

News Release

Dobbs Ferry High School Senior Shannon Stout Receives Westchester County's Milly Kibrick Youth Service Award

Dobbs Ferry, N.Y. November 24, 2014-- Dobbs Ferry High School senior Shannon Stout was honored by the Westchester County Youth Board and received the organization's 2014 Milly Kibrick Youth Service Award at a gala dinner last month held at the Davenport Club in New Rochelle. Ten Westchester area students were selected as 2014 Youth Recognition Award winners for their outstanding contributions to their school and community.

The goal of the Westchester County Youth Recognition Awards is to acknowledge members of the senior class of 2015 who, as a result of their individual effort and actions, have made outstanding contributions toward building thriving, healthy and caring communities in Westchester County. Ms. Stout was nominated by her High School Counselor Cristin Silk. The criteria for nomination encompasses the values of lifelong youth activist and devoted county social worker Milly Kibrick and includes a passion for volunteerism and commitment to serving others.

At Dobbs Ferry High School, Shannon is Design Editor-in-Chief of the Yearbook and also serves as President of the "Looms for Love" Club. During Shannon's presidency, the club sponsored a fundraiser and sold homemade rubber-band bracelets to raise money for several causes including Blythedale Children's Hospital, Blessings in a Backpack (which buys food for families around the country) and a local family in need.

Shannon first became involved in community service in kindergarten through Girl Scouts. While singing Christmas carols to the residents of St. Cabrini Nursing Home in Dobbs Ferry, the worldly-wise eight-year-old realized the importance of helping others. "If I could make someone's day with something as insignificant as a few songs, then why wouldn't I?" she said. That is the philosophy that still holds true for her today. This past summer, Shannon went on a mission trip to Harlan, Kentucky in Appalachia with Capuchin Youth and Family Ministries of the Province of St. Mary. In Kentucky, she worked with residents of the Harlan Health and Rehabilitation Center.

Growing up, the Lighthouse Youth Theater in Armonk was her home away from home. Performing in musicals became her passion starting in fourth grade. At the age of 12, she joined an elite troupe of actors called Protégé. This is a group of students who are dedicated to serving the acting company and improving the quality of the productions. Shannon spent countless hours gluing sequins, changing microphones, running the spotlight and even choreographing dances throughout her Protégé experience. Teaching younger aspiring actors like her has always been the goal.

In the future, Shannon plans to bring this spirit of service to her workplace. Her dream is to open a bereavement center for families who are grieving the loss of a loved one. This past summer she volunteered at Camp Agape, a bereavement camp for children ages 7-12 in Glen Rose, Texas. "I see myself in these younger kids and I want to help them through those difficult times," Shannon said. "Acting can entertain momentarily, but bereavement counseling helps develop lives and preserves memories."

According to Ms. Silk, “Shannon is very deserving of this award. She is an amazingly kind person who truly cares about serving others. It is wonderful to see Shannon recognized for her altruism, as well as all of her hard work.”

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