



Do the Right Thing of Rochester Award Program FALL 2021 & WINTER 2022 NEWSLETTER

Welcome!

Happy New Year! We hope this newsletter finds all of our supporters in good spirits and good health!

On November 4th we were fortunate to host our first virtual award ceremony for the 2021-2022 school year. Nine students were recognized for doing the right thing! Due to COVID, the ceremony remained virtual, and was broadcast Live on our [Facebook page](#). If you missed it, you can still view the ceremony on our Facebook page at Do The Right Thing of Rochester. Just like last year, only a limited amount of staff were present at the ceremony. Family and friends were invited to watch the ceremony as it took place, and arrangements were made with each winner to pick up their prize package afterwards.

We recently celebrated a huge milestone for our program – 25 years! We could not have accomplished this without the support and generosity of so many throughout the years! Check out page 14 of this newsletter to see how we recognized this momentous occasion.

Please keep sending us nominations, and spread the word about our program. Share, like, and comment on our social media posts, tell your friends and family about our program, and most importantly, let us know about the great kids in our community so that we can recognize them! You can find more information about our program, and how to nominate a student, on our [website](#) and throughout this newsletter. Nominating a student is quick and easy, and students that are selected as winners receive generous prize packages.

Thank you so much for supporting the Do The Right Thing of Rochester Awards Program!

Do The Right Thing of Rochester, Inc.

*** Rochester Police Department***

Phone: (585) 428-7863 Fax: (585) 428-6093

Email: DotheRightThing@cityofrochester.gov

Website: www.cityofrochester.gov/DoTheRightThing

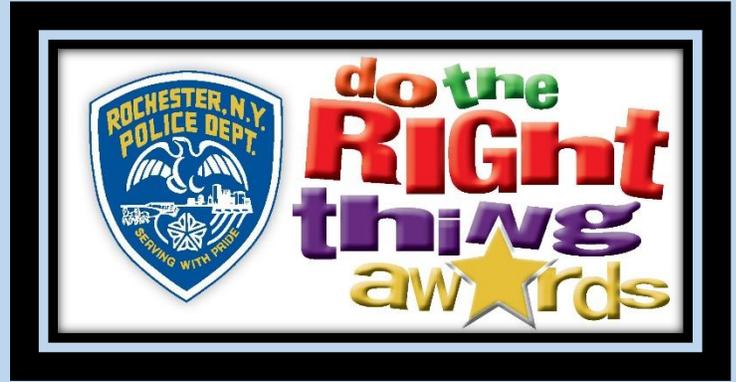
Follow us on Facebook: [@DTRTROC](#)

Follow us on Instagram: [@DTRT Rochester](#)



About our Program

The Do The Right Thing Award Program has been part of the Rochester Police Department since 1995. The goal of the program is to foster positive relationships between local area law enforcement and the youth within Monroe County. The Do The Right Thing Award Program recognizes children for their positive behavior, accomplishments, and good deeds by rewarding students who strive to make good choices, do well in school, give back to their communities, or demonstrate “turn-around” or improved behavior.



Any student enrolled in grades K - 12 in any school within Monroe County is eligible for nomination, and can be nominated for acts of courage and bravery, such as assisting first responders, as well as acts of volunteerism, leadership and role model behavior. Students may be nominated for incidents that have occurred within one year of the nomination, and within Monroe County.

Anyone over 18 years old can nominate a student (this includes first responders, teachers, coaches, family, and friends). Nominations are accepted throughout the year, and are reviewed by a committee that selects students to receive the Do The Right Thing Award. Selected students are celebrated at a ceremony at the City Public Safety Building. Ceremonies are held during the school year, with approximately ten students recognized at each ceremony. Normally family and friends are welcome to attend these ceremonies, however because of the Coronavirus pandemic, ceremonies may be held virtually with only a limited amount of staff in attendance. If this is the case, while our winners and their families will not be able to attend in person, everyone is welcome to watch the ceremony as it takes place, or anytime afterwards, by watching via Facebook Live on our [Facebook page](#). A decision whether a ceremony will be held in-person or virtually will be made as each award ceremony date gets closer, and will be announced on our website and social media pages.

Do The Right Thing Award winners are eligible to receive several rewards and prizes donated by program sponsors, and winners may also apply for a scholarship when they are high school seniors. Since the program began, we have received over 4,000 nominations, awarded over 1,100 winners, and contributed \$108,000 towards scholarships for our winners. Students selected as winners must attend an award ceremony in order to officially be considered a Do The Right Thing Winner, unless the ceremony is held virtually. All students that are nominated will receive a letter of recognition for their act, even if they are not chosen as a winner.

Each ceremony and the winners are highlighted in the media, courtesy of program sponsors News 10NBC WHEC-TV and the Democrat and Chronicle. Stories are televised on WHEC, published in the print edition of the Democrat and Chronicle, and highlighted on-line for both outlets as well. Visit their websites at [WHEC.com](#) and [Democratandchronicle.com](#) for more information.

