



**2023 Recipient ~ Stella O'Brien  
Maria Regina High School, Class of 2026**

Stella and her two sisters host a Thermal Sock Drive for the Homeless every November and their initiative is called "Team Happy Feet". Siena, being the eldest, has been the leader on this over the past number of years, we started it in 2012 as a family/friends private event and in the past five years it has developed into a much bigger community event. Thermal Socks are the number one "ask" from the homeless during winter months and it continues as an "ask" for regular socks all year round. Team Happy Feet now receive thousands of socks and they deliver them to the "Irish Volunteers for the Homeless" who are based out of the Aisling Irish Community Center, Fr. Brendan Fitzgerald, St. Barnabas, who distributes them to the needy in several communities and to the YWCA and other groups in Westchester.

Team Happy Feet have expanded their appeal to include other essential items into Christmas goodie bags that they deliver to the YWCA at Christmas. The campaign caught the attention of BOMBAS and in the past three years they have donated thousands of socks to assist in Team Happy Feet's work. Recently, they sent Two Thousand Pairs of Socks that Siena will organize to be distributed over the next few months. We are considering making Team Happy Feet an official non-profit as Siena would like this initiative to continue in the family for years to come.

Stella, along with her sister Siena, also a student at Maria Regina High School, volunteers at numerous Community projects including many events with Project Children, fundraising for several charities and projects at the Aisling Irish Community Center.