



**2021 Recipient ~ Oskar Smeal
Mamaroneck High School, Class of 2022**

I am a junior at Mamaroneck High School. Over 2020 and 2021, I have observed the impact of the pandemic and it has inspired me to assume a greater role in the community. During a time of adversity, I am honored and privileged to serve for an organization that fosters learning, compassion, and respect. It brings me immense joy to hold an integral role in the community, giving back to those who have offered so much to me.

I spend between 6-12 hours a week volunteering at 2 organizations: Mamaroneck Emergency Medical Service and The Fuller Center for Housing.

Through participation with the Mamaroneck Emergency Medical Service, I aid a 3-person crew with the critical demands of patient-care. I provide direct assistance to the paramedic during emergency response and share responsibility for routine equipment checks, restocking supplies, ambulance maintenance, and monthly training. Over the past few months I have gained valuable exposure to a variety of 911-issued emergencies. Many have pertained to elder welfare but there have also been psychiatric cases, automobile accidents, internal pain, and respiratory issues. Each time, I have collaborated with the paramedic and hospital staff to ensure a successful transport. And while I will admit that being the youngest member of the organization (50+ total members) is daunting, the compassion and expertise of my peers has engendered significant growth. Each week, I grow increasingly confident with my role as an essential health provider, and I hope that attaining my EMT-B license over the summer will facilitate additional competence.

In addition to my work with Mamaroneck EMS, I am also a regular volunteer at The Fuller Center for Housing. The organization is committed to providing affordable and/or donated furniture to low socioeconomic families, thus ensuring a reasonable standard of living. My friends and I help operate their New Rochelle store where we perform labor, quality checks, inventory assessments, and fundraising initiatives. In the past we have attended build sites and demolitions where we assist other volunteer groups with the construction of affordable housing. We recently helped excavate a house in Scarsdale, assisting with labor and preserving the abandoned furniture for refurbishment and donation. It warms my heart to witness the gratitude of the beneficiaries; it is their appreciation that makes everything we do worthwhile.

I am overjoyed to receive a nomination for the St. Vincent's Youth Awards. It brings immense pleasure to be recognized for my community service, for it is with sincere regard that I strive to uphold the hospital's adherence to unsolicited charity. Service has allowed me to grow as an individual and community member, building a worldly perspective and applicable skillset. I look forward to a future of continued community engagement, for it is through compassion and oriented purpose that life can yield greatest fulfillment.