

23RD
ANNUAL

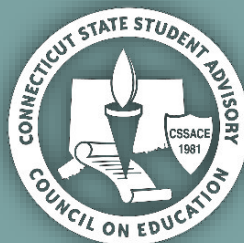
CHALLENGE TO EDUCATIONAL CITIZENSHIP AWARD PROGRAM

*"The best way to find yourself
is to lose yourself
in the service of others."*

~ Mahatma Gandhi

MAY 23 2018

**CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS
30 REALTY DRIVE | CHESHIRE**



The 2018 State Student Advisory Council on Education (SSACE) was pleased to offer schools throughout Connecticut the opportunity to apply for recognition in the twenty-second annual Challenge to Educational Citizenship Award Program. This program was the "brain child" of the 1996 edition of SSACE as a way of promoting citizenship through co-curricular programs.

Today, nine winning entries, from a pool of applications submitted by approximately 25 schools, are being honored. The recipients embody the spirit of citizenship and commitment to serving others, as well as altruism. Submitted projects were judged by the 16 high school student members of this year's council. The submissions were evaluated on the basis of the depth, breadth, and quality of impact on others in the school community.

Schools were asked to reflect on the organizations within their school community. Do any of them epitomize exemplary civic awareness, cooperation, and boundless potential for community impact?

SSACE Presenters

***Ananya Kachru, Senior at Amity High School,
Raj Doering, Senior at Sheehan High School***

SSACE Adviser

Dave Maloney, Director of Student Activities, CT Association of Schools

2018 AWARD WINNING SCHOOLS

Bristol Eastern High School | Faculty Contact – Mary Hyde

"Friends of Rachel Club Activities"

Friends of Rachel is a national organization in memory of Rachel Scott, who was killed tragically in the school shooting incident in 1999 at Columbine High School. The mission of each school's chapter is to promote a safe and positive school environment. Bristol Eastern's Chapter of Friends of Rachel has 113 members who have a long list of monthly activities. Though the current school is far from over the club hopes to raise \$6,000 to support its charitable endeavors. The work of this school activity has had a profound impact creating a positive, respectful climate at our school.

John W. Wallace Middle School, Newington | Faculty Contact – Jessica Morin

"Community Club"

The Community Club has a total of eight students and two faculty advisors in its very first year. The focus of the club is to partner and support the Friendship Service Center in New Britain, CT, which is a homeless shelter and soup kitchen. The club has an impressive array of initiatives including: collecting and donating 158 pairs of socks in "SOCKtober", 9 fleece blankets, over 250 toiletry items to temporary shelters. The club was awarded a grant of \$450 which was used to purchase reusable bags for various donations and causes. We also made "Move In baskets" for residents moving into low income apartments to help them get started with essential living supplies. On May 5th our club participated in a "Walk Against Hunger", helping raise essential funds for the Friendship Service Center.

Madison Middle School, Trumbull | Faculty Contact – Jeanne Malgioglio, Nancy Yarmosh

"For the Love of Paws"

For the Love of Paws is community service club under the larger title of Kids And Adults Reaching Everybody. This year we decided to help animals, especially those without homes who might find themselves at local shelters in the greater Trumbull area! In previous year's this initiative never was fully delivered, though a novel idea. So in 2017-18 we were really committed and we got a terrific response from our student body.

Over an intense campaign of just two weeks we managed to get the kind of school spirit behind this idea that we needed. We collected 4 large boxes of our handmade blankets, treats, toys, and cleaning supplies. By coming together in this fashion we made a positive change in the lives of these animals!

Madison Middle School, Trumbull | Faculty Contact – Jeanne Malgioglio, Nancy Yarmosh ***“Making Wishes Come True”***

Every year Madison’s Service Club, Kids And Adults Reaching Everybody, works together to organize gifts for children at the Center for Family Justice, Bridgeport, for victims of domestic abuse. This year we made fleece tied blankets, stuffed animals, and pajamas for holiday gifts. When we heard that six children had arrived to the “Safe House”, in Bridgeport, we decided to do something in order to help these displaced children have a brighter Holiday. With the cooperation from our teachers donating items from “wish lists” we packed an entire SUV Van with Christmas gifts and brought them to the Safe House. The CEO, Deb Greenwood, commented, “The children had a magical Holiday party and were smiling filled with hope for their future!” In short, KARE was overjoyed to be able to bring smiles to the children at such an important time.

Madison Middle School, Trumbull | Faculty Contact – Jeanne Malgioglio, Nancy Yarmosh ***“The ROARS Zone”***

Madison Middle School students earn R.O.A.R. tickets through an awards program. This year our KARE Service Club made contributions which allowed kids to have fun during lunches, once the weather improved this spring. We decided to upgrade the school’s courtyard into a ROAR’S zone! Donating over \$300. we purchased really cool games – Big Jenga, Cornhole, along with Frisbees to name a few. We also brought comfy seats and will soon paint a mural which will enhance that area. The ROARS zone allowed kids to have fun at lunch, celebrating and encouraging students to be Responsible, take Ownership, have a wonderful Attitude, be Respectful, and be Safe.

Naugatuck High School | Faculty Contact – Amy Ferrare ***“Spread the Word to End the Word” – Best Buddies Campaign***

Best Buddies is a program at Naugatuck High School that helps to create friendships, integrate employment, and leadership development for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. This is a nationally recognized program that has really “taken off” at NHS, sponsored by our DECA program. We held a school-wide assembly program to first raise awareness about the need to support people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. This was followed by our marketing students creating pledges and posters “To Spread The Word To End The Word”. One of our more popular events was the Unified Basketball Game, appreciated by our chapter of 102 high school students which helped connect over 400 students at City Hill Middle School to our marketing project. In total, this project included over 75 hours of dedicated service by DECA students.

