

News Release

SAINT THERESE ANNOUNCES YOUTH VOLUNTEER SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Champlin's Hallie Sweeter and Woodbury's Grace Schafhauser awarded \$2,000 educational scholarships

Saint Louis Park, Minn. (April 6, 2022) – 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 Champlin resident Hallie Sweeter and Woodbury native Grace Schafhauser.

Sweeter and Schafhauser will both receive \$2,000 educational scholarships. They earned the award by submitting essays that describe how volunteering and working with seniors has impacted them. They were among more than 20 youth volunteers throughout the metro to apply for the scholarship.

“These two young women are so deserving of these scholarships as their stories demonstrate our purpose, which is to honor volunteer service and encourage intergenerational relationships,” said Susan Connolly, director of Volunteer Services for Saint Therese.

Hallie Sweeter, a sophomore at Champlin Park High School in Champlin, volunteered in the beauty salon at Saint Therese at Oxbow Lake in Brooklyn Park. She was responsible for helping bring seniors to the salon, doing laundry and decorating the senior community for the holidays. Sweeter has been a frequent visitor to senior living communities as her mom works as a nurse.

In her essay, Sweeter described how much she looked forward to working with seniors and recognized how important socializing is, not only for seniors, but also for herself. Over time she

became more comfortable talking on the phone (something she said her tech-savvy generation isn't used to) and conversing with seniors.

"A large sentiment amongst my generation is our fear of talking to authority and adults, and I definitely feel that volunteering with seniors can help with that," wrote Sweeter in her essay. "The ability to be comfortable talking with a wide variety of people is an extremely impactful skill, as it helps connect you to others around you. Volunteering with seniors has shown me that, and I will be forever grateful for the opportunities, life skills and lessons that have been offered to me through this program."

Sweeter plans to use her \$2,000 scholarship award for college tuition.

Grace Schafhauser, a senior at Hill-Murray High School in Maplewood, volunteered at a memory care facility in Maplewood. She described how she formed a deep connection with a woman suffering from memory loss, which inspired her to continue to volunteer with the elderly because it has allowed her to make multiple meaningful connections. And, it inspired her career choice.

Schafhauser said working with seniors inspired her to continue on the path of helping the elderly and she came to the conclusion that she wants to be a nurse. "Because of her [woman suffering from memory loss], I have an intimate appreciation for loving support and subsequently strive to make my presence one that emanates compassion," Schafhauser said.

"As a nurse, I want to be a guiding light on the part of others as they find who they were meant to be and learn to love life again."

Schafhauser also will use her \$2000 scholarship award for college tuition.

To be eligible for the Youth Volunteer Scholarship, volunteers had to be in grades 9-12 during the 2021-22 school year, and have completed a minimum of 20 volunteer hours with one or more seniors by the date of their submission. They 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 2022-2023 school year; information can be found at <https://www.sainttherese.org/get-involved/volunteer/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 planned in Corcoran. These communities provide the full continuum of care from independent living, assisted living, memory care, skilled nursing and transitional care. They also have a location specializing in hospice and palliative care in Shoreview and a transitional care unit in North Memorial Hospital. It is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) senior care organization.

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