



**2023 Recipient ~ Eric Welwin**  
**Archbishop Stepinac High School, Class of 2023**

St. Vincent's Hospital Westchester has operated under the mission of serving others with respect and compassion, expounding on the aspect of dignity of human life and commitment towards the community. These values are ones that I've incorporated into each of the activities that I've participated in. With this motive of surrounding myself with fulfilling services towards others, there have been two services that reflect the important mission that St. Vincent's Hospital holds.

I go to St. Mary's Syrian Orthodox Church, and the community that we have built here is one similar to another family. I am currently a youth leader here, watching and leading the youth and small children in the church. Two of the biggest projects that we've been able to do that I organized was during the summer of 2020. In July that year, I organized a mask drive within our church where we were making cloth masks for nursing home patients in St. Cabrini Nursing Home. We worked individually and as a group for a total of 10 hours per week, over the course of 3 weeks. After making these cloth masks, we then shipped them all over to the nursing home. In August of that same year, I organized a fundraiser for many of the flood victims in Kerala, India. During August, there are destructive monsoons that wreck communities in this part of India. With this fundraiser, we were able to raise about \$7,500 to send over to these flood victims. Through these two services that I organized, we were able to provide a service to our local community and international community and to provide them with as much compassion and understanding as we could possibly give.

During the summer of 2022, I volunteered in a Wound Care outpatient clinic, where I assisted the nurses with cleaning wounds, providing medical supplies to medical personnel, and rounding with the head doctors to see the patients. Many of these patients were not familiar with the type of care they were being provided and the service I gave them was one where each patient was treated with utmost respect. We took care of each of them with the treatment they needed, without ignoring any of their problems they brought to us. Being able to assist the nurses and patients allowed me to immerse myself in an environment where I can learn more about the field I want to pursue and involve myself in the community I'm in.

Service is an aspect of life that helps us connect with others on a deeper level, helping others past the superficial needs of life. Parallel to the commutative values held up to a high standard by St. Vincent's Hospital, I've engrossed myself in opportunities to accomplish these goals and more, with

the intent of helping those around me. Only through the motivation to take initiative and work together, can true service be provided to all people.