



Do The Right Thing of Rochester Award Program WINTER 2023 NEWSLETTER

Welcome!

Happy New Year! We hope everyone enjoyed their holidays!

Since our last newsletter, we had our first ceremony of the 2022-2023 school year on December 1st, where we had the opportunity to recognize ten role models students from our community! If you missed it make sure to check out our Facebook page, Do The Right Thing of Rochester. While we have returned to the in-person format for our ceremonies, we have decided to continue recording and posting via Facebook Live for those that were not able to join us, or want to watch the ceremony again!

Mark your calendars – our next Do The Right Thing Award Ceremony for this year will be on Thursday, March 2, 2023 at 10:30 am! The ceremony will be held at the Public Safety Building, and streamed Live on our Facebook page! We hope you will be able to join us either in-person or on-line!

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

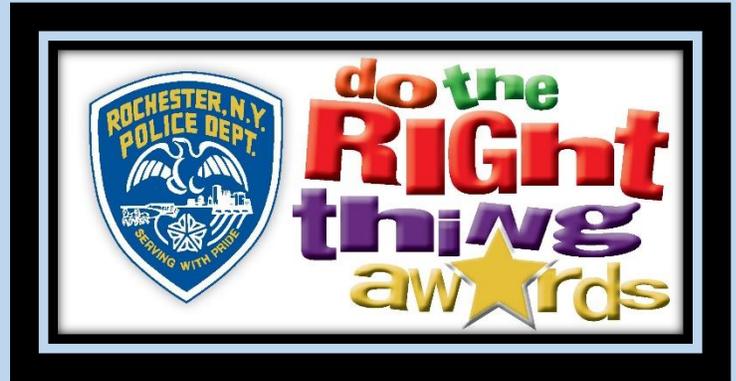
Follow us on Facebook: [@DTRTROC](https://www.facebook.com/DTRTROC)

Follow us on Instagram: [@DTRT_Rochester](https://www.instagram.com/DTRT_Rochester)

Follow us on Twitter: [@RPD DTRT](https://twitter.com/RPD_DTRT)



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 Kindergarten - 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, friends, etc.). 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. Family and friends are welcome to attend these ceremonies, unless the ceremony is held virtually due to safety concerns (such as during the COVID pandemic). If this is the case, attendance would be limited, but everyone would be welcome to watch the ceremony as it takes place, or anytime afterwards, by watching via Facebook Live on our [Facebook page](#). Regardless, all ceremonies, whether in-person or virtual, will be recorded and shared on Facebook, so you’ll never have to worry about missing a ceremony, and you can always go back and watch past recorded ceremonies as many times as you’d like!

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 college or trade school 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 over \$100,000 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 sponsor News 10NBC WHEC-TV. Stories are televised on WHEC and highlighted on-line as well. Visit their website at [WHEC.com](#) to view past highlights.

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 and follow our [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#) 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 many more years of Do The Right Thing in Rochester!



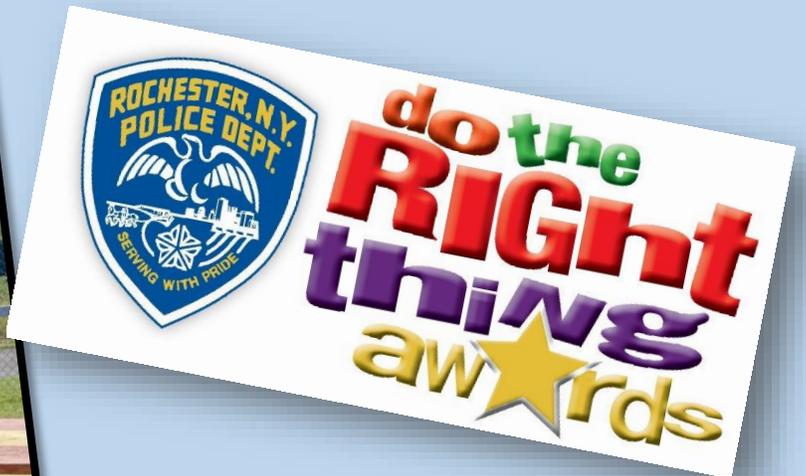
Sergeant Jose Vargas
Program Director



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.