For more information about our program, or to nominate a student, please visit our webpage at [Cityofrochester.gov/DoTheRightThing](#).

We are also on social media. Please take a moment to like our [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) pages. You can find all contact information for the Do The Right Thing Award Program in the green box on page 1.

Do The Right Thing Program Staff

Please contact a member of our staff with any questions or feedback you may have. We welcome your input, and are excited to work together to celebrate 25 more years of Do The Right Thing in Rochester!



Sergeant Jose Vargas
Program Director



Laurie Kingsley-Henry
Program Coordinator



Lisa Hayes
Program Assistant



Members of the Executive Board

The Rochester Police Department's Do The Right Thing Award Program is a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization governed by a Board of Directors, and operated under the auspice of the Rochester Police Department.

The Board of Directors includes the following ex officio positions – the Mayor of the City of Rochester, or their designee; the Chief of the Rochester Police Department, or their designee; and the Program Coordinator. All directors are appointed by the Rochester Police Chief.

Since the last newsletter, three Directors have resigned from their positions, and we welcomed one new Director to the Board. We wish the best to Carlos Cotto, Jr., Nydia Padilla-Rodriguez, and John Picone, and we look forward to working with Sheri Landers from the Emergency Communications Department (the 911 Center)!

Executive Board of Directors

Mayor Malik D. Evans (City of Rochester)

Police Chief David M. Smith (Rochester Police Department)

President: James McCauley (Camp Good Days and Special Times)

Vice President: Joan Roby-Davison (City of Rochester)

Treasurer: Suzanne Warren (City of Rochester)

Secretary and Program Coordinator: Laurie Kingsley-Henry (City of Rochester)

Program Director: Sergeant Jose Vargas (Rochester Police Department)

Anthony Campbell (Memorial Art Gallery)

LaShay Harris (American Medical Response)

Glen Jeter (McDonalds, Upper Falls Boulevard)

Sheri Landers (Emergency Communications Department)

James Sheppard (Rochester City School District)

Brennan Somers (News 10NBC WHEC-TV)

Grace Tillinghast (The Battery)

Lou Tomasetti (Monroe County Sheriff's Office)



Interested in becoming a member of the Do The Right Thing Executive Board?

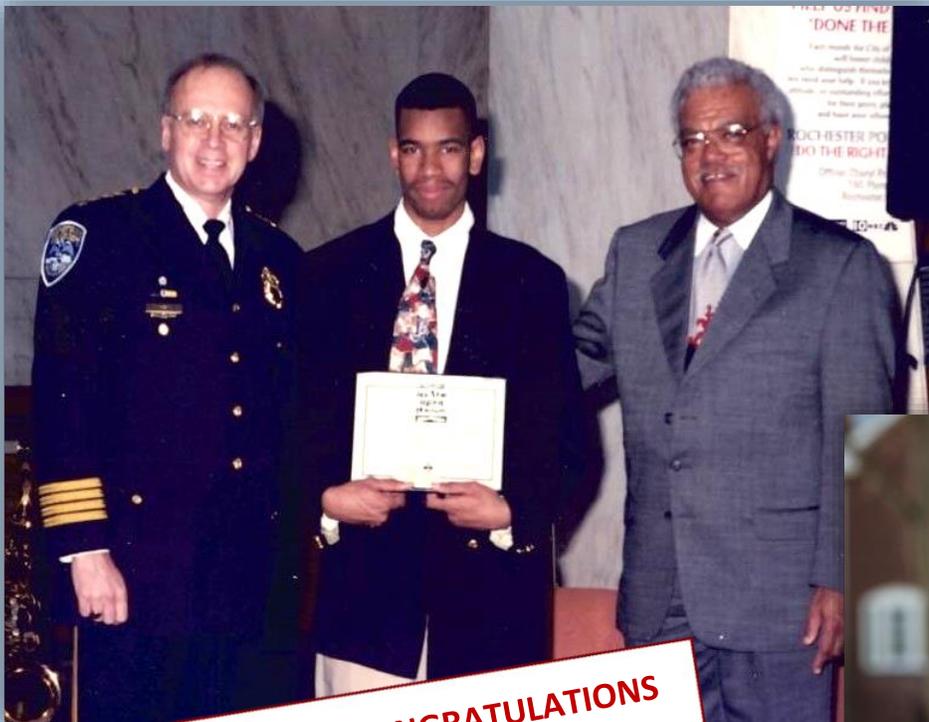
- Visit our website at Cityofrochester.gov/DoTheRightThing to learn more about Do The Right of Rochester and read program By-Laws.
- Contact Program Coordinator Laurie Kingsley-Henry at (585) 428-7863 or DoTheRightThing@cityofrochester.gov for more information.



