



Winner of Outstanding Youth Award

Rachel Armanius

Rachel Armanius is a Grade 12 Honor Roll student at Iona Catholic Secondary School in the Iona Arts (Vocal Music) Program, with the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board. She has consistently demonstrated an outstanding commitment to making a positive difference, both in her school and the community she lives in.

Rachel recognized that the issue of bullying was an increasing threat to the quality of school and community life and student safety. With the goal of eradicating bullying behaviors among her peers, Rachel set out to address this concern through positive advocacy, peer education and leading by example. As a member of Iona's Bullying Awareness Committee STOP (Students Together Opposing Prejudice) for the past 2 years, Rachel, this year, took on the role of Chair of STOP. While leading Iona's STOP Committee, Rachel has been instrumental

in organizing a school-wide assembly focusing on topics such as bullying, self-harm, mental health and eating disorders.

In addition, Rachel was voted as Prime Minister of Iona's Student Council. She coordinates events that meet the interests of all students and always encourages students to participate in school spirit activities.

Rachel also wants others to look globally and to realize the importance of helping countries that are in need. At Iona Secondary School, Rachel created the Youth with a Vision fundraising committee, involving her fellow students in planning events to raise funds to build a school in Haiti.

Rachel also volunteers several of her lunch breaks to works with students with disabilities. In addition, Rachel has found the time to be active in many school initiatives which include being a school Chaplaincy committee volunteer, an Advent Project Organizer volunteer where she participated in gathering donations for Christmas baskets for those in need in the local community, a member of the organizing committee for the Inside Ride for Kids with Cancer, and a vocal music performer in Iona's music concerts and recitals.

In addition to the above, Rachel has also been described as an outstanding athlete. She has been a member of the Athletic Council at Iona, and a valuable team player on the Basketball, Volleyball, Softball and Badminton teams.

As well as being a positive leader in her school, Rachel is also finds time to be involved in her local community. She is a Sunday School Teacher at her Parish, she has been a local food bank volunteer, a community soup kitchen volunteer, a summer camp leader at her Parish, a youth group member and

volunteer Church Council secretary at her parish, a member of her parish volleyball league, and a Carassauga Multicultural Festival Egyptian Pavilion fashion show organizer.

Rachel has been the recipient of many awards and has garnered much recognition both in the community and at school.

It is due to Rachel's dedication and involvement with the school and local community that she is the winner of the 2013 Outstanding Youth Service Award.

Congratulations Rachel!

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