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: Anthony Campbell (Memorial Art Gallery)

Treasurer: Suzanne Warren (City of Rochester)

Secretary and Program Coordinator: Laurie Kingsley-Henry (Rochester Police Department)

Program Director: Sergeant Jose Vargas (Rochester Police Department)

LaShay Harris (City of Rochester)

Glen Jeter (President of Horace Jeter Inc.)

Carmen Jones (City of Rochester)

Sheri Landers (Emergency Communications Department)

Mark Mura (Rochester Police Department)

Emily Putnam (News 10NBC WHEC-TV)

James Sheppard (Rochester City School District)

Brennan Somers

Keith L. Stith (Rochester Police Department)

Grace Tillinghast (The Battery)

Jeffrey Wagner (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.

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 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/trade school 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 the below sponsors. Thank you for your generosity!

American Medical Response

Ames-Amzalak Memorial Trust

Bill Gray's Regional Iceplex

Camp Good Days and Special Times

City of Rochester

C.J. & B.S August Family Foundation

The Daisy Marquis Jones Foundation

Dynamic Recording Studio

Genesee Country Village & Museum

Glen Jeter (Horace Jeter Inc.)

Grace Tillinghast (The Battery)

Memorial Art Gallery

Monroe County

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

TOPS Friendly Markets

Interested in Becoming a Program Sponsor?

We award up to 50 students each 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 ceremonies and other events that

we attend.



December 2022 Award Ceremony Winners

10 students were awarded at the December 1st, 2022 Award Ceremony. County Executive Adam Bello, Rochester Mayor Malik Evans, Rochester Police Deputy Chief Keith Stith, as well as many other area police chiefs and other dignitaries, were in attendance. We even had a surprise visit from Santa! It was such a fun event!

★ Xzaveon Alfonso 9th Grade Northeast College Preparatory H.S. (RCSD)

Xzaveon was nominated last school year when he was an 8th grader at John Williams School #5 by his social studies teacher, Ms. Jamie Bruce, for his courageous actions. When a student in Xzaveon's classroom told classmates that they had brought a weapon into school, Xzaveon chose to let an adult know so that the situation could be handled appropriately. Despite being called a snitch, bullied and even threatened for reporting the situation, Xzaveon's courage to stand up for what was right helped keep his classmates and school community safe. He took immediate action, and responsible adults were able to swiftly address this potentially dangerous situation. Thanks to Xzaveon, everyone went home safe from school that day. Great job Xzaveon!





Abby Bielemeier

7th Grade

Spry Middle School (Webster CSD)

Abby was nominated by Ms. Diane Sturmer for her kind heart and selfless spirit. Ms. Sturmer is the Artistic Director of Heart of Dance, which is an inclusive dance troupe that includes performers of all abilities – trained dancers, dancers with wheel chairs, dancers with developmental disabilities, and many guest dancers from around the Rochester community. She says that Abby has been a valuable asset to the troupe, always willing to help out with any choreography or anything else that needs to be done, is comfortable with all participants, and especially enjoyed dancing with another dancer with wheels.

Abby is also an invaluable asset to her community, volunteering many hours at various organizations in the area. Abby has been involved with Girl Scouts for over seven years, and throughout this time has contributed many hours to her community through activities like volunteering at 5K events, organizations like Happy Birthday Cha Cha, and Christmas caroling at senior communities. She completed her Girl Scout bronze award which

included a project to assist pets waiting for their forever homes. She worked with Verona Street Animal Shelter to help get the word out about the need for fosters by creating PSAs for social media, helped make foster bags and thank you cards for families that foster pets, volunteered at Verona Street's Fast & Furriest fundraising event and made dog toys to donate to Verona Street & Rescue Pups. She finished her bronze award by traveling to Friendship, NY to help Rescue Pups clear a walking trail for their volunteers and dogs to use. For the last six years Abby has also volunteered her time to help take care of the community garden at Hope House in Webster during the summer. Hope House provides food for many people in the Webster community. She has also volunteered at Foodlink, as well as made cards for veterans for Veterans Day, painted pumpkins and put together holiday treat bags for the residents at Cherry Ridge Rainier Grove, and volunteered at the



Challenger Miracle Field Halloween Party. Challenger Baseball is Little League's adaptive baseball program for individuals who are differently-abled physically and intellectually, and Miracle Field provides a dedicated field to ensure a safe space for these teams to play.