The Do The Right Thing Award Program is proud to welcome Malik D. Evans as the 71st Mayor of the City of Rochester! As Mayor, he will be part of the Do The Right Thing Executive Board of Directors. This is exciting for us as he was one of the first recipients of the Do The Right Thing Award in Rochester!

Mayor Evans (pictured below after he received his certificate from then Rochester Police Chief Robert S. Warshaw to his left, and the 64th Mayor of the City of Rochester, William A. Johnson Jr., to his right) was a winner in May 1997 when he was an 11th grader at Wilson Magnet High School. He was nominated for his service, having served for one year on the City/County Youth Council and the Youth Participation Project of the Rochester-Monroe County Youth Bureau, and leading the "Steppin Up To Solutions" Conference which encouraged 26 youth groups to develop community service projects. He also participated in area workshops and attended the New York State Youth Bureau Association Conference, where he spoke on behalf of youth empowerment programs. Clearly his path towards community service began at a young age!

Congratulations Mayor Evans!



**CONGRATULATIONS
MAYOR
EVANS!**



November 2021 Virtual Award Ceremony Winners

9 students were awarded at the November 4th, 2021 Virtual Award Ceremony.

November 2021 Ceremony Winners

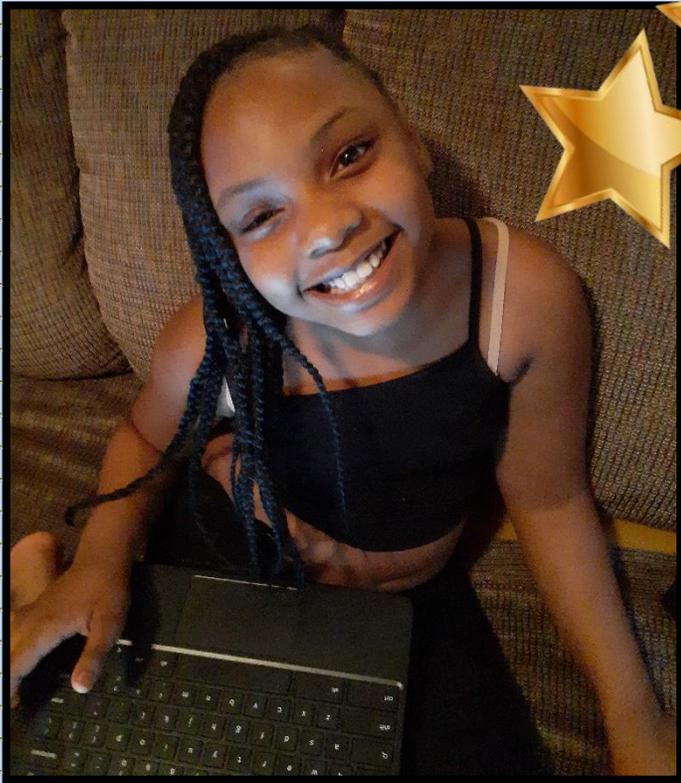


Jalyia Davis

6th Grade

Renaissance Academy Charter School of the Arts

Jalyia was nominated by the CEO of her school, Dr. Donna Marie Cozine, for the exemplary way she handled a frightening situation back in June. While not in school, Jalyia was texting with a friend, when the friend made comments that led Jalyia to think that they were having trouble and would possibly harm or kill themselves. Jalyia told an adult, who contacted the Rochester Police Department. When the police officer arrived, Jalyia was very helpful in answering their questions and providing assistance to the officer. The responding officer was able to get in touch with the school to get the other child's address so that they could conduct a wellness check. Fortunately, Jalyia's friend was at home with her family and unharmed.



