



# **Do The Right Thing of Rochester Award Program SPRING 2023 NEWSLETTER**

## **Welcome!**

Since our last newsletter, we've had two ceremonies – March 2<sup>nd</sup>, and our last ceremony of the 2022-2023 school year on May 4<sup>th</sup>. In total this school year we recognized 29 amazing role model students from our community! If you missed any of the ceremonies 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 as well for those that were unable to join us, or want to watch the ceremony again!

We're excited to spend the day with all of our 2022-2023 Do The Right Thing winners at our Family Celebration Day at Seabreeze Amusement Park on Wednesday, June 28<sup>th</sup>. Invitations have been sent to all 29 winners, so make sure to check your email!

It's hard to believe that another school year is almost done! With summer right around the corner, please don't forget about our program! 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 us, 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, and we hope everyone has a happy and healthy summer!

**Do The Right Thing of Rochester, Inc.**  
**\* Rochester Police Department\***

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## 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.

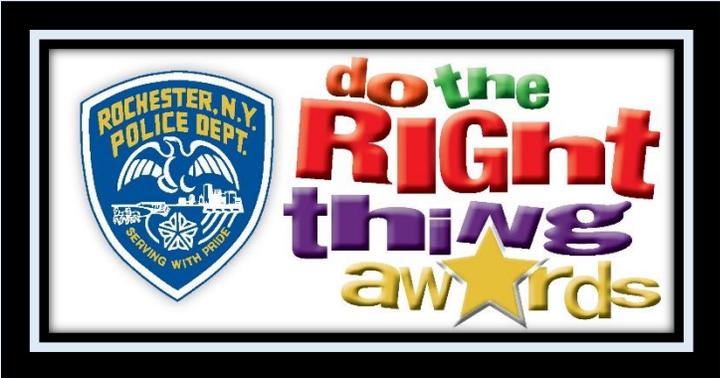
Anyone over 18 years old can nominate a student (this includes first responders, teachers, coaches, family, friends, etc.). Nominations are accepted throughout the year, and are reviewed by a committee that selects students to receive the Do The Right Thing Award. Selected students are celebrated at a ceremony at the City Public Safety Building. Ceremonies are held during the school year, and family and friends are welcome to attend. All ceremonies are also 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](http://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](http://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.



# March 2023 Award Ceremony Winners

8 students were awarded at the March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023 Award Ceremony.



**Carlos Cullet**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Grade**

**Virgil I. Grissom School #7 (RCSD)**

Carlos was nominated by 911 Telecommunicator Kathleen Burns for his bravery during a family medical emergency that occurred in March 2022. Carlos, who was seven years old at the time, was at home with his grandfather while his mother was at work. When Carlos was unable to wake his papa, he called his mother who then called 911. During this 911 call, Carlos' mother was able to also get Carlos on the phone and had him on speaker so he was also able to communicate with 911 as well. While Carlos was on the line, he was so calm and helpful, answering the telecommunicator's questions and comforting his upset mother. Unfortunately Carlos' papa had passed away in his sleep, but Ms. Burns wanted to make sure Carlos' heroic actions were recognized, saying that 'the bravery that he had just amazed me, for being so young and for literally experiencing one of the worst case scenarios, I commend him. He is such a great little boy with the strength of a grown up'.





**Skylar Jones**

**4<sup>th</sup> Grade**

**Plank Road North Elementary (Webster CSD)**

Skylar was nominated by his grandmother, Judy Nolan, for his calm and brave actions during a family medical emergency that occurred this past October. When Skylar got home from school that day, he recognized that his grandfather wasn't feeling well and called his grandmother at work to tell her. After Ms. Nolan spoke with her husband and realized how sick he sounded, she left work immediately to come home. While enroute, Skylar tried calling his grandmother several times to tell her that papa fell. When he was unable to reach his grandmother, he called his mother and told her what had happened. Now with both women headed to the house, and 911 contacted by one of them, Skylar handled multiple phone calls between the two, where he was told the ambulance was coming and would likely arrive before either of them. During these conversations, he kept both family members informed of how papa was doing, assuring them he was conscious, breathing, and encouraging him to talk. He also secured the dog, and went to meet the ambulance when they arrived and helped them into the home. Skylar handled this chaotic emergency at 9 years old better than some adults would have! He stayed calm and kept his grandmother and mother informed until medical help arrived. When asked afterward what he would have done if he would have been unable to contact either of them, he confidently said that he would have called 911 himself. Skylar's family is so proud of him!





