



Mayor's Youth Commission Awards Announced for the 1st quarter 2023/24 School Year

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Mayor's Youth Commission

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KENOSHA-- The Mayor's Youth Commission created an awards program to recognize the community's youth for their outstanding personal achievements and the important, positive contributions they make to the Kenosha community. Nomination forms can be obtained in the Mayor's Office, Room 300, in the Municipal Building, or on the internet at www.kenosha.org under the tab Mayor/Administration.

For the first nomination period of the 2023-24 school year, six students met the criteria to be presented with an award. These students were:

Isaac Gray is a senior at Tremper High School. Isaac has extraordinary drive to take on rigorous AP and Honors classes. He is involved in FBLA, AAMI and volunteers at food banks. He is currently working with a Marquette professor on a research opportunity. Isaac always goes above and beyond to take initiative to better himself as a student and individual. He has a positive influence on the school community and will accomplish great things.

Naroly DeLeon Guzman is an eighth grade student at Washington Middle School. Naroly is a student who moved to Kenosha mid-way through her seventh grade school year. She was instantly a leader, showing others how to make friends, include others and treats everyone with respect. The character of Washington Middle School was instantly elevated by her presence. Shortly after Naroly started attending Washington Middle School, the school registered a few new students who were brand new to the United States. She would introduce herself, helping to translate along the way. She was always greeting new students

and explaining that she knows how it feels to be new to a school. Naroly is a part of the first-day tour because she always has a kind word to new students. She volunteers to take anyone new to their classes on their first day, she offers direction and assistance in Spanish and also offers to sit with them at lunch. She has earned a 4.0 GPA in middle school. Kindness is Naroly's character. She has a warmth and ability to relate to others that is not found often at her age. Naroly is making our community a better place.

Yanira Herrera-Leon is a fourth grade student at Frank Elementary. Yanira is kind to all of her classmates and always lends a helpful hand. She is a hard worker and trustworthy. She has grown significantly in academics and in her social skills.

Layla Powell is a second grader at Frank Elementary School. Layla has made a positive impact within her classroom. She is a character leader of empathy. Layla's compassion for others is remarkable and she often helps others with special needs. Layla embodies all of the school's character traits: craftsmanship, respect, empathy, self-discipline, and trustworthiness. Layla does her best at all times, respects herself and others, she is very kind, understanding, helpful, reliable and trustworthy. Layla is truly a model student and the kind of person who makes your heart smile when you see her.

Jaxson Thomas is a sixth grader at Open Wings Academy. Jaxson has been an advocate for his peers in the community. On October 15, 2022 he worked with a local organization, God's Kitchen of Kenosha, and St. Anthony Church to host a party and fundraiser "Katalina's Day" for his friend who had lost both of her parents. He led the creation of this event and takes the initiative to help others through God's Kitchen. Jaxson also works with Officer Friendly, Tyler Cochran, to develop a relationship with the Kenosha Police Department. He has also gathered Christmas gifts over the past few years for the kids in the Early Headstart program and the community. All these plans were initiated by him, an 11 year old boy who has struggled with Autism and ADHD for the past several years. With the help of a team of community members, school staff, and mental health professionals, he has developed ways to manage his symptoms and diagnoses to where he can express himself and be able to help others like him. He is living proof and the embodiment of "it takes a village", from his lived experience to how he rallies the community to help and share with others.

Brayan Rodriguez Valdivia is a seventh grader at Washington Middle School. Brayan is an exceptionally hard working student who cares about his grades and his success. He is an effective self-advocate, seeking information and knowledge that he needs to make good choices both inside and outside of school; he has a maturity beyond his years. Consistently kind, polite and respectful, Brayan develops positive relationships with both peers and staff. Brayan is an amazing and invaluable support to new Spanish speaking students coming from other countries. He easily makes connections and develops friendships as he helps

“newcomers” acclimate to a new school environment. Brayan’s willingness to give his time and translate has been a tremendous help to both students and teachers. Brayan is a positive contributor and asset to Washington Middle School.