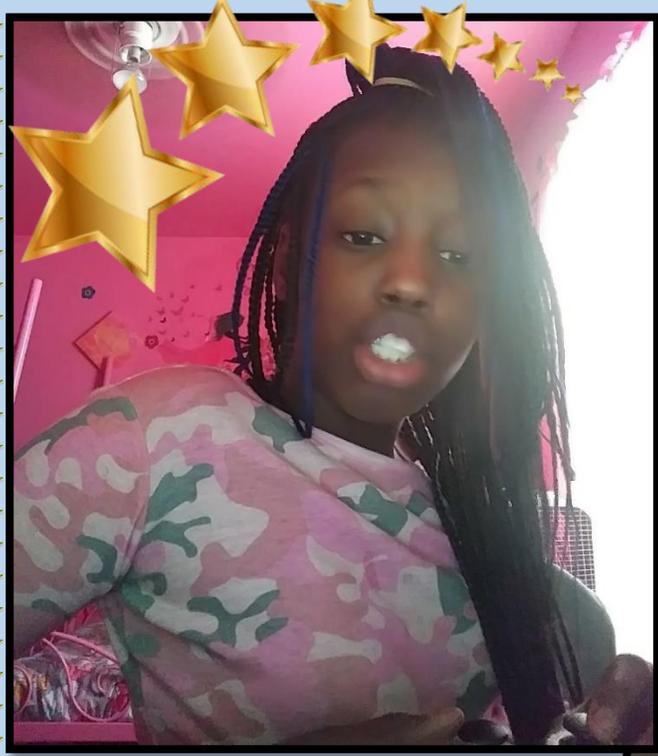


Kimora Jenkins

8th Grade

Nathaniel Rochester Middle School, RCSD

Kimora was nominated by Ms. Jeanne Markman, the Assistant Principal at her school, for the kindness and compassion she demonstrated towards another classmate last school year. This past May, Kimora noticed that another student had been wearing the same clothes to school. Thinking he might need some new clothing, Kimora went out of her way to talk to her classmate and learn more about him. She then told her grandmother about the situation, and Kimora's grandmother took her to Walmart where Kimora purchased three new outfits for her classmate. This selfless act shows what a big heart Kimora truly has.





Marcello Kita

5th Grade

Vollmer Elementary School, Rush-Henrietta CSD

Marc was nominated by his father, Michael Kita, in recognition of his hard-work and kind spirit. Marc has autism spectrum disorder (ASD), and always gives his best regardless of the differences he has to deal with. Mr. Kita says Marc deserves to be honored and to highlight the fact that kids like Marc and other kids with ASD just want to be included and accepted like everyone else. Marc is always looking out for others and would be the first one to give you his shirt off his back. One example of his generous spirit – recently while on vacation, Marc brought several of his Hot Wheels toy cars with him and handed them out to random children for them to keep and enjoy. He also participated in a food drive at school last year, helping his father select and purchase a large assortment of food which he delivered to the school. As he is getting older he is starting to realize he is different, but that doesn't stop him from trying to fit in socially and do what his peers are able to do. Marc is always doing the right thing, giving his best self each and every day, and always trying to lend a helping hand to both students and staff at his school. Even as obstacles brought on by the pandemic, as well as having to spend the last three years in three different school buildings due to how the district is structured, he has faced these challenges head on and has even received praise from his teachers. His teacher, Ms. Creary, notes that Marc is a shining example to his classmates, as he always puts forth above average effort, has an outstanding work ethic, and is friendly, respectful, responsible, and always follows the rules!





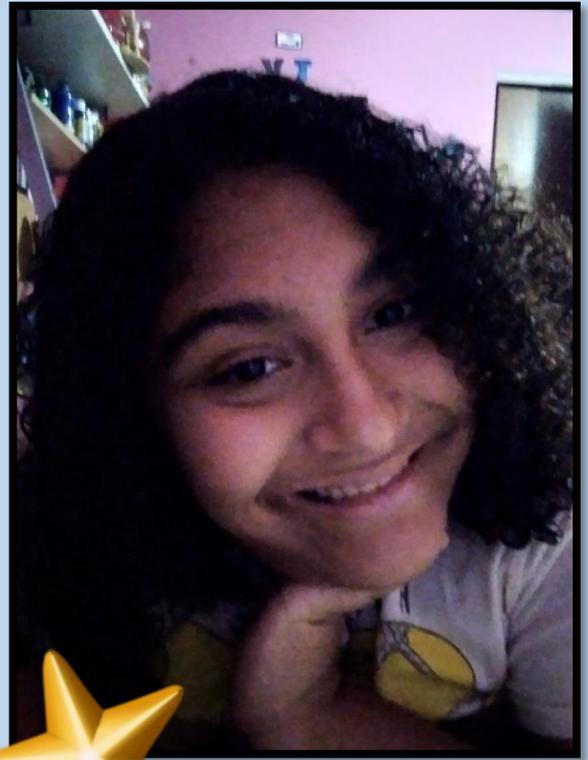
Isabella Morales

9th Grade

Eugenio Maria de Hostos Charter School

Isabella was nominated by Ms. Alexandra Wagner, a mentor at her school, for being a motivated student, kind and caring person, and role-model to her peers. During virtual schooling, Isabella consistently participated and engaged in online learning. She was often the first person to raise her hand or seek help when needed. Not only was she an outstanding student for her teachers, she was also considerate and caring to her friends and peers as well. During virtual schooling, a time that many students found difficult, she was constantly checking in on other students and trying to help them whenever she could. For example, she reached out to a friend who was struggling and started playing video games with him. Her reaching out gave him much needed social interaction during a time when children were deeply deprived of that. Since returning to the classroom, the relationship they developed helped provide a great support for him in their classes as well.

Isabella is also an advocate for all of the youth at her school. She noticed that her many of her peers were still struggling with COVID learning practices, so she was part of a team that created a spirit week to boost everyone's morale. One of the days was cultural day. As a school with much diversity, this was a great opportunity for everyone to display pride in their culture. That is just one example of how she advocates for social justice and diversity in the classroom. She fights for what she believes in and should be honored for her contributions to EMHS.