**Brian LaMere, Jr.    6<sup>th</sup> Grade    Rochester Prep Middle School 3 (Charter School)**

Brian was nominated by 911 Telecommunicator Kathleen Burns for the impressive way he handled a recent medical emergency. This past November, Brian was home alone and called 911 because he was having trouble breathing. During the entire phone call he remained calm and answered all of the questions that Ms. Burns asked. Even though he was in a scary situation, his ability to remain calm and effectively communicate with Ms. Burns was very impressive. Brian was transported to the hospital, but is now doing just fine!





**Xzavianna Matos**

**7<sup>th</sup> Grade**

**Northwest Junior High at Douglass (RCSD)**

Xzavianna was nominated by her 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, Ms. Carletha Bell, for her honesty and integrity. Last school year an adult from an outside organization was volunteering in their classroom at Abelard Reynolds School #42, and accidentally left her iPhone 13 Pro in the restroom. Xzavianna found the phone and turned it in to the office. The volunteer was contacted and the phone was returned to its rightful owner. The volunteer was very grateful to have her phone back, and everyone at School #42 was very proud of Xzavianna for choosing to do the right thing and turn the phone in.





OlaRose Ndubuisi

10<sup>th</sup> Grade

Our Lady of Mercy School for Young Women

OlaRose was nominated by her mother, Dr. Olachi Mezu-Ndubuisi, for her leadership and advocacy for children with scoliosis. At the beginning of 9<sup>th</sup> grade, OlaRose was diagnosed with scoliosis. Initially she felt alone and afraid. Although her curved spine and back brace were visible, her pain was not. However, she has managed to take what could have been a very negative experience in her life, and turn it into something very positive by helping raise awareness of this medical condition.

This past December, OlaRose started a project called Finding Scoliosis Kindly (FiSK) to increase scoliosis awareness, and to advocate for early management and treatment to prevent or improve the challenging physical, social, and emotional effects of scoliosis. She is passionate about her FiSK project because she believes that the effects of scoliosis are hidden and need to be revealed and understood in a kind way.

OlaRose designed a t-shirt which she is selling in an effort to raise funds for free scoliosis screening in an underserved community. She also developed a research survey about scoliosis awareness, which has reached over 20 states, as well as other countries, and has enabled her to connect with other high school students. Both adults and children have participated, and through this project students have expressed increased knowledge about scoliosis, more empathy for those suffering from it, and have pledged to do an act of kindness a day.

Olarose uses poetry to convey and navigate her emotions and scoliosis journey. Writing poetry has helped her to freely express her experience with scoliosis and turn her pain into something beautiful and relatable.

OlaRose hopes to start a Finding Scoliosis Kindly Club in her school. She envisions a club that would encourage writing and art as therapeutic, positive outlets for expression, for those both with and without scoliosis. She hopes to create a supportive, fun environment where students can feel comfortable communicating their thoughts verbally and artistically, without judgement or feeling that their emotions are not valid. To raise scoliosis awareness, OlaRose intends to organize monthly service projects that the club can do to help those in underserved communities to help prevent, improve, or manage scoliosis.

This young lady is an exemplary leader and role model for her peers and others in the community to use their voices, no matter how small, to raise positive awareness for causes affecting the vulnerable in the community. Despite her medical challenges, she maintains a radiant positivity, perseverance, and continues to excel academically.

★ Follow OlaRose on her *Instagram & Twitter* pages  
**@olaroseofficial**

where she shares her poetry, art, volunteerism and scoliosis advocacy.  
★ You can also find a link to her research survey on her Instagram page.  
OlaRose would welcome your participation in this quick 5 minute survey!

★ Visit this link if you are interested in purchasing a t-shirt  
<https://www.customink.com/fundraising/olarosendubuisi-finding->





OlaRose (pictured above), reading her poem *The Wholesomeness of Brokenness*, at the March ceremony.

