



## ***News Release***

### **SAINT THERESE ANNOUNCES YOUTH VOLUNTEER SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS**

*Stillwater's Hannah Hebert and Brooklyn Park's Kayvon Raza awarded  
\$2,000 educational scholarships*

**Saint Louis Park, Minn. (May, 8, 2023)** – Saint Therese today announced the two recipients of its Youth Volunteer Scholarships, which are awarded annually to recognize youth volunteers who enrich the lives of seniors. Winners this year are Stillwater resident Hannah Hebert and Brooklyn Park native Kayvon Raza. They were recognized at a reception on May 5 at Saint Therese at Oxbow Lake in Brooklyn Park.

Hebert and Raza will both receive \$2,000 educational scholarships. They earned the award by submitting essays that describes how volunteering and working with seniors impacted them. Saint Therese received 26 submissions for the scholarship from 17 high schools in the metro area.

**Hannah Hebert**, a senior at Stillwater Area High School, wrote in her essay, “Connection, Impact, and Learning with Seniors,” about how she helped seniors through a club she founded called “Teen Tech Tutors/Adopt a Grandparent.” The club was created to lessen the disconnect between seniors and youths because of the rise of technology use and the separation caused by Covid 19. The program matched assisted living residents with high school students who would lend technology support and provide human interaction. Hebert wrote that within one week of launching the program they had 40 residents sign up to be matched with students.

Hannah said after solving a technology issue, the residents were so happy because they realized that they could now strengthen their relationships with their families. The interaction benefited the high

school students as well. Hannah said the experience was very gratifying and impacted her to redefine how she wants to live her life through learning from their life experiences.

“While I taught them how to use technology, they taught me the power of love, how wisdom comes with years and the importance of family.”

Hannah added that this experience further ignited her desire to pursue a career in nonprofits which would allow her to fulfill her purpose in life and help others on a more global scale. “I am grateful for the award and will use this scholarship to attend the University of Minnesota in the fall of 2023, majoring in sociology and a minoring in international studies.”

**Kayvon Raza**, a senior at Champlin Park High School, wrote in his essay, “The Positive Impact I Had on a Senior,” about how volunteering was mutually beneficial to the seniors and himself. Kayvon has volunteered at Saint Therese at Oxbow Lake in Brooklyn Park since he was a kid and in his junior year he went back to lead and help with a variety of activities for the seniors including doing magic shows, cardio drumming, escorting to events and playing card games with residents.

Kayvon put on weekly magic shows throughout the community which brought smiles to seniors’ faces, and was told that he “made everyone’s day,” including the staff. He said the experience of coming in every week to do magic made him feel as if he was helping boost the overall mood of many of the residents.

In particular, Kayvon wrote about how he befriended one senior who attended all of his magic shows and supported him with kind words. Eventually Kayvon spent more time with this resident who was teaching him how to play Pinochle and Rummy 500, games he didn’t know how to play, until his health worsened. “Not only was I able to entertain him with magic shows and play his favorite card games, I also think that simply spending time with him had a strong positive impact on his health. I will always remember him,” said Kayvon.

Kayvon will attend the University of Minnesota’s Carlson School of Management and said he ultimately would like to start his own business and be able to work independently.

At the reception, Susan Connolly, director of Volunteer Services for Saint Therese, said, “Youth volunteers bring an energy and a fresh perspective wherever they serve. And the intergenerational friendships they create are so valuable, and benefit both the seniors and the youth.”

To be eligible for the Youth Volunteer Scholarship, volunteers had to be in grades 9-12 during the 2022-23 school year and have completed a minimum of 20 volunteer hours with one or more seniors by the date of the submission. Eligible applicants had to reside in the seven county Twin Cities metro area (Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott, Washington), or the Western Wisconsin counties of Pierce and St. Croix. The scholarship will run again during the 2023-2024 school year. Information can be found at: [sainttherese.org/youth-volunteer-scholarship](http://sainttherese.org/youth-volunteer-scholarship).

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**About Saint Therese:** Founded in 1964, Saint Therese prides itself on its rich tradition of providing exceptional care for seniors in and around Minneapolis-St. Paul. It has locations in New Hope, Brooklyn Park, Woodbury and a new location in Corcoran, opening in 2024. Most communities provide the full continuum of care from independent living, assisted living, memory care, skilled nursing and transitional care. It also has a location specializing in hospice and palliative care in Shoreview. It is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) senior care organization.

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