Jamere Morrison

7th Grade

East High School, RCSD

Jamere was nominated by Ms. Jody Rumfola for displaying bravery and role model behavior during an incident that happened last school year. Ms. Rumfola is the social worker at Pinnacle School #35, which is the school Jamere attended for 6th grade. Back in May, while riding the after school bus home, one of his 6th grade classmates became angry at a younger 3rd grade student who was also on the bus. This 6th grader punched the 3rd grader in the face multiple times. Jamere stepped in and pulled his classmate from the 3rd grader, stopping the assault. The younger student and his parent strongly believe that Jamere saved the boy from serious injury. There were several other younger students on the bus that witnessed Jamere's brave actions as well. Everyone at School #35 was very proud of Jamere for standing up to a peer and protecting a younger student.





Ernest Singleton

12th Grade

Edison Career & Technology H.S., RCSD



Essence Singleton

10th Grade

Edison Career & Technology H.S., RCSD

Ernest and Essence are siblings, and were nominated by Investigator Michael Romach of the Brighton Police Department for their heroic actions that occurred this past April while they were attending a family pool party at a hotel in Brighton. There were several young children with their group, including a five year old boy who was swimming in the shallow end of the pool near the steps. This young boy appeared to be swimming without any help and was doing back floats. At one point, he even gave a thumbs up to Ernest. Several minutes later, Essence noticed the boy had gone under water and not returned to the surface. She observed him at the bottom of the pool, and without hesitation, Essence swam down to the bottom of the pool and attempted to bring him to the surface. After not being successful, Essence made another attempt to grab the boy, and was able to bring his lifeless body up to the surface. She swam him over to a ladder in the deep end, where Ernest met them and pulled the boy up from the ladder and onto the pool deck. Quickly realizing he was not breathing, Ernest began administering rescue breaths and CPR. Within several minutes, the boy spit out a mouth full of water and began breathing on his own. Emergency responders arrived on-scene to find the boy semi-conscious and breathing on his own. The boy was transported to Strong Hospital where he was treated and has since made a full recovery. He is alive today because of the quick thinking and actions of both Essence and Ernest. Ernest learned CPR during his 8th grade health class while attending Martha Brown Middle School in Fairport!





Ernest and Essence were also awarded the Good Citizen Award from Crime Stoppers for their heroic actions.

Crime Stoppers first presented this award last year to Liam Worden, and hopes to present it annually to a high school senior who has stepped up in the community to Do The Right Thing.

This year the award was presented to the siblings at the Brighton Police Department. Pictured below with Ernest and Essence is the Crime Stoppers Board of Directors, along with Do The Right Thing Program Coordinator Laurie Kingsley-Henry, and Liam Worden, last year's Good Citizen Award recipient.





Solomon Stevens

4th Grade

Montessori Academy School #53, RCSD

Solomon was nominated by his aunt, Ms. Kimberly Davis, for his ability to remain calm during a frightening medical emergency involving a family member. Back in June, Solomon and his grandfather, Dwight Stevens, were at the Westside YMCA for their weekly swim session. During this time, Solomon's grandfather had a medical emergency in the swimming pool area. Solomon realized his grandfather was in distress and notified the lifeguard and also pushed the emergency pool button to alert the local fire department, police department and EMS. Solomon then called his father, advising him of the situation, and his father in turn alerted all immediate family members to head to the Westside YMCA. Solomon's grandfather was assisted at the pool by EMS and is now doing great! During this frightening situation, Solomon was able to keep his cool and notify the necessary people to assist his grandfather. Solomon and his grandfather are now back enjoying their weekly swim time at the Westside YMCA.





Alayah Titus

8th Grade

East Irondequoit Middle School

School Counselor Ms. Brya Potter nominated Alayah for her bravery and good deed which occurred last school year. At the end of May while in class, Alayah responded to a friend from another school who was messaging her with thoughts of self-harm. Alayah was honest in telling her teacher the circumstances, then cooperated with her counselor and administrator to provide information to locate her friend. Every step of the way she cooperated with both school officials and the police to give important details which assisted in locating her friend in need. It is because of Alayah's courage and compassion that her friend was given the supports needed to be safe. At East Irondequoit Middle School, they both value and honor students who demonstrate Lancer Pride. Alayah's good deed is an example of Lancer Pride, and by recognizing Alayah's actions, East Irondequoit Middle School hopes that other students will be courageous enough to seek out a trusted adult to help a friend in need just like Alayah did.