At school, Abby is an excellent student. She was elected by her peers to represent the 6th graders in Blue House on student council, and has participated in volunteer work through this as well.

Well-rounded, making a difference in both the community where she lives as well as her school community, Abby is a wonderful role model for not only other students, but adults as well. Great job Abby!



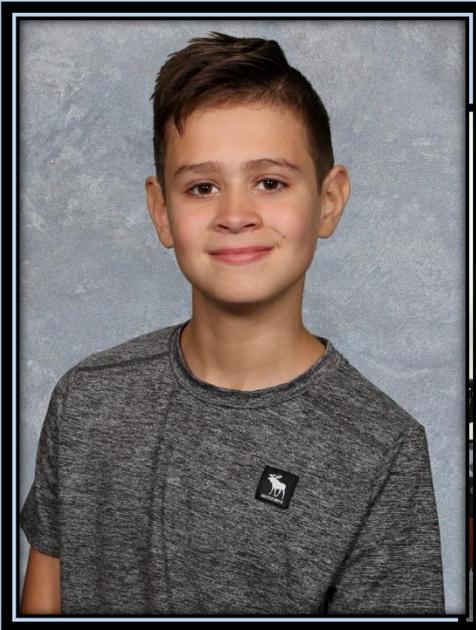


Nicholas Cameron

6th Grade

Spry Middle School (Webster CSD)

Nicholas was nominated by his neighbor, MJ Stark, for the maturity and bravery he displayed during a recent alarming incident. In May Nicholas was riding his scooter alone in his neighborhood when he was followed and approached by a stranger in a vehicle who attempted to engage Nicholas in inappropriate conversation. Nicholas was uncomfortable and sensed danger, so he immediately went home and reported what happened to his parents. On his way home he even told the nearby neighbor to be safe. His parents called 911 and the Monroe County Sheriff's Office responded to investigate. Nicholas was brave and provided the deputies very detailed information about the man and the car he was driving. Nicholas did the right thing by going to a safe location and immediately telling an adult, and reacted courageously when he spoke to law enforcement and provided them very important information. His actions serve as a model for children of what to do if they are ever in a similar situation, and hopefully his bravery and willingness to speak up will encourage others to do the same. Great job Nicholas!





Daryl Goodwin

9th Grade

Daryl was nominated by his coach as well as his school counselor for his strength, resilience and great attitude while dealing with some very traumatic events recently. First Daryl's mother suddenly and unexpectedly passed away. Then several months later the house where he resides caught fire in the middle of the night. Daryl was able to alert his family, and thanks to his actions, everyone was able to safely escape. Despite all of this, Daryl shows up to school every day, as well as sports practice, always with a smile on his face, ready to work and play hard. Several of his teachers note that Daryl is a hard worker and a pleasure to have in class. Daryl's coach wants everyone to know that Daryl is a tough young man who is a bright spot in our community, and his family wants everyone to know they are proud of him and that he is a hero. Great job Daryl!





Morgan Grandberry Graduated June 2022 from Wilson Magnet High School

Morgan graduated last year from Wilson Magnet High School, and currently attends the University of Buffalo where she is pursuing a degree in nursing. She was nominated last school year before she graduated by Natalie Fabretti, a College Access Counselor at Monroe Community College, for the motivation, drive and good attitude she displayed throughout high school.



Throughout high school Morgan actively sought out ways to serve her community. She volunteered at Foodlink by packing boxes for organizations within the community that make and distribute meals, as well as MCC's snack and supply distribution events.

