



**2023 Recipient ~ Alexandra Hulbert
Bronxville High School, Class of 2023**

Mobbs Lab at Mount Sinai's Icahn School of Medicine

Since June, 2023, I have volunteered approximately 100 hours as a research assistant at the Mobbs Neurosciences Lab at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai Hospital. I have performed bioinformatic analysis of large data sets of molecular interactions to find potential combinations to effectively target the neuroinflammation associated with the onset and progress of Alzheimer's Disease. Most recently, I have researched an herbal compound called celastrol and discovered a correlation between the molecule and the inhibition of genes that encourage neurodegeneration. Alzheimer's Disease causes tremendous suffering for over 6 million Americans and their families and it is one of the most expensive medical conditions to treat. The cost to our healthcare system is estimated by the US government to exceed \$321 billion. The research I have supported will soon enter clinical trials with the hope it can offer safe, effective, and accessible pathways for preventing and treating Alzheimer's and alleviating the suffering of so many who are impacted by this disease.

New York Botanical Gardens, Everett Children's Adventure Garden (ECAG)

Since August of 2022, I have worked as an Explainer for the Everett Children's Adventure Garden at the New York Botanical Gardens in the Bronx. Every weekend, I come into the Garden and for 4.5 hour shifts, and I have over 125 certified volunteer hours. As an Explainer, I work with the children who visit the garden to help them with the activities we have planned, teach them about botany and ecology, and answer any questions they may have. Most of these children are from the local Bronx community. I have worked with more than 200 children of different ages, economic backgrounds, and abilities and I feel I have been able to help each of them have a greater appreciation of nature. I hope that by learning more about nature they will be kind to the environment and try to protect it.

Mount Kisco Child Care Center

Every week since January, 2023, I have volunteered a day per week after school at the Mount Kisco Child Care center as a teaching assistant. The Mount Kisco Child Care center aims to provide affordable child care for working families who lack the means to afford the typical cost of daycare but who do not qualify for aid from the local government. I monitor a class of 15 children after school, from snack time through pick-up, and help them develop motor and social skills. I have invested 20 hours in the program so far, and I am partnering with a classmate to write a report about how inequities in access to childcare affects families.