

# *Maryland Service-Learning Recognition Reception Dinner*

*Tuesday, May 12, 2009*

*4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.*

*Turf Valley Resort and Conference Center  
Ellicott City, Maryland*



*The Maryland State Department of Education is grateful for all submissions in this document. We have made every attempt to maintain the original content.*

Martin O'Malley  
Governor

Anthony G. Brown  
Lt. Governor

**Maryland State Board of Education  
2008-2009**

James H. Degraffenreidt, Jr.  
President

Blair G. Ewing  
Vice President

Dunbar Brooks  
Mary Kay Finan  
Rosa M. Garcia  
Richard L. Goodall  
Charlene M. Dukes  
Karabelle Pizzigati  
Ivan C.A. Walks, M.D.  
Kate Walsh  
Danke Derek Wu (Student Member)

Nancy S. Grasmick  
Secretary-Treasurer of the Board  
State Superintendent of Schools

John Smeallie  
Deputy State Superintendent for Administration

Ronald A. Peiffer  
Deputy State Superintendent  
Office of Academic Policy

Ann E. Chafin  
Assistant State Superintendent  
Division of Student, Family, and School Support

Vanessa J. Diggs  
Director, Youth Development Branch  
Division of Student, Family, and School Support

The Maryland State Department of Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, age, national origin, sexual orientation, religion, or disability in matters affecting employment and providing access to programs. For inquiries related to departmental policy, contact: Equity Assurance and Compliance Branch, Maryland State Department of Education, 200 West Baltimore Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21201-2595.

## *Table of Contents*

---

Acknowledgements.....	Page	1
Letter from the State Superintendent of Schools.....	Page	3
2009 Service-Learning Service Stars.....	Page	4
2009 Service-Learning Fellows.....	Page	19
2009 Service-Learning Principals of the Year.....	Page	26
Local School System Service-Learning Coordinators.....	Page	28



Nancy S. Grasmick  
State Superintendent of Schools

200 West Baltimore Street • Baltimore, MD 21201 • 410-767-0100 • 410-333-6442 TTY/TDD • MarylandPublicSchools.org

May 12, 2009

Dear Service-Learning Honorees:

Thank you for your achievements and contributions in the area of service-learning in Maryland. For more than a decade, Maryland has led the nation in implementing quality service-learning as a graduation requirement for our students. There is a direct link between the success of our service-learning program and the grassroots support it enjoys from dedicated teachers, administrators, and students around the state. The achievements noted in this booklet remind us all that service-learning is far more than a graduation requirement – it is truly a vehicle to help link students and teachers to their communities in a meaningful way.

You have already made important contributions to your schools and communities and demonstrated exemplary civic responsibility. It is wonderful to know your commitment to service for others will continue to strengthen our communities and touch individual lives. Thank you again for providing such an excellent representation of Maryland's students and teachers and their involvement in service-learning throughout the state.

Sincerely,

Nancy S. Grasmick  
State Superintendent of Schools

NSG/MDL:mm

Maryland Public Schools: #1 in the Nation



## **What is a Service-Learning Service Star?**

Service-Learning Service Stars are students in grades sixth through twelve who best exemplify outstanding service to others.

## *2009 Service-learning Service Stars*

### *Allegany County*

**Danielle Class**

**Allegany High School, Grade 12**

Danielle Class knows the true meaning of helping others and being involved in school and the community. She belongs to several organizations within and outside of the school that help our community such as the Young Women's Civic Organization, the American Red Cross, Mock Trial, Pennies for Patients, Western Maryland Food Bank, and the Salvation Army. Danielle has helped to organize a benefit concert to help raise money for two students who need help with medical expenses and has donated her time to help at the Family Crisis Resource Center. She has also helped to organize our local senior citizen prom and send care packages to our troops overseas. Danielle sets an excellent example for everyone around her to follow.

### *Allegany County*

**Cassie Fruik**

**Allegany High School, Grade 12**

Cassie Fruik has contributed her time and efforts to a variety of service-learning projects to include working as a teacher's aide and house manager, as well as supporting the Spirit Program and Pennies for Patients. She says, "I genuinely love helping people." Cassie gives 100% in everything she does. She really has a heart for helping others as demonstrated by her desire to acquire new skills and pass them on to others. Cassie is an excellent example of a person who knows the true meaning of caring and giving.