Naugatuck High School | Faculty Contact – Lorrie-Anne Monte ***“Naugatuck Youth Leaders Great Kindness Challenge”***

Naugatuck Youth Leaders is a community service collaboration program between Naugatuck High School and the town’s Youth Services. Seven students, our “founding fathers” of the Great Kindness Challenge, met four hours weekly with town officials and launched the project. Raising \$3,500 selling kindness shirts as fundraiser, the initiative took off, successfully increasing the concept of kindness in our schools and greater Naugatuck community while empowering other schools to create their own projects with the same goal.

Notre Dame High School, West Haven | Faculty Contact – Kathleen Wielk ***“Harvest Pack Project”***

The Notre Dame High School Interact Club successfully completed its second Harvest Pack Project. Working with the local Rotary Club, more than 200 student, adult, Rotarian, and faculty volunteers packaged over 55,000 meals for recovering families in Haiti, who have yet to fully recover from multiple natural disasters in recent years. Three Rotary Clubs from West Haven, Orange, and New Haven joined forces in this philanthropic project that was also spearheaded by Halsey Associates of New Haven. Additionally, over \$6,500 was raised to supply the ingredients for the packaged meals. Interact entered into this project with a mission to feed thousands; yet we ended with a feeling of something greater. Clearly, we now understand the lesson of service: it is not a chore, but an instinctive desire to help humanity.

Sage Park Middle School, Windsor | Faculty Contact – Laura Wenner ***“Builders Club’s Dollars 4 Ballers Basketball Event”***

The second annual basketball shooting contest – “Dollars 4 Ballers” event was a big success raising \$1,500 for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. Open to both students and faculty, contestants paid \$2. to enter the competition and \$1. to watch it. Participants had just 2 minutes to make as many baskets as they could; the further from the basket the more points awarded! The mission of “Builders Club’s Dollars 4 Ballers Basketball Event” was two-fold: raise money for a good cause and build awareness for Leukemia & Lymphoma diseases. Approximately 25 students helped to organize this program and 100 student attended the activity. Builders Club meets weekly at Sage Park from January through March. We hope that our contributions will eventually lead to a cure, which would positively impact millions.

Sage Park Middle School, Windsor | Faculty Contact – Kyle Fusco
“7th Grade Day of Compassion”

Members of the 7th Grade Sage Park Leaders wanted to be a positive voice for change in the 7th Grade and the Sage Park community. The student leaders posed a question, “How do we make our school better?” Moving forward, student leaders planned, prepared, and presented a Day of Compassion assembly to the entire 7th grade. In a prepared slide show, students presented a biography of each of the Parkland, Florida victims followed by a moment of silence for each of the 17 high school students who lost their lives. Next, students made a video entitled, “What is Kindness”. After the video, our Sage Park leaders challenged the entire 7th grade to perform 17 acts of kindness in honor of the 17 lives lost. Additionally, the purpose of this activity was to inspire and put a spotlight throughout the school on gratitude and kindness!

Sage Park Middle School, Windsor | Faculty Contact – Jennifer Wilson
“Sage Park Leaders”

Sage Park Leaders currently serve 108 members of the student body, who meet with their faculty advisers twice a month. The organization’s mission is to improve the leadership skills of the club’s members, while fostering positive peer relationships to help create an emotionally safe school. Some of our activities this year included: “Kindness Ninjas”, a program where students performed acts of kindness without getting ‘caught’; organizing the student ‘walk-out’ for the eighth grade in honor of the Parkland, Florida high school student shooting victims; a ‘walk-in’ was also a successful way to help spread peace and kindness initiatives.

Sage Park Middle School, Windsor | Faculty Contact – Amy Small
“Seabury Nursing Home Trip”

Sage Park students give back to the greater Windsor community by visiting Seabury Nursing Home on a monthly basis. This community service trip provides approximately 20 students to give back to our community every month. Sage Park Middle School has been visiting Seabury Nursing Home for over 10 years! In short, the interactions with the residents of Seabury has been very special. We enjoy hearing their stories about bingo, crafts, and other activities that they are able to perform, even if they cannot leave their room! This program gives us a chance to step back from the craziness of our lives and spend quality time with adults who truly value every minute of time spent together. Listening, story-telling, spreading a little act of kindness has taught us one of life’s most lessons! The Seabury Nursing Home experience has given us a chance to reach out to a population of adults that would not likely happen in our middle school experience!

Sage Park Middle School, Windsor | Faculty Contact – Ms. Jessica LeMere Boucher
“8th Grade Women’s Leadership Group, Fleece Blankets for Women and Children in Need”

The women’s leadership group assists local females in the greater Hartford area. This group of twelve, eighth grade students at Sage Park, assembled six fleece blankets for the YWCA in Hartford, CT. The YWCA works to extinguish racist beliefs, strengthen women, and advocates for peace, justice, freedom and dignity. YWCA believes that every woman and child deserves the opportunity to live fully which is important to our young students. Over four sessions our club met and assembled blankets by tying the ends of two equal sized sheets of fleece fabric together. We chose this project because Connecticut’s weather is unpredictable and a person can always use a blanket when the time calls for one!

**EVERYBODY CAN BE GREAT
BECAUSE ANYBODY
CAN SERVE**

Martin Luther King, Jr.