

# 2018

## PRUDENTIAL SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY AWARDS

# National Honorees



Every year, The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards selects 10 young Americans as the nation's top youth volunteers of the year. These are the 2018 National Honorees.

### High School National Honorees



**Tabitha Bell**, 18, of Sandy, Utah, a senior at Waterford School, has raised more than \$115,000 through her nonprofit, "Pawsitive Pawsibilities," to provide nine service dogs to people who otherwise could not afford one.



**Grayson Phillips**, 18, of Gardendale, Ala., a senior at Essential Church School, organized a fishing tournament and a fundraising dinner/auction, and collected donations at outdoor expos, to provide seven children and young adults with disabilities with all-terrain power wheelchairs that allow them to safely navigate the great outdoors with their peers.



**Michelle Qin**, 17, of Santa Barbara, Calif., a junior at Dos Pueblos High School, is the founder and CEO of a nonprofit organization comprised of more than 100 students in California, New Jersey and British Columbia who work to empower girls and women around the world, focused on education, poverty and health.



**Brandon Warren**, 18, of Indianapolis, Ind., a senior at Warren Central High School, organized a citywide peace march and community day in Indianapolis to stand against youth violence, following the murder of a friend and fellow football player.



**Helena Zimmerman**, 16, of Purchase, N.Y., a junior at Rye Country Day School, co-founded "TeensGive.org," an initiative that is currently giving more than 3,000 teens in 40 states the opportunity to experience meaningful volunteer work by teaching and tutoring kids in underserved communities.

### Middle Level National Honorees



**Rosie Colucci**, 13, of Palatine, Ill., an eighth-grader at Plum Grove Junior High School, has collected more than 60,000 toys, books, stuffed animals, games and other donations for hospitalized kids, and raised hundreds of thousands of dollars to help fund research for a cure for childhood cancer.



**Paloma Rambana**, 12, of Tallahassee, Fla., a seventh-grader at Maclay School, lobbied legislators, led rallies, gave speeches, created a website and generated media publicity to help secure \$1.25 million in state funding for visually impaired children between the ages of 6 and 13.



**Hailey Richman**, 10, of Long Island City, N.Y., a fifth-grader at Public School 78, has placed more than 10,000 jigsaw puzzles in nursing homes and other senior living facilities over the past three years, and created an online support group for kids around the world who have loved ones suffering from Alzheimer's disease.



**Madison Strempek**, 13, of Crofton, Md., a seventh-grader at Crofton Middle School, wrote and self-published a 46-page book, *Everyone Makes Mistakes*, to reassure and comfort children, like her, who have an incarcerated parent.



**William Winslow**, 12, of Raleigh, N.C., a sixth-grader at Daniels Magnet Middle School, fights childhood hunger in his community by holding food drives to fill backpacks with weekend food for children who otherwise might go hungry, and by helping to build school gardens in neighborhoods where access to fresh food is limited.

# The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards

The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards represent the United States' largest youth recognition program based exclusively on volunteer community service. The awards were created in 1995 by Prudential in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals to honor middle level and high school students at the local, state and national level for outstanding service to others.

The program's goal is to applaud young people who already are making a positive difference in their towns and neighborhoods, and, even more importantly, to inspire others to think about how they might contribute to the well-being of their communities. Over the past 23 years, more than 120,000 young Americans have been officially recognized for their volunteer work.

Each program year begins in September with the mailing of information and applications to all middle level and high schools in the U.S., which solicit completed applications from their students and then select Local Honorees, who receive Certificates of Achievement. Local Honorees also are selected by Girl Scout councils, county 4-H organizations, American Red Cross chapters, YMCAs, and Affiliate of Points of Light's HandsOn Network.

From these Local Honorees, the top middle level and high school volunteers in each state and the District of Columbia are chosen by an independent judging organization and announced in early February. These 102 State Honorees receive a \$1,000 award, an engraved silver medallion and an all-expense-paid trip with a parent or guardian to Washington, D.C., in late April for four days of recognition events. From 2 to 10 runners-up in each state receive engraved bronze medallions as Distinguished Finalists.

While in Washington, the State Honorees share their experiences and ideas with one another, tour the historic monuments and landmarks of the nation's capital, visit their U.S. senators on Capitol Hill, and are honored at a gala dinner and award ceremony at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History. In addition, 10 of the 102 State Honorees are named America's youth volunteers of the year at a formal

luncheon. These National Honorees receive additional \$5,000 awards, gold medallions, crystal trophies for their schools or organizations, and \$5,000 grants from The Prudential Foundation for nonprofit charitable organizations of their choice.

In addition to the organizations cited above, The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards are supported by the American Association of School Administrators, America's Promise Alliance, National School Boards Association, Association for Middle Level Education, National Association for Music Education, Council of the Great City Schools, National School Public Relations Association, National Parent Teacher Association and numerous other youth and service organizations.

The program also has benefited from the participation of many notable Americans, including Jimmy Carter, Barbara Bush, Mario Cuomo, Magic Johnson, Richard Dreyfuss, John Glenn, Madeleine Albright, Martin Sheen, Rudy Giuliani, Whoopi Goldberg, Colin Powell, Ted Danson, Peyton Manning, Laura Bush, Condoleezza Rice, Susan Sarandon, Eli Manning, Forest Whitaker, Robin Roberts, Hilary Swank, Michael Phelps and numerous U.S. senators.

The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program also is conducted in Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Ireland, India, China, Brazil and Poland.

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The National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) is the leading organization of and voice for principals and other school leaders across the United States. NASSP seeks to transform education through school leadership, recognizing that the fulfillment of each student's potential relies on great leaders in every school committed to the success of each student. Reflecting its long-standing commitment to student leadership development, NASSP administers the National Honor Society, National Junior Honor Society, National Elementary Honor Society, and National Student Council.