### *Anne Arundel County*

**Emma Fiege**

**South River High School, Grade 12**

Emma is an exemplary student and citizen. As president of South River High School's Youth R.I.S.E. Chapter, she has led a plethora of service activities including tutoring at-risk students, coordinating a corps of student volunteers for Habitat for Humanity and Special Olympics, and coordinating year-round activities at the special education school. Emma has helped to prepare for the school's overnight leadership conference and planned a student-faculty basketball game to raise money for Kids Helping Kids. She is currently planning a Senior Dance at a nearby convalescent center and is organizing a team for Anne Arundel County's Relay for Life. Emma is an exceptional leader with a gift for motivating and empowering others to serve.

### *Anne Arundel County*

**Megan Rose**

**North County High School, Grade 12**

Megan serves the North County High School community through a number of diverse activities that help her fellow students. As vice president of her National Honor Society, she

led students in completing a fundraiser for a homeless food center, Our Daily Bread. She also has served the center by baking casseroles and working in the kitchen. Megan's passion for dancing has inspired her to instruct and assist young aspiring dancers for the past 4 years. She exemplifies the giving characteristics that are expected of a person who is nominated for a service-learning award.

**Baltimore City**

**Christina Alston**

**Claremont School High (Separate Public Day School), Grade 11**

Christina Alston has participated in many service-learning outside school activities for Claremont School, Special Olympics and the Johns Hopkins Volunteer Department. This fall she volunteered at Waverly School to paint walls and clean up the school grounds with classmates and family members. A Special Olympian, she has collated medals for awards ceremonies and distributed shirts at the Baltimore Running Festival. Recently, she rolled "jammies" for critically ill children at the Casey Cares headquarters. Her service work to benefit children began four years ago at the Johns Hopkins Hospital's Dr. Martin Luther King Head Start/Perkins Center Day Care in East Baltimore.

**Baltimore City**

**Timothy Smith**

**Digital Harbor High School, Grade 12**

Timothy Smith has overcome learning and emotional disabilities to emerge as a school leader who is dedicated to serving others. Early in high school, he had difficulty focusing, behaving, and achieving. Then he discovered the school store and found his niche. During his senior year, his organizational skills netted him the manager's position where he supervised other students, ordered materials, and completed complex financial reports. He has grown tremendously and now makes recommendations on how profits will be used to help those in need. Tim helps host all visitors to the school and is ever-ready to assist others. A computer whiz, he helps classmates and teachers at school. He also continues to serve at home and at church. He demonstrates his desire to help others by serving at soup kitchens and food banks in the community. Tim will attend college and major in culinary arts and aspires to be a responsible leader within his community.

**Baltimore County**

**Maxwell George Lehner**

**Sparrows Point High School, Grade 12**

Maxwell Lehner has participated in a number of service-learning activities, including serving as a National Aquarium in Baltimore Student Exhibit Guide and a Marshy Point Nature Center event volunteer. Max recently finished coordinating and implementing a community restoration project while becoming an Eagle Scout in September 2008. He believes "student service is of critical importance in developing a firm sense of personal responsibility and devotion to community." Service has taught him to attain his goals through exploration and positive action, and to learn by developing applicable life skills.

**Baltimore County**

**Sibei Mi**

**Dulaney High School, Grade 12**

Sibei Mi is a student, volunteer, tutor and person with an exceptional commitment to service. Her passion for helping others has led her to rise from a Key Club member to President, and now Lieutenant Governor, representing 12 different Key Clubs around Baltimore. She also devotes her time to the impoverished in third world countries as one of only three high school World Vision Child Ambassadors. Additionally, Sibei founded the Design Club and donates the money raised from fashion shows to charity. She plans to continue her service to others after she graduates from high school.

