



**2024 Recipient ~ Amelia Brooks
Rye High School**

I have always had an irresistible desire and instinct for helping people with any problem presented to me, compelling me to give time to various tasks. I pursue the special thrill, cooperation, and achievements involved in giving back to the world mainly through tutoring my peers and younger students.

I started to get involved in peer tutoring in eighth grade, beginning to help fellow students with Earth Science Regents curriculum. I have continued this throughout high school, helping my fellow ninth graders with Algebra 2 Enhanced Honors curriculum, tenth graders with Geo-trig Enhanced Honors curriculum, and 11th graders with Pre-AP Calc Honors and AP Chemistry curriculum. I helped 4-8 students each year, along with two younger middle school students in my neighborhood, totaling around 50 hours. Now as a senior, along with tutoring my peers in AP Calculus BC and AP Physics 1, I have offered weekly lunch tutoring as a National Honor Society member for all grades and subjects. Beginning in December, I have devoted ten 55-minute lunch periods to aiding my high school peers in our tutoring center.

This past summer, I joined a volunteer program that allowed me to help under-resourced students in Nigeria who wanted to improve their knowledge. I led eighteen 1-hour virtual chemistry classes for 15 enthusiastic Jextoban Secondary School students, exposing them to more material than they had hoped to learn. I joined the program because of my passion for chemistry, the program's goals, and most significantly, because of my excitement to truly impact the students and feel the value of putting effort into such a purposeful project. I was very thorough in preparing lessons with a clear presentation and readiness to field questions, and I truly enjoyed my connection with these kids; witnessing their genuine interest and insightful questions delighted me as they always responded to my answers with a "Thank you." This program reinforced my lifelong love for tutoring and showed me the benefits of helping people who want it and need it most. Between the students and myself, the success of the classes was mutually very meaningful. I could clearly sense our common goals during the program and was elated to be part of an experience where we all lost ourselves in our shared enthusiasm. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to complete such a worthwhile endeavor that stimulated growth in my leadership, communication, creativity, and empathy.

Reflecting on the summer, I realized I had become a better communicator and adaptor in school. I was even more eager to help my peers and exponentially more grateful for my learning experience and how it allowed me to benefit others. The success of each class and the program elated me, but even more so, I was gratified by learning greater patience, empathy, and leadership all the while impacting a very special group of students.

My other areas of community service align with my love of tutoring in that their goals are to help a specific group of people in need in a meaningful way. I have been co-president of the Rye Snow Angels for the past two years, to which I have devoted 20 hours of shoveling the sidewalks of Rye elders' homes. Our elderly citizens immensely appreciate our help in getting their sidewalks cleared within the required 24 hours of a storm because of their difficulties in doing so themselves, and we all greatly respect them and take joy in making their lives easier. Additionally, I co-founded a service group to collect old sports equipment around our town. After noticing our own abundance of inactive gear, my peer and I spent a total of 15 hours collecting generous donations of everything from soccer shin guards to tennis rackets to give to Project

Morry's Camp, a non-profit for kids from under-resourced communities.

My commitment to my community and other communities is driven by my compassion and true passion for impacting others. The satisfaction and pure admiration in watching the effects of my service transpire push me to go above and beyond in my efforts, whether teaching and tutoring, holding donation drives, or helping our elderly neighbors. My constant goals of altruism and dedication to service align perfectly with St. Vincent's Hospital's inspirational mission, which embodies an admirable compassion and dignity that I strive for every day.