At school she served as a student leader to plan online activities and events. She designed a vision board that included personal and professional goals which she shared with her peers. She taught younger students about healthy food and activity choices through the Choose Healthy Action Teens program. She taught several classes and debriefed with her leader in order to improve each time. She applied and was accepted to the Ag Innovators Experience where she completed training, planned lessons with peers, and taught younger students about ways to protect the environment, working with a variety of age groups.

Morgan was accepted to the Perry Initiative where she did hands-on activities with orthopedic surgeons which shows her dedication to learn more about her future career. She was also accepted to Project SEED, a program that connects high school students with current university professors to learn how to do research.



In everything she does, Morgan is always willing to do whatever is needed, and with a good attitude. Morgan's high school counselor, Ms. Jamie Miner, said that Morgan is a natural and effective leader who charismatically guides her peers and always has a willingness to help others.

Great job Morgan, and good luck in all of your future endeavors!



John Greene

6th Grade

Odyssey Academy (Greece CSD)

John was nominated by his grandmother, Paula Stagnitto, for overcoming obstacles and his sense of responsibility to his community. John has Spina Bifida. As a baby doctors said he would likely never walk, however after nine surgeries he proved them wrong! While he may be slightly slower than a lot of children his age, John has been walking since the age of two! He tires quickly and after a hard day at school or playing you can recognize the difference in his ability to walk, but that doesn't stop him from one of his passions – caring for the environment. John can often be found after a long day of school, or even on the weekends, walking around his neighborhood or a nearby park with plastic bags and gloves on picking up loose trash. His family is so proud of John for working hard and always helping others in his community. Great job John!





Kamden Love

1st Grade

Urban Choice Charter School

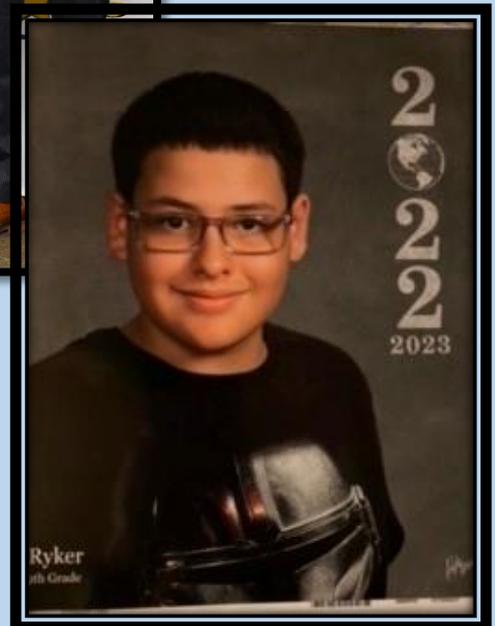
Kamden was nominated by family friend Jeanne Charlton Markman after she learned of his heroic actions this past August. On the morning of August 1st, Kamden was watching tv when the carbon monoxide detector went off. Kamden woke his two older siblings and all three were able to safely evacuate the house. Kamden then called his parents to tell them what was happening, and they contacted 911. The fire department and RGE responded, and determined that there was a carbon monoxide leak from the kitchen stove. Thanks to Kamden's quick actions, his family is healthy and safe. Great job Kamden!





Ryker Metras 9th Grade Burger Junior High School (Rush-Henrietta CSD)

Ryker was nominated by 911 telecommunicators Rachel DiVirgilio & Roxanne Angst for the way he responded during an emergency situation that occurred this summer. On August 14th Ryker called 911 to report his neighbor's lawn was on fire. He provided very detailed descriptions and updates, such as how rapidly the fire was spreading and how close the fire was getting to the neighbor's house. He answered all the questions that were asked of him to the best of his ability, and provided crucial information which helped the fire department respond as quickly and efficiently as possible. While he did not know the exact address of his neighbor's house, he gave very specific details of what the house looked like, which helped the telecommunicators pinpoint the exact location. During the entire conversation, the 911 telecommunicators noted Ryker was always very helpful and polite. Mr. Lane, the principal at Ryker's school, says that Ryker is a kind, conscientious and thoughtful young man, and an absolute role model for his peers. Great job Ryker!