**Calvert County**

**Kaileigh K. Reese**

**Calvert High School, Grade 12**

Kaileigh Reese is a senior at Calvert High School. She is an extremely mature and responsible individual. If given a task, one is confident that she will complete it in a timely and efficient manner. Kaileigh has earned a leadership position in the Calvert High School JROTC where she has helped to orchestrate various community projects. Throughout high school, she has assisted with parking at high and middle school events and served as a volunteer at the Calvert County Fair, the United Way Mardi Gras Ball, Project Happiness, and the American Legion Cerebral Palsy Fundraiser. She is part of the Calvert High School Beautification Team who maintains the Calvert High School school grounds. The number of activities in which she is involved and the long-term commitment to each of them demonstrate her steadfast dedication to service in her community. Kaileigh is an outstanding person who is very well respected by the adults at Calvert High School and in the community.

**Calvert County**

**Emma Miller**

**Patuxent High School, Grade 11**

Emma has launched a program called PROWL, that involves acting out children's stories at local libraries. She creates scripts from children's stories based on themes that teach lessons to the young children. She makes all contacts with the library, writes all of the scripts, and casts the performances. The program was entirely her idea, and not something she did to earn theater points. This program introduces children to literature, teaches valuable life lessons, and offers exposure to the arts. Involvement in the arts has been proven to increase academic performance, and foster creativity in all areas of learning. Through this program, Emma is providing a fun and practical activity for families to attend and providing a wonderful learning experience for children from all walks of life. The program is free and all are welcome. Emma's rewrite time and the effort she puts into her PROWL program, touches many little hearts and makes her a real "Service Star."

**Caroline County**

**Michael Savage**

**North Caroline High School, Grade 10**

Mike Savage is a 15 year old sophomore who has 237 hours of service-learning credit, which includes trash pickup and assisting in research and collecting donations for the American Cancer Society. He was awarded the Presidential Volunteer Service Gold Medal Award for having achieved 100 plus hours of service. Mike has also provided services for the Ridgely 4-H'ers, the Ruritan Club, the Caroline County Fair, the Christmas in Caroline Program, Teen Leadership, and Harrington Baptist Church. His accomplishments are a truly remarkable task for a high school sophomore.

**Caroline County**

**Natsha Taylor**

**Colonel Richardson High School, Grade 11**

Natsha Taylor attends Colonel Richardson High School and goes out of her way to find independent service hours in the community. She works very closely with the Historical Society in Caroline County and has helped this organization with restorations, fundraisers, parades, and the annual music festival. Natasha has also volunteered at assisted living centers and with many programs to help the elderly. Each time an announcement is made about upcoming service-learning opportunities, she is the first to sign up and always follows through when she makes a commitment. Natasha has become famous for the line, "You have any service-learning I can do?" She views service-learning as not just a requirement for graduation, but an extension of a caring attitude and desire to help others. Natasha learns through her service to the community and the community benefits from her efforts.

**Carroll County**

**Jeffrey Giles**

**Westminster High School, Grade 12**

Jeffrey Giles has earned 1,784.5 hours of service to date. His hours include service to the community and to the school. He is the Treasurer for Student Senate and has volunteered at the Therapeutic Riding Center, Shepherd's Staff, SERRV, and Relay for Life. He is an active 4-H member and a member of the Pleasant Valley Volunteer Fire Department. Jeff hopes to earn 2009 hours by graduation. It is impressive that Jeff has earned so many service hours in so many different areas; it is more impressive that he does it because he truly has a heart for service.

**Carroll County**

**Jennifer Staub**

**Liberty High School, Grade 12**

Jen serves as an incredible example of what is right with teens today. She puts in countless hours for the Liberty High School Student Government Association (SGA) and goes even further with her participation in the county and State. Her leadership has enabled our SGA to be one of

the most successful in the county. This year, our SGA is focusing on improving school climate by participating in charitable giving and securing a speaker to address school culture. Jennifer is dedicated to ensuring Liberty High School provides a positive experience for all students.

**Cecil County**

**David Callis, II**

**Cecil County School of Technology, Grade 12**

David Callis II loves volunteering at the North East Fire Company and has earned more than 1,470 service-learning hours serving there. David says, “Since I was young, I always wanted to help people and save lives.” He is well on his way to reaching this dream and has earned the certifications for Maryland State Emergency Medical Technician, Firefighter I, Firefighter II, HAZMAT Operations, Rescue Technician for Vehicle Rescues and Confined Spaces, and Aerial Operations and Emergency Response to Terrorism. David is also active in his youth group at Pleasant Hill Worship Center and is working on his Eagle Scout project. He has set and reached many of his personal goals and wants to attend Cecil College to further his education. David strives for excellence in everything he does and demonstrates strong leadership potential in the service field.