25th Anniversary Celebration

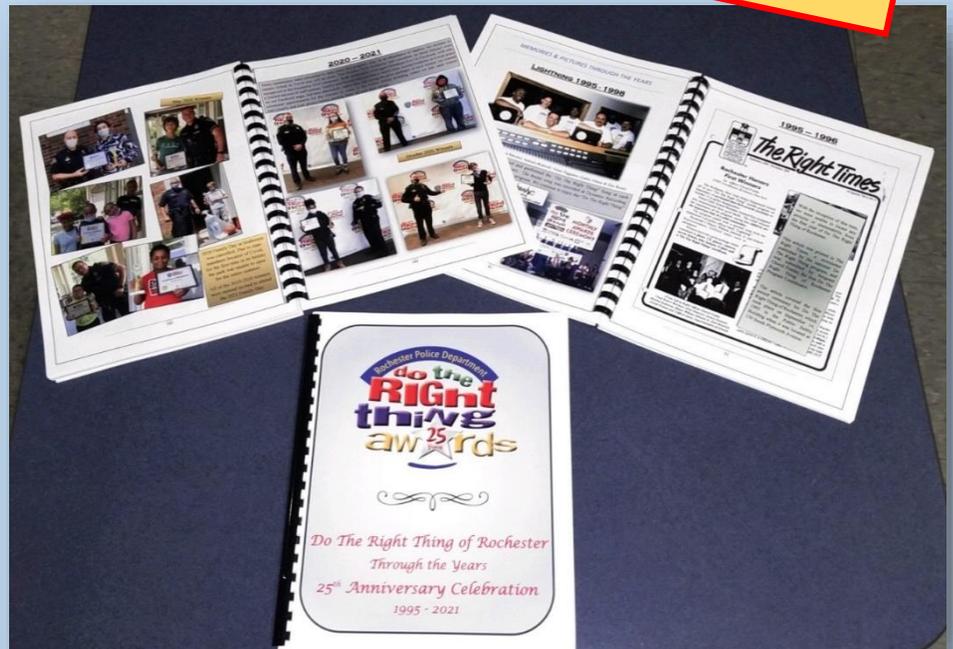
We are so excited to be celebrating 25 years of the Do The Right Thing Awards Program in Rochester! We have recognized a lot of remarkable young community members since the program began in 1995, and have made a lot of wonderful memories for so many people during this time. To recognize this accomplishment, we have assembled a book to capture several of the memories from throughout the years. Numerous ceremonies and events were held throughout the past twenty-five years, from award ceremonies to scholarship presentations, contests, and special events that have included outings to museums, amusements parks, sporting events, and camps. There were also safety fairs, parades and parties where we've bowled together, celebrated holidays and many other fun occasions. This book is a compilation of many of these memories and people who have made this possible, including past winners, staff, sponsors, and supporters, and includes events through program year 2020-2021.

Nearly 200 pages, the book can be viewed online at our website <https://www.cityofrochester.gov/DoTheRightThing/>. If you would like a bound hard copy, you can obtain one with a minimum donation of \$10. Contact our office by phone or email for more information.

Phone: (585) 428-7863

Email: DotheRightThing@cityofrochester.gov

THANK YOU
FOR
25 YEARS!



Ways to Help Do The Right Thing of Rochester Celebrate Another 25 Years!

★ **Nominate a student**

- Nominating a student is quick and easy.
- Anyone over 18 years-of-age can submit a nomination (this includes family, friends, neighbors, school staff, coaches, first responders, etc.).
- Visit our website to submit a nomination electronically.

Cityofrochester.gov/DTRTNominationForm

★ **Follow and share our social media**

- **Follow us on Facebook:** @DTRTROC
- **Follow us on Instagram:** @RPD_DTRT



★ **Make a tax deductible contribution**

- Do The Right Thing is a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization.
- Checks can be made out to Do The Right Thing of Rochester and sent to 185 Exchange Boulevard, Rochester NY 14614.
- We have Venmo! To find us, search for DoTheRightThing. You will see the name Laurie Kingsley-Henry above @DoTheRightThingofRochester and the Do The Right Thing Logo in a circle next to the name.
- United Way donors, please consider directing your annual gift to Do The Right Thing of Rochester (Donor Code ID # 3383).



★ **Become a Board of Director or Sponsor**

- Visit our website at Cityofrochester.gov/DoTheRightThing to learn more about Do The Right of Rochester and to read program By-Laws.
- Contact Program Coordinator Laurie Kingsley-Henry at (585) 428-7863 or DoTheRightThing@cityofrochester.gov for more information.

Sponsors

Sponsorship and donations help make this program possible. Donations received are used to directly impact the program and its winners. Gifts are distributed to the award recipients through prize packages at each award ceremony, and financial contributions help fund the daily operation of the program, as well as provide college scholarships. At each ceremony, winners receive sponsor-branded merchandise, a bag filled with school supplies, gift certificates, opportunities to attend various experiences in our area, and a variety of other rewards and opportunities that are provided by the below sponsors. Thank you for your generosity!