Leah Passero

9th Grade

Homeschool

Leah was nominated by Arnett Branch Librarian Bruce Tehan for her outstanding role model behavior which she displayed when she volunteered at the location. During June and July 2022 Leah volunteered two shifts per week at the Arnett Branch Library. Her duties included shelf reading, creating book displays, and helping conduct children's arts and craft programs. Leah was polite, hardworking, responsible and smart, and her work was exceptional. She was a key reason children had fun and educational experiences at the Arnett Branch Library, and because of this she has helped children develop a life-long love of libraries and reading. She is a truly outstanding young lady, and has provided a wonderful service for her community. Great job Leah!



IT RUNS IN THE FAMILY!
 Two of Leah's siblings are also past Do The Right Thing winners!
 ★ Johanna (June 2018, pictured bottom left)
 ★ Stephen (December 2019, pictured bottom right)
 And bottom right photo....Leah pictured with two more of her sisters (hopefully two future Do The Right Thing Award winners)!





Emir Thomas

7th Grade

UPrep Rochester Charter School

Emir was nominated last year by his 6th grade teacher at John James Audubon School #33, Ms. Stacy Calvin, for his positive attitude and role model behavior. Ms. Calvin said that Emir is a young man that feels deeply about doing the right thing, and is always kind and caring to everyone around him. Last year he was always assisting others in class if they needed a partner, help with a class task, or if they needed a friend. One time one of his fellow classmates was injured while coming to school. When he heard of this he immediately asked what he could do to help. He was also always kind to all of the staff as well, and did so without asking or expecting anything in return. One time last year when he saw a teacher struggling to carry several items, he stopped and offered to help carry her items to the third floor. When she tried to give him something for his help and kindness, he politely declined and said he didn't need anything for helping her. Emir was a safety patrol student at School #33, and took his job very seriously by helping all members of the school community. He would often come early or stay late just in case staff or parents needed assistance with anything, from holding a door to carrying an item. Emir was also very serious about his school work, and helped others succeed as well. Ms. Calvin said that Emir was such a pleasure to have in her school and classroom, and we have no doubt that he is now a valuable asset to his new school this year at UPrep Rochester. Great job Emir!











Preparing for 2023 Scholarship Applications

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

Our program has awarded 110 recipients \$110,000 in college and/or trade school scholarships since 1997, and *you* could be a 2023 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.

Each year, all previous Do The Right Thing Award winners that are currently high school seniors may apply for a scholarship to be applied towards the payment of their college or trade school tuition or expenses. A selection committee reviews all applications, and the number of winners selected each year is determined by the amount of program funding available. Since 1997 our program has awarded 110 recipients \$110,000 in college and/or trade school scholarships!



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)

Follow us on Twitter: [@RPD DTRT](https://twitter.com/RPD_DTRT)



Supporting the Pirate Toy Fund Holiday Toy Drive

The Pirate Toy Fund is a nonprofit organization dedicated to distributing new toys year-round to children in need throughout the Greater Rochester region. Co-Founded by local children's entertainer, Gary the Happy Pirate and Dave and Lorrie Simonetti, the Pirate Toy Fund has distributed almost 400,000 toys since 1995, and continues to actively pursue new avenues to expand its mission. The founders were inspired by the extraordinary life of Christie Simonetti; daughter of Dave and Lorrie and special friend to Gary.

The Pirate Toy Fund has supported the Do The Right Thing Program for 20 years by providing toys for each winner. To thank them for their generosity, Do The Right Thing hosted a toy drive this holiday season, setting up collection boxes at the Public Safety Building to collect donations of new, unwrapped toys. On January 17th, Pirate Toy Fund Executive Director Otto Harnischfeger stopped by to pick up four very large boxes full of toy donations!

Thank you to all who donated, and for helping the Do The Right Thing Program give back to one of our sponsors!

To learn more about this great organization, visit their website at piratetoyfund.org.



Ways to Help Do The Right Thing of Rochester!

★ **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
- **Follow us on Twitter:** @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.

We Need Nominations!! Submit a Nomination Today!!



We accept nominations all year long. If you know 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 today!