### The Wholesomeness of Brokenness

By OlaRose Ndubuisi (15 years)

August 3rd, 2022

The window shatters into pieces of my past.  
 I put them together, one by one,  
 But they don't seem to fit anymore.  
 Rather than fixing something that is broken,  
 I find that repurposing history is the golden token.  
 Why return something to its original, flawed state,  
 When you can begin again and start a clean slate?  
 I hold the isolated piece of glass against the luminous backdrop of the heavens.  
 Translucent is the glistening piece of glass,  
 For it effortlessly lets the sun's morning glow filter through the cracks and pass.  
 The damaged pieces of our past don't have to become the fragments of our future.  
 Instead, we can use them as pieces in the nebulous puzzle of the present.  
 When the pieces form a bigger picture,  
 When we see that the window of truth is restored,  
 We will realize that even the most fragile things can radiate boldly.  
 Maybe the things in life that seem broken are what make us feel whole.



**Nikolai Patel**

**Kindergarten**

**Autumn Lane Elementary (Greece CSD)**

Nikolai was nominated by his mother, Rebecca Jason, as well as his sister, Santii Patel. Santii was a Do The Right Thing winner in October 2019 when she was a 2<sup>nd</sup> grader. She was nominated for her kind and giving spirit. Nikolai has decided to follow in his sister's footsteps and give back to the community as well. He has a huge heart and wants to continue giving back to our local first responders. He's held lemonade and hot cocoa stands to raise funds to buy treats for the local fire department, and is currently saving money to buy them lunch. Nikolai is always looking for ways to help his community as well. He goes around the neighborhood and picks up any trash he finds, and has turned in lost property that he found at the store to security. His sister has also had a huge impact on him with making the world more inclusive, and he assists her in her mission of helping build inclusive playgrounds in the area. Along with Santii, he's attended meetings with local state representatives and business leaders to keep making playgrounds accessible for everyone!





Javon Rivera

8<sup>th</sup> Grade

Joseph C. Wilson Foundation Academy (RCSD)

Javon was nominated by his school counselor, Ms. Sherrolletta Scissum, for his heroic actions this past fall. Javon loves hanging out with his cousin and friends as they venture throughout the neighborhood making videos. One Sunday in October during one of their adventures, Javon's cousin was electrocuted. The light from the shock was so bright Javon was not able to see for a moment. Once he was able to see he observed his cousin was laying on the ground unresponsive, and immediately ran over to help him. Javon called 911 and started CPR until the Rochester Fire Department and paramedics arrived. Once help arrived, Javon called other family members to let them know what was happening. Javon's cousin was rushed to the hospital in critical condition, where he remained for over two months. He had to have his hand amputated, but is now home and doing well in part because of Javon's quick thinking. Everyone at school, as well as his friends and family, think Javon is a hero!





**Dominic Turturro**

**11<sup>th</sup> Grade**

**Churchville-Chili High School**

Dominic was nominated by 911 Telecommunicator Kathleen Burns for the way he handled a recent family medical emergency. Back in September, Dominic was watching his two year old sister while their mother was at work. He called 911 after his sister had what appeared to be a seizure. During the call, Dominic was very brave, and was able to stay calm and focused as he provided Ms. Burns the necessary information needed in order to send the appropriate help. Thanks to Dominic's actions, his sister is happy and healthy today, and his family is so proud of him for being such a caring big brother! Ms. Burns said that she could tell during that phone call just how much Dominic loves his little sister!





**IT RUNS IN THE FAMILY!**  
Nikolai, pictured left at the March ceremony with his older sister Santii, younger sister, parents, and Greece Police Department Sergeant Jared Rene.  
  
Pictured below, Santii, a Do The Right Thing winner at the October 2019 ceremony when she was a winner while in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade.



**December 2022 Winners**

December 2022 Winners



## May 2023 Award Ceremony Winners

11 students were awarded at the May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023 Award Ceremony.



**Mia Butchino**

**4<sup>th</sup> Grade**

**Genesee Community Charter School**

Mia was nominated by her grandmother, Amy Collins, for her brave actions. This past fall one of Mia's classmates brought a bullet to school. After the student showed Mia and several other students, Mia realized this was a dangerous item and immediately told her teacher. Mia knew the right thing to do was to tell a responsible adult when she felt something wasn't right, even though some of her classmates called her a snitch afterwards, which upset her. But hopefully by reporting this incident, the other students learned that it is not ok to bring dangerous items to school, no matter what their intent, and Mia's actions helped keep everyone safe.