**Cecil County**

**Jessica Gallatin-Witt**

**Cecil County School of Technology, Grade 12**

Jessica Gallatin-Witt is an energetic young woman who has devoted her extra time to helping others in life threatening situations. She is a member of the Rising Sun Volunteer Fire Company and has given 146 hours of her time to assist victims and help maintain the fire house. Jessica recently helped put out a three alarm fire involving seven fire companies. She and another firefighter suffered smoke inhalation and heat exhaustion when a roof fell in on them. Jessica knows the dangers of her choice of work but her desire to help others outweighs her own safety. Last year at school, she served as the Student Council President and this year as a Student Council Advisor. On a personal note, Jessica almost lost her sister in an automobile accident and says, “In the midst of this tragedy, I was enlightened by the efforts of all of the public service workers who helped save her life.” She considers it an honor to serve in the community and help save lives. Her charismatic personality, optimism, love of learning, and desire to help others will serve her now and in the future.

**Charles County**

**Jacob Cannon**

**LaPlata High School, Grade 12**

Jacob Cannon has participated in a variety of service-learning opportunities since moving to Maryland in 2008. He is an outgoing and fun-loving person who loves to help others. Jacob’s attitude and efforts alone accounted for one-fifth of our donation to the American Red Cross. He spent many days in the cafeteria educating his peers on disaster relief efforts of the American Red Cross as well at a Friday night football game.

In addition to his efforts in government class, Jacob has served at a local food bank, Angel Watch (women's and children's shelter), and the Susan G. Komen Foundation. Jacob says that serving his community gives him great pride. It has been a way for him to learn new skills and acquire new friends. It has opened up new opportunities and given him the confidence that is needed for success in life.

**Charles County**

**Courtney Thompson**

**La Plata High School, Grade 11**

Courtney Thompson is committed to serving her community and has participated in many service-learning activities including the American Red Cross Disaster Relief, Lids for Life Campaign, and other projects of the Navy Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps.

Her major contribution this year was her work on an American Red Cross disaster relief project. Courtney took it upon herself to contact local businesses to donate money to the American Red Cross. When her efforts with local businesses didn't meet her expectations, Courtney pushed on and spent many lunch shifts explaining her purpose and collecting from her peers. She spent Friday nights at football games asking for help from anyone who would listen. Her ability to articulate the needs of the American Red Cross enabled her to obtain the needed donations. Courtney says that she enjoys helping others and will continue her service into her adult years.

**Dorchester County**

**Briana Beulah**

**North Dorchester High School, Grade 12**

Briana Beulah has completed numerous service projects to help her community. As Treasurer of the Student Government, she organized a food drive to help our families in greatest need. She is also a Student Ambassador for the Pre-K class at a nearby elementary school. Briana has made a huge difference with a special needs child in the class. Through her tutoring and interaction, this student has learned to communicate his needs. Briana says "To me, service activities are not just a graduation requirement. I got involved with them because helping out and being a role model are my biggest goals."

**Dorchester County**

**Jason Shorter, Jr.**

**Cambridge South Dorchester High School, Grade 12**

Jason Shorter is a volunteer with the local Fire Rescue Company. As a Junior Cadet he responds to calls, assists with fundraisers, and helps with programs that address community needs. Jason says that the job of being a volunteer fire fighter has made him more appreciative of the things he can do to help those in need. "Both the people that receive help from our company and the company volunteers are thankful and touched deeply by our work, which without a doubt is the best feeling and the reason why I'm proud to represent myself and the community," says Jason.

**Frederick County**

**Lacey Smith**

**Frederick High School, Grade 11**

Lacey Smith is the vice-president of the Service-Learning Advisory Board (SLAB) and works with the board officers to organize service-learning projects for the group. She is involved in multiple service-learning activities including the Advocates for Homeless Families Childcare, Rebuilding Together, In the Streets, and Adopt a Road. Lacey says, "I really enjoy service-learning because I feel like I am making an impact in someone else's life and a difference in this world. I love the feeling of being able to do something else for someone in need."

