

2019-20 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Shirley Wight Keeney Scholarships

Domenico Deluca (Governor Livingston High School, attending Hackensack Meridian Health JFK Muhlenberg School of Nursing)



Domenico has lived in Mountainside since he was born and has been involved in many school and town organizations. At school he is part of Student Ambassadors, TREND (anti drug and alcohol program), GLTV crew, Stage Crew and Set Design, President of the Italian Club, and he participates on the Student Advisory Committee. Out side of school Domenico was a boy scout in troop 177 and achieved the rank of Eagle about a year ago. Now he assists the troop in being a Junior Assistant Scout Master. Domenico volunteers for the Mountainside Rescue Squad as an EMT and has been on the squad for 2 years. He also holds the rank of Field Officer at the squad where he assists in scheduling and operations. Domenico also volunteers for the Mountainside Fire Department as a probationary member and plans to attend the fire academy in the fall. Domenico plans to attend Hackensack Meridian Health JFK Muhlenberg School of nursing in the fall to eventually receive his BSN.

Mikayla Meyler (Chatham High School, attending Georgetown University)



Mikayla has been a longtime active resident of the Chatham community. One of her favorite activities is volunteering as a certified EMT with the volunteer Chatham Emergency Squad (CES). She rides as a cadet on Friday nights riding 4 hours at a time, and she is fully involved with the medical care of the patients. She has also been a Girl Scout since Kindergarten, and the culmination of her time in this group came together with her Gold Award called Map to the Heart. She is working together with CES to create a virtual map of all of the locations of AEDs in Chatham Township and Borough for the emergency services and citizens to use. She hopes to further her love for the medical field by majoring in biology in college on a pre-med track at Georgetown University in the fall. She is also a peer mentor in her schools freshman ambassador club LINKS. She works to create a smooth transition for incoming freshmen and encourages them to make positive safe choices throughout high school. Apart from the sciences and mentoring, Mikayla has also been very involved in theater during her time in high school. She is a member of the International Thespians society, and she also hopes to continue her love for singing in college.

Jill Zimmermann (Governor Livingston High School, attending Tulane University)



Jill has been a Girl Scout since kindergarten and is still an active member as a senior in high school, writing notes for senior citizens and making signs for essential workers and first responders during the COVID-19 crisis. She also serves on the Gold Award committee as the scout liaison after completing her Gold Award project in her junior year. In her project, Jill educated the community about the importance of wearing bicycle helmets by reaching out to students, coaches, and parents. She created a reward system which was reinforced by the police to encourage residents to wear helmets and had signs posted to remind residents. In addition, she partnered with Overlook Hospital and to provide residents with free baseline concussion testing.

Jill also enjoys volunteering with the Mountainside Local Youth Group where she is co-president and helps provide for the needs of the homeless.

In addition Jill is a flutist and a member of the Governor Livingston High School Highlander Band, the concert band, wind ensemble, and jazz band. She served three years as the manager for the Governor Livingston High School Varsity Fencing team.

Jill will attend Tulane University in New Orleans, Louisiana in the fall and volunteer with the local community through their outreach programs.

Allie Zimmermann (Governor Livingston High School, attending Belmont University)



Allie is an active volunteer in her community. As co-President of the Our Lady of Lourdes' Mountainside Local Youth Group she participates in various fundraisers benefitting the homeless. Allie earned her Girl Scout Gold Award by creating a summer music program to help combat summer learning loss. She paired high school musicians with middle school musicians and provided an environment where they could play together. She also invited middle schoolers to attend a day of high school marching band camp to introduce them the program. Both the middle school and high school program participants volunteered to perform for the residents of a local senior living facility and discuss music with residents afterward.

Allie is also a member of the St. Columcille United Gaelic Pipe Band and the Governor Livingston Highlander Pipe Band where she plays the bagpipes. She also plays the tenor saxophone in the Governor Livingston High School Highlander Marching Band, wind ensemble, concert band, and jazz band.

In the fall, Allie will attend Belmont University in Nashville, Tennessee where she plans to study music education and volunteer in the community.

JLS Continuing Education Scholarship

Nikki Griffiths (attending Oregon State University)



Hi—my name is Nikki Griffiths and I am attending Oregon State University (E-Campus), Class of 2021. I first wanted to thank the Scholarship Committee of the Junior League of Summit for selecting me as the recipient of the Continuing Education Scholarship. I am truly humbled. Volunteering has been a life-long passion of mine, and when not being able to contribute to organizations financially, I have found that volunteering my time has been even more fulfilling. I have been able to dedicate countless hours to different organizations and events that I have built close relationships with over the years.

I have been a member of several organizations in and around Summit, including the Summit Volunteer First Aid Squad, functions of the Summit Police Department, volunteer and Community Board Member with Family Promise, volunteer and Secretary for Mylestone Equine Rescue and most recently S.H.I.E.L.D. with the new precautions set in place in an effort to keep our seniors and homebound residents safe.

I joined forces with Family Promise- Union County to address food insecurity issues among their guest families and their graduate families. With their National Headquarters based in Summit, I was able to coordinate meetings with their board and support staff to orchestrate an annual food drive. The second year of the event, we also teamed up with the Junior League of Summit to contribute food donations initially to "No Kid Goes Hungry," and most recently "Fishes and Loaves." The "Summit CommUNITY Cares" food drive has partnered with the local schools and businesses to house collection bins that are checked regularly over the event. Over the previous five years, we have been able to donate over 5,000 pounds of non-perishable food items.

I spend my weekends volunteering with a horse rescue organization based in Phillipsburg. Mylestone Equine Rescue (MER) has welcomed horses in from abuse, neglect, starvation and abandonment cases within New Jersey; as well as rescue from the auction for slaughter. The horses have all endured some type of horrific abuse, sustained injuries, or have significant health issues that were never addressed. The horses are available for adoption, however, strictly as companion animals. This organization requires physically demanding labor, while having the joys of rehabbing these magnificent animals to eventually place into loving, forever homes.

I am currently pursuing a degree in Fisheries & Wildlife Science as I am extremely passionate about animals, conservation, and our ecosystems. I am looking forward to my future in practicing ways to further educate the public on the importance of protecting native species, both plant and animal, to New Jersey; in addition to methods on how we can leave less of a damaging footprint on our planet.
