



**2022 Recipient ~ Preston Calderin
Iona Preparatory School, Class of 2022**

Throughout my four years at Iona Prep I was given many opportunities to serve my community in and out of school. As I started to go on more service trips with my school, my drive to help others and those in need became stronger. Through this drive I decided to base my advocacy project on hunger and homeless. Having the opportunity to personally help make a change in our community in small ways is the main reason why I chose to serve the poor.

For my service I volunteered my time at my local food pantry most Saturdays during the months of November and December and also led two midnight runs to New York City. One run took place during Christmas time with my fellow project partners while the other took place in January where I led reflection with fellow Iona Prep students during our annual Hungerfest. During this service I was able to grow closer than ever before with my community and my fellow brothers and sisters. For me, I serve not for self benefit but to serve out of love and kindness of my heart. The homeless are one of the most vulnerable communities in my area. The smallest things we do for others can be a simple start to the larger picture of aiding those without a roof over their head.

Another group that I feel I made an impact on are my fellow Iona brothers. By showing them that service for those in need is important, it also brings that awareness to our school community. This reflects the mission of St. Vincent's Hospital because as I serve the community through charity, our ultimate goal is to care for the health of our community by providing goods and necessities that need to live a nice, healthy life and through this I can help bring an atmosphere of support with my community at home and within school.