



2023 Recipient ~ Boaz Farscht
Mamaroneck High School, Class of 2024

I have always felt enormous gratification from helping others. I love the personal connection that comes from helping people, whether they are young kids, the special needs community, or the elderly. In elementary school, I recall feeling excited when presented with the opportunity to help a fellow peer with their schoolwork. That sentiment has only continued to grow every year. I am fortunate and honored to be able to utilize my language, math, and interpersonal skills to enlighten and inspire people in my community. These characteristics are exemplified by my active involvement in several community organizations.

Since 2020, I have been an active member in Washingtonville Tutoring, an organization whose mission is to tutor Hispanic kids whose parents can't do so, due to language barriers. (I have spent at least 20 hours so far helping this group.)

In 2021, when Hurricane Ida wreaked havoc on my town, it disproportionately affected many Hispanic, lower-income families, and I felt obliged to help. I devoted numerous hours toward volunteering to clean up the destruction, to raise money to rebuild houses (I raised over \$5,000 in a GoFundMe page for a family in my community). I utilized my Spanish-speaking abilities to connect on a personal level with this family and assist them in communicating their needs on the aforementioned GoFundMe page. A few months later, when the Guatemalan Consulate came to our town to assist local residents who lost their immigration papers and other documents in the Hurricane Ida flood, I volunteered for several hours to manage the flow of the day and answer any questions they had. (I spent 6+ hours of volunteer work related to Hurricane Ida.)

I have also taken pleasure in helping the special needs kids at my school; I've devoted all my physical education periods to assisting them in their gym classes (at least 20 hours so far).

Throughout the school year, my fondness for the special needs community has grown, and I realize how much of an integral role I play in their lives. Just recently, I've extended my engagement with this community by volunteering in Backyard Sports Cares, a sports clinic held weekly for special needs teens in my county.

Aside from the Hispanic and special needs communities, I also just enjoy working with kids in general. For over two years, I served as a Madrichim at Larchmont Temple, helping young students in their religious studies (80+ hours).

Another community I love to help is the elderly. Since my grandpa suffers from multiple sclerosis, I have always felt inspired to improve the difficult lives of those who have suffered physical and/or mental decline and to help carve out

happiness in their mundane days. During 2019, over the course of several months, I volunteered at a Sarah Neuman, a local nursing home, playing games with and performing piano for the residents. (I spent 7+ hours with the nursing home residents.)

I also have extended my volunteer work to places outside my local community. During the summer of 2022, I volunteered over 25 hours at Beans Cafe, Hope Community Resources and Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies in Alaska. In addition to providing food for the underfed in Alaska, I have spent several hours sorting food at food pantries both in Israel and in my hometown (4 hours).

By connecting with people on a human level, my volunteer experience perfectly encapsulates St. Vincent's mission of respect and compassion for others. I spend hours with a multitude of groups of people who experience barriers in their everyday lives, whether it be physical disabilities, language difficulties, or the solitude of old age. In alignment with St. Vincent's mission, I am passionate about making sure each member of the groups I serve feel their lives are important and dignified. This is exemplified in my passionate teaching -- when I teach, I make it my mission to make sure my students understand concepts and have fun while learning.

I am very honored to be considered for this service award from St. Vincent's Hospital. No matter the outcome, I will continue to serve the communities I'm passionate about helping