**Latrail Butler**

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade**

**John James Audubon School #33 (RCSD)**

Latrail was nominated by her teacher, Lindsay Kelly, for the positive choices she is making this school year. Recently Latrail broke up a fight amongst two students at the front of the line when the class was walking to the bus for dismissal. Latrail held one of the students until the teacher was alerted and could address the situation. Ms. Kelly said she was so proud of Latrail for assisting when she could have done nothing at all, or even encouraged it to continue. Instead, she did the right thing when no one was looking, and Ms. Kelly wanted to recognize Latrail for this, especially when she has come so far in terms of her own behavior. Latrail has had a difficult time in previous years, but has demonstrated significant improvements over the course of this school year in her attendance, behavior, and work ethic. In the past, Latrail would resort to physical aggression to solve her problems, but this year Latrail has been working very hard to develop and use problem-solving strategies. She is coming to school on a regular basis, completing work 100% of the time, forming positive peer relationships and developing leadership skills. Ms. Kelly and everyone at School #33 is so proud of Latrail's positive turn-around behavior this year!





**Katura Greathouse**

**7<sup>th</sup> Grade**

**Rochester City School District**

Katura was nominated by her father, Daniel Greathouse, for the courageous and brave way she handled an incident that took place at school. This past fall, Katura saw another student with a gun and immediately notified school staff. After an investigation, it was discovered that the student did indeed possess a loaded handgun, and the student did not enter the school through the main entrance, but rather was let into the school by another student at a different door. Thanks to Katura's bravery, she recognized the potential danger and possibly prevented something tragic from occurring. She spoke up, even while putting herself in jeopardy, as she was threatened afterwards by other students because they said she snitched. Katura has since changed schools, and has received positive praise from her teachers, who say that Katura shows initiative in her studies, and is a wonderful advocate for both herself and her peers.





**Kalena Guadalupe    2<sup>nd</sup> Grade    Dr. Walter Cooper Academy School #10 (RCSD)**

Kalena was nominated by her school administrators, Principal Dr. Eva Thomas and Assistant Principal Michele White, for her kindness and consideration of others. Last fall, Kalena noticed that there was a large population of homeless individuals in the City of Rochester. Worrying that the people she observed were cold, she asked Dr. Thomas if she could help them by collecting blankets. It was then that 'Kalena's Gift of Warmth' was created. Kalena asked her art teacher, Mrs. Allyn Walters, to help, and together they created collection boxes, which were placed in the main lobby of the school. During the month of December more than 40 blankets were collected! The following month Kalena, her mom, and Dr. Thomas brought the donation of blankets to the Open Door Mission. Kalena exemplifies the qualities of a Cooper Scholar in every way, and everyone at School #10 is so proud of her!





**De'Real Isidore**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Grade**

**Flower City School #54 (RCSD)**

De'Real was nominated by his teacher, Krystal Romilly, who describes De'Real as a delightful student who is a natural born leader and overall excellent role model. He is kind, caring, compassionate and considerate, and is always willing to help a friend in need, as well as supporting his classmates academically. Not only does he look out for his classmates, but he also looks out for his teachers and other staff members at the school. An example of this would be recently, De'Real found out that one of his classmates brought a knife to school. Without hesitation, he let a teacher know about what he saw, and the issue was addressed quickly and without incident. Ms. Romilly is extremely proud of De'Real for being courageous and insightful enough to let an adult know of this potentially dangerous situation.



**IT RUNS IN THE FAMILY!**  
 De'Real's older brother DeShawn (pictured right) won a Do The Right Thing Award in March 2022 when he was a 5<sup>th</sup> grader at the same school. He was nominated by his teacher, Mrs. Ferris, when he and another student gave their teacher a bag of marijuana they found while playing on the school playground.

- ★ Alanna Johnson      5<sup>th</sup> Grade      John James Audubon School #33 (RCSD)
- ★ Amarianna Moton      5<sup>th</sup> Grade      John James Audubon School #33 (RCSD)

Alanna and Amarianna were nominated by their teacher, Erin Sperry, for their bravery. Recently during dismissal, as the class was exiting the classroom, Alanna and Amarianna approached Ms. Sperry and asked if they could talk to her. The girls then told their teacher that another student had a knife in their backpack and told students if anyone messed with them that they would be stabbed. Upon investigation, a knife was indeed found and the situation addressed. The girls reported the knife as soon as they knew, and their courageous actions kept everyone safe in their classroom and school, possibly preventing a dangerous event from occurring. In Ms. Sperry's class, she talks about if you see something, say something and you could save a life. Together the girls did just that!