American Medical Response

Ames-Amzalak Memorial Trust

The Battery

Bill Gray's Regional Iceplex

Buffalo Bills

Camp Good Days and Special Times

City of Rochester

C.J. & B.S August Family Foundation

The Daisy Marquis Jones Foundation

The Democrat and Chronicle

Dynamic Recording Studio

Lyons National Bank

McDonalds, Upper Falls Boulevard

Memorial Art Gallery

News 10NBC WHEC-TV

NYRA Trophies & Awards

Pirate Toy Fund

Rochester Americans

Rochester City School District

Rochester Knighthawks

Rochester Museum and Science Center

Rochester Police Department

Rochester Police Foundation

Rochester RazorSharks

Rochester Red Wings

Salvatore's Old Fashioned Pizzeria

Seabreeze Amusement Park

Seneca Park Zoo

Target

TOPS Friendly Markets

Wildlife Educators Coalition

Interested in Becoming a Program Sponsor?

We award up to 50 students per school year. Donations are helpful and appreciated. We are continuously welcoming new sponsors to our program. If you have services or prizes that you would like to donate to our Do The Right Thing Award winners, or if you would like to make a financial donation to the program, please contact us! The Do The Right Thing Award Program is a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization, and every donation directly impacts each winner that is selected. All sponsor information is proudly displayed on our website, in informational brochures that we distribute, and at our ceremonies and other events that we attend.



Preparing for 2022 Scholarship Winners

This is a reminder to all of our past winners that are currently high school seniors!

Our program has award 108 recipients \$108,000 in college and/or trade school scholarships since 1997, and you could be a 2022 scholarship winner!

Please make sure that your contact information is current with our office. Staff members are going through the database of past winners and compiling a list of students that are currently high school seniors. These students will be receiving an application for our college or trade school scholarship, which we plan on mailing in April. If any of your contact information has changed since you won your award, and we haven't communicated with you recently, please call or email our office and leave a message with your current address, phone number, and email.

Our contact information is listed below.



Do the Right Thing of Rochester, Inc.
*** Rochester Police Department***
Phone: (585) 428-7863 Fax: (585) 428-6093
Email: DotheRightThing@cityofrochester.gov
Website: www.cityofrochester.gov/DoTheRightThing

Follow us on Facebook: [@DTRTROC](https://www.facebook.com/DTRTROC)
Follow us on Instagram: [@DTRT Rochester](https://www.instagram.com/DTRT_Rochester)

Nominations



We accept nominations all year long. If you know of a student that should be recognized for a remarkable act, please visit our [website](#) and submit a nomination.

We know there are many students out there who are doing the right thing - tell us about them so we can recognize and reward them! It is quick and easy to submit a nomination!

- Nominations can be submitted at any time, throughout the entire year.
- Anyone over 18 years-of-age can nominate.
- Nomination forms can be completed and submitted electronically.

Visit our website to learn more and to nominate a student.

<https://www.cityofrochester.gov/DoTheRightThing/>



Thank You!

We appreciate everyone that supports the Do The Right Thing of Rochester Awards Program. From those that take the time to nominate students, to those that have provided generous donations, we could not do this without you.

Donations received are used to directly impact the program and its winners. Gifts are distributed to the award recipients through prize packages at each award ceremony, and financial contributions help fund the daily operation of the program, as well as provide college scholarships. At each ceremony, winners receive sponsor-branded merchandise, gift certificates, opportunities to attend various experiences in our area, and a variety of other rewards and opportunities that are provided by our sponsors.

At the last award ceremony, winners received gifts from the following sponsors:

American Medical Response, Camp Good Days and Special Times, McDonalds @ Upper Falls Boulevard, Memorial Art Gallery, NYRA Trophies & Awards, Pirate Toy Fund, Rochester Museum and Science Center, Salvatore's Old Fashioned Pizzeria, Seneca Park Zoo, Seabreeze Amusement Park and TOPS Friendly Markets.

This year we have also received several very generous financial donations which have helped us purchase several pieces of merchandise that was gifted to each winner as well. New pens, pencils, pencil pouches and sharpeners, rulers, magnetic clips, and refrigerator magnets, all marked with our logo, have been purchased to help promote our program. Additionally, financial donations will be used to help fund our scholarship fund. Many thanks to the following individuals and organizations who have provided financial donations this past year:

Mrs. Patricia Stevens, Mrs. Grace Tillinghast, Gates Police Chief James VanBrederode, C.J. & B.S August Family Foundation, Horace Jeter, Inc., Monroe County Police Chiefs Association, Rustic Village Apartments, and everyone that chose Do The Right Thing of Rochester to be the recipient of their annual United Way donation!