**Frederick County**

**Taylor Thompson**

**Walkersville High School, Grade 12**

Taylor Thompson is a determined and motivated individual who actively participates in many service-learning opportunities. She helps coach the Middle School Mathcounts team, provides childcare for Advocates for Homeless Families, and plays music for residents at a local nursing home. She says that she enjoys sharing her talents and passions with the community. Taylor says, "It's my way of giving back to the community that has helped me grow and become who I am." In addition from participating in the local Service-Learning Advisory Board, she is also an officer for her school's National Honor Society.

**Garrett County**

**Jennifer Cosner**

**Southern Garrett High School, Grade 12**

Jennifer Cosner is a senior at Southern Garrett High School and has obtained her service-learning hours by serving at many community organizations and with outreach activities in her church. She assists with the church's Relay for Life Team and fundraising activities for shut-ins. Jennifer also works with elementary school students through youth sports, is an active advocate for youth, and has worked with the local Rotary. Jennifer states that, "Service-learning is important because it teaches students how to be more responsible. I have learned so much from service-learning and I think it was a good way for me to give back to the community because they have done so much for the school and me." Jennifer plans to attend college and study Exercise Physiology.

**Garrett County**

**James Law**

**Northern Garrett High School, Grade 12**

James (JP) Law is a senior at Northern Garrett High School and has received many of his service-learning hours in a variety of organizations. He has worked on projects at his church, Habitat for Humanity, the Chamber of Commerce, the Boy Scouts, and has created a children's book. He is very active with the Deep Creek Lions Club where he participates in the Blind Skier Program. James states that, "Service-learning is important because it is a way to experience

activities a person may not have otherwise. Service-learning allows students to go out in the community and learn from that service. I have learned so much from doing service-learning and enjoyed doing all of it.” He plans to attend West Virginia University and major in Engineering.

**Harford County**

**Amanda Harris**

**Edgewood Middle School, Grade 8**

Amanda Harris is a true service-learning star. As an eighth grader, she serves as the Student Council President and has helped lead a “Harvest for the Hungry” food drive, where over a ton of food was collected. She also helped lead a clothing drive for families in need in our own community. Amanda always put others before herself, and tries to do what’s best for her school and community. Last year, she participated in a coin drive to collect money for “Kids Helping Hopkins,” helping the school raise more than \$1,000. Amanda looks to continue to serve her community as she enters Harford Technical High School.

**Harford County**

**Julie Angelini**

**Havre de Grace High School, Grade 12**

Julie Angelini’s various initiatives as a master tutor and president of Havre de Grace High School Chapter of the Société Honoraire de Français (French Honor Society) have supported the French One through Four curricula at Havre de Grace High in both general and specific ways.

Generally, our World Languages voluntary state curricula mandate that we teach not only vocabulary and grammar, but functional culture of the target countries. Julie organized an “International World Cup Soccer Match” at our school between a team of Spanish and a team of French students. Students in all classes learned cheers, and prepared posters in the target languages for use by spectators at the after-school match. A giant mock-up of a World Cup trophy was prepared. This was a culture lesson about the significance of soccer in Europe as well as a thematic language lesson for the French Two classes whose objectives include a sports unit. The event was also crafted by Julie to promote language learning, which is necessary to maintain and continue to attract new students to our curricular areas.

Julie also serves as Master Tutor in a French One class for students who experience difficulties in learning. Without her, several of the students would not have had the individualized support they need to succeed in the class. She helps them think through their classwork, and frequently leads drills and vocabulary and grammar practice for the entire class.

**Howard County**

**Daniel Atlas**

**Glenelg High School, Grade 12**

Dan Atlas has been the driving force behind an incredible number of service-learning activities. He has served as Treasurer, Vice-President, and President successively of the Best Buddies organization. Furthermore, he has been Chapter President of the B’nai B’rith Organization,

organizer and promoter of two successful canned food drives at Glenelg; participant in Leadership U creating comfort baskets with his group for parents of premature babies at our local hospital; and a volunteer with Baltimore inner city elementary students to promote literacy. Dan believes one's unyielding efforts, small or large, can absolutely have a positive influence on his or her community.

