

Maddy Williams
St. Vincent Award

Throughout my high school career at Bronxville High School, I have been driven by a profound passion for serving my community. My experiences have not only deepened my commitment to giving back but have also instilled in me a sense of purpose and responsibility to make a positive impact on the lives of those around me.

I truly started to get involved in community service the summer before my junior year. I went on a service trip to Costa Rica where through 22 hours of community service, I worked at a state park helping install pipes, and worked at a local elementary school helping build it by mixing cement and painting buildings. At the end of the trip, we spent time with the kids from the school, doing activities like arts and crafts and playing soccer. Following this service trip, going into my junior year I began to take on roles to positively impact the Bronxville community.

After joining the track team in 8th grade, I discovered that I loved running and would have benefited from joining the team sooner. I noticed that in my community, there were ample opportunities for young kids to participate in sports like soccer and football, but none for track and field. I saw this void as an opportunity. In 2023, I enlisted the help of two members of my track team, and created the Bronxville Youth Track and Field Clinic. The full scope of this project included negotiating track time with the school, designing flyers, planning an agenda, and providing a fun, educational environment for the children. Each Sunday in the fall and spring, we hosted a clinic at the track and taught elementary school-aged kids about track and field. We helped them learn to run and work together as a team, particularly in relays. We were able to introduce over 20 kids from Bronxville, White Plains, and Yonkers to the sport of track and field. Providing children from underserved communities access to sports was another part of the initiative. I've witnessed the expensive costs of sports, but nonetheless believe it's incredibly valuable for all kids to be able to have the sense of community and accomplishment that comes with being on a sports team, regardless of financial background. Consequently, through 30+ hours of service, we have raised and donated \$800 to a non-profit organization called All Kids Play, enabling underserved children to begin and stay involved in sports by reducing equipment costs. Through this effort, I have helped make track and field more accessible to younger children in my community.

As someone who is deeply involved in the Athletic community, I have used my positions as Athletic Council President and One Love President at school to take strides to help the younger generation. During my time as a member, and now President of the Athletic Council, I have helped organize the annual Harlem Wizards basketball game for the

past 4 years to get elementary school students excited about sport and school spirit. Additionally, this past year we have started a new initiative for varsity athletes to read books to elementary school students, during lunch periods once a week during the winter to strengthen the ties in the kindergarten through 12th grade community. As One Love President, I have helped facilitate workshops, once during the fall and spring, for freshmen in the school to raise awareness for and prevent domestic violence and unhealthy relationships. Additionally, as one of the girls varsity lacrosse captains, I have used this connection to initiate One Love dedicated games and raise money for the foundation. As a member of the varsity lacrosse team, in the fall and spring we spend 2 hours on Sunday afternoons helping coach elementary schoolers with the BYLA.

Starting junior year, I have co-run the student committee at our school. In the fall of junior and senior year, I coordinated student tutors with students in need of help. On top of helping 75+ middle and high school students in need of academic help fund peer tutors, over the past two years I have served as a peer tutor, helping 2 girls achieve A's in their math classes. Throughout the course of the 2023/2024 school year I tutored an eighth grader in Algebra 1 for 1-2 hours a week and this current school year I tutor a sophomore in Algebra 2 Trigonometry 1-2 hours a week.

My experiences serving my community have been invaluable in shaping my identity and fostering a deep sense of empathy and compassion. Through the Bronxville Youth Track and Field Clinic, my leadership roles in the Athletic Council and One Love, peer tutoring, and service trips, I have witnessed firsthand the profound impact that dedicated service can have on individuals and communities. My continued dedication to helping my community and others around me truly exhibits the St. Vincent's values of respect, integrity, compassion and excellence.