2021-2022 Do the Right Thing Award Ceremonies

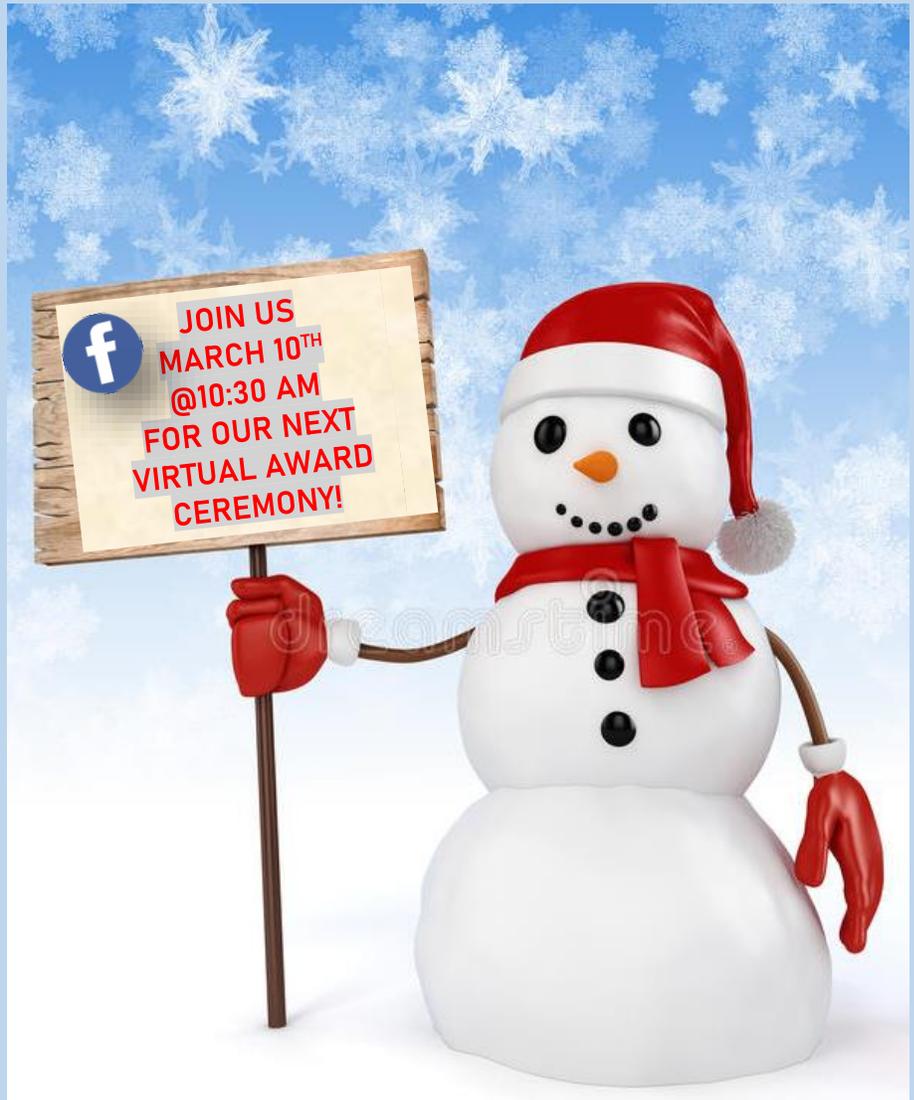
Please join us as we recognize outstanding students from Monroe County who have chosen to do the right thing!

We are happy to be able continue recognizing students who are doing the right thing. Like so many others, we have had to make some adaptations to our program throughout this pandemic. Most notably, our award ceremony format changed – the ceremonies continue to remain virtual, and we have decreased the amount of ceremonies we will have this year. While we miss having our big in-person ceremonies, attended by our winners and their friends and family, as well as the many community supporters of our program, the virtual format has been quite successful, allowing so many more people to watch the ceremony both as its occurring, and anytime afterwards as well.

Our next ceremony will be held virtually on March 10, 2022 at 10:30 a.m. Like the other recent ceremonies we have had, there will be limited staff in attendance, and our winners and their family and friends, as well as everyone else, are invited to attend virtually and watch as we broadcast Live on Facebook. Make sure to 'Like' and 'Follow' our [Facebook](#) page at Do The Right Thing of Rochester so that you can watch the virtual ceremony.

We are grateful that we have found a successful way to continue recognizing the great youth in our community!

The last ceremony of the program year will be held on May 5, 2022. We will determine once the date gets closer if this will be an in-person ceremony or if it will remain virtual.



Rochester Police Department
do the
RIGHT
things
awards



The graphic features a blue arch at the top containing the text 'Rochester Police Department' in yellow. Below this, the words 'do the' are in orange and green. The word 'RIGHT' is in large, bold red letters. 'things' is in purple, and 'awards' is in yellow. A central graphic is a white star with a gold outline, containing the number '25' in red and the word 'Years' in red script below it. A blue swoosh is at the bottom.