**Howard County**

**Micah Miles**

**Atholton High School, Grade 11**

Micah Miles has made service-learning a part of her life and has had a huge impact in many areas one of which is caring for animals at the National Zoo. She also has provided service to Harmony Hall Nursing Home, the League of Women Voters, the Black Student Achievement Program, and served as an elementary school assistant. Micah says, "Service has provided me the opportunity to share my skills to benefit my community, and also to benefit animals – which is a major passion of mine. The time spent in my service activities has given me a deeper appreciation of others."

**Kent County**

**Dara Ahrens**

**Kent County High School, Grade 12**

Dara Ahrens is an excellent example of a student who has participated in many service-learning opportunities, including attending leadership conference, musicals, volunteering with the local fire company's cat rescue program, in addition to the maintenance of the schools memorial garden created by students. She says, "service-learning is an opportunity to give back to your community. It enables you to make your community better, whether it is beautifying a garden or helping senior citizens. Earning these hours has given me the chance to learn more about myself and those around me."

**Kent County**

**Anna Ashley**

**Kent County High School, Grade 12**

Anna Ashley has participated in a variety of service-learning opportunities since she entered middle school. Her service to the community continued as she transitioned from middle to high school. She worked on musicals; leadership conferences; teen court, annual school blood drives; and volunteered at the local Red Cross; Anna is excited about the many service projects she participated in over the years. She also believes that participating in service-learning projects has allowed her to grow into a responsible young lady who is eager to give back to her community.

**Montgomery County**

**Megan Mornini**

**Colonel Zadok Magruder High School, Grade 12**

Megan Mornini has given numerous hours in support of Team River Runner, a national program based at military hospitals around the country. This program teaches water safety and kayaking skills to returning men and women soldiers injured in Iraq and Afghanistan. Beginning with her involvement in weekly kayaking sessions in the indoor pool at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Megan has helped wounded soldiers with amputated limbs develop better balance and upper body strength. The sport of kayaking was used to help wounded soldiers achieve goals, have fun, and regain confidence. We are proud of the service Megan Mornini has given to our United State military personnel through her involvement with Team River Runner.

**Montgomery County**

**Andrea Sena**

**Quince Orchard High School, Grade 12**

Research assistant, tutor, mentor, counselor, and translator are just a few of the roles Andrea Marie Sena has played in her years as a middle and high school student. In her roles at local education, recreation, and medical facilities, this young woman has learned, “how to work with a diverse group of people.” She comments, “Once I believed that success meant to do well academically and end up with a good job. Now I realize that my fullest personal fulfillment will necessarily include a lifetime of giving to, and, hopefully, improving the world I live in.” Andrea Marie Sena is a valuable member of our community!

**Prince George’s County**

**Arianna Cooper**

**Martin L. King, Jr. Middle School, Grade 7**

Arianna Cooper has accumulated 535 hours of service at the Good Knight Castle, a child empowerment organization. She has volunteered to do a variety of services such as designing and distributing flyers, assisting with the safety program preparation and cleanup, and learning magic to teach safety to elementary students in the Beltsville area. Arianna believes “Service means you are helping others for the desire to help instead of having to.” As a result of her numerous hours at the Good Knight Castle, many children have learned skills to keep them safe from harm. Arianna explains “At the Castle we have good and bad tricks so the children understand the difference and have fun learning.” She is making a positive difference in her community through the many hours she spends with younger children.

**Prince George’s County**

**Alice Noll**

**Martin L. King, Jr. Middle School, Grade 8**

Alice Noll has provided 600 hours of service during the past years at Guiding Eyes for the Blind. She helps with the guide dogs on a daily basis by caring for the dogs’ nails, walking them, and

playing with and instructing them. Alice has devoted many hours to make her community better and feels more people should volunteer. According to Alice “service is very important. It is important for your community and for you. When you do service, it makes you feel good that you helped someone.” She goes on to say, “It also makes the person you helped feel better because they know that you cared enough to help them.” Alice sincerely believes in the importance of helping others as she concludes, “Service is a very good thing to do and more people should contribute to their community.”