Zion Parker

1<sup>st</sup> Grade

Roberto Clemente School School #8 (RCSD)

Zion was nominated by 911 Telecommunicator Kathleen Burns for the bravery he displayed during a family medical emergency. In February, Zion and his mother remained in the car while his father went into the store. While they were waiting, his mother began experiencing a medical emergency. Zion, who is 8 years old, called 911 and spoke with Ms. Burns. He was able to provide helpful information about his mother and her condition. Zion also flagged down other people in the parking lot who were able to help Zion and provide additional assistance to 911 as well. Zions' mother quickly received medical attention and is doing well, thanks to Zion's quick actions. Ms. Burns is so proud of what a great job Zion did during this very scary situation!





Mckayla Wahl

7<sup>th</sup> Grade

Merton Williams Middle School (Hilton CSD)

Mckayla was nominated by her aunt, Janet Vandenberg, for the bravery she displayed during a family medical emergency that occurred earlier this year. While their mother was at work, Mckayla, who was 12 years old at the time, and her 4 year old brother, who has autism, were home with their grandfather when her grandfather suffered a medical emergency and became unresponsive. Mckayla quickly knew to call 911 to get help for him. She stayed with him and her brother until help arrived. When the paramedics arrived, they told Mckayla she should go into another room with her brother, which she did, remaining strong and calm for him. Mckayla's mom was notified and left work immediately. When she met the ambulance in the driveway, the paramedics told her that Mckayla's quick thinking and calling 911 immediately most likely saved her grandfather's life.





**Nicholas Weber**

**7<sup>th</sup> Grade**

**Dr. Alice Holloway Young School of Excellence #3**

Nicholas was nominated by his school Community Site Coordinator, Chereze Hall, for his astuteness during an event that occurred at school recently. While in his third floor classroom this past January, Nicholas heard the sound of glass breaking from outside and immediately ran to the window. In the school parking lot he observed an unknown male climbing out of the rear window of a Kia Soul and began to yell at the male. This action scared the individual, who then got into another vehicle waiting nearby, which quickly left the area. Nicholas was able to alert his teacher, who informed the administrative staff that a vehicle was being broken into, and the security team was notified. Nicholas' courageous actions prevented the vehicle from being further damaged or stolen, and he was able to provide security with helpful information that was given to the Rochester Police Department. The staff at School #3 is grateful for Nicholas' actions on this day.



★ Ramire White 5<sup>th</sup> Grade John James Audubon School #33 (RCSD)

★ One morning in March while driving Ramire to school, his mother began choking on a piece of food. When Ramire realized what was happening and that his mom was having trouble, he remained calm and told her to pull the vehicle over. She did while Ramire repeatedly hit her on her back until she was able to cough up the food that was lodged in her throat. Thanks to Ramire's quick actions, he saved his mother's life! His levelheaded response by having his mother quickly stop the car also kept everyone around them safe as well. Ramire was nominated by his teacher, Meghan Mirrione, after she learned of his heroic actions.





May 2023 Winners



# Thank You Primetime 585!

Thank you Karen Iglesia of Prime Time 585 for attending the May 2023 ceremony and providing coverage of the ceremony on your social media outlets!

Karen is the recipient of the 2023 Willie W. Lightfoot Youth Advocate of the Year! Through her work with PrimetimeBall, she strives to bridge racial, economic & geographic barriers, promoting youth through their sports and other activities.

Make sure to follow Prime Time 585 on their social media outlets (listed in box).



**Instagram:** <https://www.instagram.com/primetime585/>  
**Twitter:** <https://twitter.com/PrimetimeBall>  
**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/primetime.ballers.39>

# 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*

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**Police Chief David M. Smith** (Rochester Police Department)

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**Grace Tillinghast** (The Battery)

**Jeffrey Wagner** (Monroe County Sheriff's Office)

**Jessica Williams** (The Summit Federal Credit Union)

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

- Visit our website at [Cityofrochester.gov/DoTheRightThing](http://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](mailto: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

The Strong National Museum of Play

The Summit Federal Credit Union

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.



