend's father Peter passed away from Leukemia. This was an extremely sad loss for all who knew him, and was a very difficult time for my friend and her family. Around the same time, I was contacted by the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society and asked if I wanted to participate in their Students of the Year Campaign to raise money for blood cancer research. My friends and I enthusiastically took up the cause in Peter's name, and I spent 10 hours a week for the 7 week campaign as team leader organizing fundraising events and communicating with companies and groups in my community. Ultimately, we raised \$11,875 dollars for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society to be put towards cancer research. This effort made my friend and her family feel incredibly supported and loved during their difficult time and helped the many people who are affected by blood cancer feel recognized and appreciated, and it clearly reflects St. Vincent's Hospital's mission to care for others and support medical research.

Furthermore, I have spent time volunteering at events for incoming students at my high school. I generally spend around five hours helping at each event with setting up, working the event, and cleaning up afterwards. Some of the events I have participated in include three Accepted Students Nights, two Open Houses, and two school Christmas parties. I really enjoy getting to interact with students who are interested in attending my school so I can answer their questions and satisfy their curiosities, and the facilitators of the events always appreciate the extra help. In addition, I have spent time volunteering at my elementary school. I have worked at Catholic Youth Organization basketball games at my elementary school, keeping the

scorebook or controlling the scoreboard, for around two hours each game. The coaches and league managers are always grateful to know that someone is willing to do these important jobs for them, and I love to ensure that the young players get to participate in and enjoy playing sports as much as I did when I was their age. Additionally, I spend 3 to 6 hours once or twice a week assisting in pre-kindergarten and after school care at my elementary school. This eases the burden for the teachers and helps keep the children entertained and engaged. St Vincent's encourages care and equity in all we do, and by volunteering at my high school and elementary school, I am making a conscious effort to give back to the communities that have given so much to me.

One final example of my volunteer experience is through the club Leaders for Humanity. I am the president of this community-service based club and have participated in several events throughout my four years in high school. For example, I have spent 1.5 hours each Christmas season making holiday cards for groups such as overseas soldiers and nursing home residents. In addition, our upcoming event will involve spending around 2 hours collecting goods and assembling care packages for women at a local women's shelter.

Overall, I thoroughly enjoy helping others and making an impact in my community. My values closely align with those of St. Vincent Hospital's, and I hope to continue to be a caring individual who strives for equity, excellence, integrity, and safety in my everyday life.

St. Vincent's Hospital Westchester "has maintained its mission of Charity and Excellence in health care". This is similar to my mission of undertaking a mission of charity and excellence in education. I strive to work as hard as I can to provide quality education to the students my organization serves. I hope to pursue a career in mathematics, continuing my mission to further expand the availability of the services my organization offers, at an even higher quality. My childhood experiences shaped me into the person I am today, and I hope to continue my commitment to the community.