**Queen Anne’s County**

**Laura Rieck**

**Stevensville Middle School, Grade 6**

Laura Rieck, a sixth grader, is a model for our school and community when it comes to service-learning. She has served at the Living Waters Food Bank for the past three years and sorts and stacks food and fills baskets for those in need. When asked why service was important, she said, “I provide a need for people in my community. It is hard when I see some of my peers come into the food bank, but I know in my heart I am doing something to help them.” Laura’s teachers had no idea that she was so dedicated until she was a nominee for the Ben Carson Scholarship and she had included this information in her essay.

**Queen Anne’s County**

**Samantha Sink**

**Sudlersville Middle School, Grade 8**

Samantha Sink serves everywhere she can and in almost every kind of setting. She says, “Helping is the best thing you can do in life, I really like helping people. I want to be somebody who changes someone else’s life.” And with that spirit in mind, Sam has helped senior citizens, members of the armed forces, homeless and battered women, and the environment. She has counted horseshoe crabs, picked up roadside trash, recycled, and even helped as far away as Costa Rica. She tirelessly and cheerfully takes service-learning as far as one eighth grader humanly can.

**St. Mary’s County**

**Ryshell Butler**

**Great Mills High School, Grade 12**

Ryshell Butler has and continues to participate in a variety of service-learning opportunities. She is actively involved with the Criminal Justice Program and participates in Kids Day (Identakid), Solid Angels, and actively volunteers with the local sheriff’s department. Ryshell helps during Special Olympics and various school activities such as our Hornet Culture Day. She wants to be a lawyer so that she can help people. It is evident why she believes learning through service is a privilege rather than a chore.

**St. Mary's County**

**Anthony Smith**

**Great Mills High School, Grade 12**

Anthony Smith participates in a variety of service-learning opportunities. He volunteers his time at St. Mary's Hospital and with Special Olympics. He also delivers meals for underprivileged community members, participates in various charity drives, and has traveled on humanitarian missions to Romania. Anthony consistently participates in every possible service-learning event to include helping Project Possible attain its community millennial goals. He stated that he serves because it leaves him feeling good and makes the community a better place that we can all be proud of.

**Somerset County**

**Adam Hawley**

**Washington High School, Grade 12**

For six years, Adam Hawley has served as a volunteer youth counselor for a summer camp program. He has assisted with planning a variety of activities and coordinating field trips for the students in the summer program. Adam has enjoyed helping and working with students in the summer camp program.

**Somerset County**

**Elizabeth Long**

**Crisfield High School, Grade 12**

Elizabeth Long has participated in numerous service-learning endeavors. She has donated her time to working with a local dance studio (Dane Dynamics), the Little Annemessex Chapter of the National Honor Society, H.O.P.E. Mentoring Program, and other activities in the community as Miss Crustacean 2008. She says, "The most rewarding thing in life is seeing the effect your personal efforts have on the lives of others. Seeing the joy I have been able to instill in children of the community makes every minute worthwhile. These activities were also great teachers of skills such as leadership and responsibility."

**Talbot County**

**Monique Taylor**

**Easton High School, Grade 12**

Easton High senior, Monique Taylor, says that, in helping others, she has learned to be compassionate and humble. She has remained involved with service-learning activities far past the minimum requirement because she believes in "helping people and taking out time to learn more about yourself and others." An avid Goodwill supporter, she has devoted hundreds of hours in efforts to make the lives of others more pleasant. Monique has also participated in activities in the areas of teen court and the environment (Waterfowl Festival), and has worked with children at the local hospital and public library.

**Washington County**

**Holly Harr**

**South Hagerstown High School, Grade 12**

Holly Harr has earned her service hours at the Star Equestrian Center's therapeutic riding program because she is very involved with horses. This program assists children with disabilities and teaches them how to ride and how to appreciate horses and horse care. Holly says that student service-learning (SSL) teaches you responsibility and how to work well with others. "It taught me how to get along with people of all ages and abilities. I learned how well rounded a person must be and just how much patience and understanding it takes to teach others new skills. It was a joy to see children with disabilities go from wheelchair to the top of a horse; riding and smiling the whole time."