# Farewell

We are sad to say farewell to Executive Board Member Brennan Somers. Brennan stepped down earlier this year after serving on our Board since December 2019. A familiar face from his time at News 10NBC WHEC-TV, and now currently WROC, he also served as master of ceremonies at all of our award ceremonies, as well as our Family Celebration Day events at Seabreeze. The time he served was very unique, as we navigated unprecedented times during the COVID pandemic. He was instrumental in helping us during this time, as we adapted the ceremony format and celebrated virtually for over two years and five ceremonies. Despite the trying times, his enthusiasm for the program was always present, and he was well-loved by all that attended our in-person ceremonies, or watched our virtual award ceremonies!

Best of Luck to you Brennan, you will be missed!







Also at the May 2023 ceremony, an exciting announcement was made by our Executive President James McCauley and Dawn Kellogg, Public Relations and Community Engagement Specialist at The Summit Federal Credit Union. Effective this year, The Summit Federal Credit Union will be partnering with the Do The Right Thing awards program and pledging matching funds to support our annual Do The Right Thing Scholarship Program. The Summit will provide matching funds to award up to two scholarships annually through this program. To acknowledge this partnership, the scholarship will now be named the ***Do The Right Thing / The Summit Federal Credit Union Scholarship Program***.

*“From being able to heroically handle life-threatening situations, to doing good deeds and raising awareness about causes important to them, we have been inspired by the stories of young people doing the right thing in our community,” commented Twanda Christensen, Vice President of Marketing and Community Engagement for The Summit. “We are excited to be able to partner with the Rochester Police Department and the City of Rochester and award scholarships to inspiring young leaders as they move on to the next chapter of their lives.”*

We are so grateful for the support that The Summit Federal Credit Union is giving this program and the youth in Monroe County. Through this very generous donation, we can further help some outstanding students continue doing great things and achieve success in their futures. Thank you for your generosity and dedication to our community!

## 2023 Do The Right Thing/The Summit Federal Credit Union Scholarship Announcement

Applications for this years’ scholarship were due on May 20. Winners will be notified soon, and announced at our annual Family Celebration Day event at Seabreeze Amusement Park on June 28.

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!

### Giving back to our communities

The Summit Federal Credit Union is dedicated to the rich diversity of the communities that they serve. You will regularly see their staff out and about in the community supporting hundreds of not-for-profit organizations that share their mission and values through in-kind donations, event sponsorships, and participation in fundraising activities.

Here are just a few of their contributions in our region in 2022:

- 64 Free financial education or counseling sessions
- 1,267 Individuals assisted with no-cost financial education or counseling
- 145 Donations made to charities, non-profits, and schools.
- Over \$187,000 raised for local charities, community projects, non-profits, and schools
- 2,079 total staff hours volunteered



## Behind the Badge with Monroe County Sheriff's Office

Do The Right Thing was invited on the Behind the Badge with MCSO Podcast recently.

Sheriff Baxter & Deputy Tisdale highlighted the Do the Right Thing Awards Program with Program Coordinator Laurie Kingsley-Henry and Rochester Police Department Public Information Officer Lt. Greg Bello. Click on the link below to view the podcast.

**YouTube:** <https://youtu.be/cX2hmR2pGpo>



**We Need Nominations!!**  
**Submit a Summertime Nomination!!**



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.

- 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.



***Ceremony dates for 2023-2024:***

**Thursday, November 16, 2023**

**Thursday, February 29, 2024**

**Thursday, May 2, 2024**

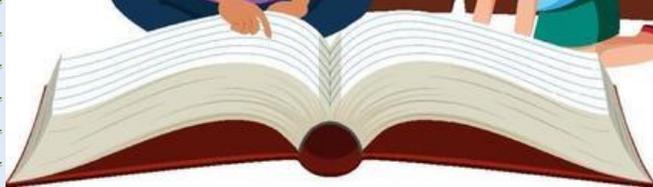
**All ceremonies take place at 10:30 a.m.**

**at the**

**Public Safety Building**

**185 Exchange Boulevard**

**Rochester, New York 14614**



**Each ceremony will also be 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 ceremony if you are unable to join us in-person.**



# 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](http://Cityofrochester.gov/DTRTNominationForm)

## ★ Follow and share our social media

- Follow us on Facebook: @DTRTROC
- Follow us on Instagram: @RPD\_DT RT
- Follow us on Twitter: @RPD\_DT RT



## ★ 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](http://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](mailto:DoTheRightThing@cityofrochester.gov) for more information.