



**2021 Recipient ~ Caroline Palermo
Bronxville High School, Class of 2021**

Throughout high school, I have enjoyed helping many different communities. I am Co-President of Hearts to Home, an organization that supports the families of deployed members of the military. Hearts to Home holds special meaning because my cousin is in the Marine Reserves and was deployed to Afghanistan for nine months. I saw first-hand the impact it had on his family.

My love for writing and books has led to my involvement with the Diversify Our Narrative initiative that helps students explore diverse literature. I also joined a club called TASSEL, an acronym for Teaching and Sharing Skills to Enrich Lives, where I tutor children in Cambodia remotely in English and help them with writing and basic grammar skills. One of my students hopes to become a doctor. His selflessness inspires me to do better for others.

I also volunteered with Destination College--a tutoring program that works with students in Mount Vernon. I set up study sessions to practice math problems with a fellow high school senior. As her lessons proceeded, I saw her succeed in her academic and extracurricular pursuits, and she is now excited to attend her dream school.

Few experiences have been more inspiring to me than volunteering with the Elizabeth Seton Pediatric Center, where I read to medically challenged children. I particularly enjoy reading to Joji, a young resident. I teach him reading skills and he encourages patience and kindness.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, I tried to help those in need in my hometown through the "BXV for BXV" program, working with my local village government and the Chamber of Commerce to provide resources to support small business owners.

I have loved volunteering, whether in my own neighborhood or internationally via Zoom, and I hope to make a small difference where I can.