**Washington County**

**James Horner**

**Washington County Technical High School, Grade 12**

James Horner is very active with two organizations related to service-learning. Starting in the sixth grade, he joined the Boy Scouts of America where he said, "Cheerful service was programmed into my personality." He is currently working on his Eagle Scout project with the Washington County Art Council by painting the gallery, making several pedestals for three-dimensional art, and creating a storage center for the inventory room.

In elementary school, he benefited from a high school aide helping in his class. So every morning, from the beginning of ninth grade to now, he worked with kindergarten, first, and third grade classes before his school day starts, helping with crafts, reading, checking homework, and providing any assistance needed. He "believed it was time to give back to the elementary school that gave me many of my childhood memories." Participating in service is simply a part of who he is. When given the opportunity, he enjoys helping others and his community.

**Wicomico County**

**Ashley Benson**

**James M. Bennett High School, Grade 12**

Ashley has participated in a wide variety of service projects during her secondary school years. Through her church, Asbury United Methodist, she participated in the Appalachian Service Project, helping to provide housing for low-income residents in Appalachia. She has worked with the Community Foundation's Youth Board, helping to run their Koins for Kids Campaign. A student-athlete, Ashley has also promoted youth fitness through her volunteer work with Youth Exercise Services.

**Wicomico County**

**Michelle Robison**

**Wicomico High School, Grade 12**

Michelle has worked for the last two summers as a junior counselor at Kids Klub Summer Camp (Camp Challenge) for the Wicomico County Recreation and Parks Department. She has also done mission work through Christ United Methodist church for Camp Love (Appalachian Service Project), going to West Virginia to help fix up houses for the less fortunate. She also served at the 2008 Maryland Special Olympics School Basketball Tournament and participated in the mathathon to raise money for St. Jude's Hospital.

**Worcester County**

**Tyler Fairman**

**Pocomoke High School, Grade 11**

Tyler Fairman has been involved with soccer, bowling, and unified softball for five years at the Maryland Special Olympics at Cedar Chapel Special School. He has also served as a cadet in Marine Corps Junior Officer Training Corps, where he was recognized for service to the community for the past three years. Tyler gives of himself unselfishly, never seeking to be recognized, to help students with special needs. He finds joy in helping others experience the happiness of participating in organized sports.

**Worcester County**

**Daniel Kirstein**

**Stephen Decatur High School, Grade 12**

Dan Kirstein is an exceptional role model in our community and school. He has dedicated his life to helping others while serving as a positive role model for his peers. Each year, Dan gives back to our local elementary school by helping with fire safety week by teaching and working with the children to help them learn valuable safety skills in case of an emergency. Dan is always willing to assume additional responsibilities. He is well respected by the staff at Stephen Decatur High School and among his peers for his moral character and integrity. Dan has received the gold level President's Service Award for the last three years.

# *2009 Service-Learning Fellows*

What is a Service-Learning Fellow?

Fellows are a corps of experienced teachers who run exemplary service-learning projects and who are willing and able to share their expertise and enthusiasm with their peers.

## 2009 Service-Learning Fellows

### Anne Arundel County

**Leslie Eisenhauer**

**Magothy River Middle School**

Leslie Eisenhauer is a seventh grade Language Arts teacher with the Anne Arundel County Public School System. A highly qualified, 27 year career educator, she is a dual degree graduate of the University of Maryland, College Park and earned her Master of Arts Degree in Special Education from Hood College, Frederick, Maryland. Leslie holds Administrator I and II certifications from the Maryland State Department of Education.

Eisenhauer has served as a Language Arts department chairperson, PTSO Liaison, and is currently a seventh grade interdisciplinary team leader and member of the Collaborative Decision-Making Team. Identifying service-learning projects that focus on student/community action, not requiring monetary collections, and serving the local and global communities, Eisenhauer has brought projects to the Magothy Community such as *Perpetual Prosperity Pumps Foundation Adopt-A-Family Program* (collection of used athletic shoes to fund scholarships for agricultural training of families in Ghana), *Overseas Coupon Program* (collection of manufacturer's coupons to be sent to troops overseas), and the Lion's Club "*Recycle for Sight*" Program (collection of used eyeglasses). Communication has been an essential element to the success of these projects. She has created school displays, bulletin boards, a seventh grade service-learning website page, and published articles in the school newsletter addressing these projects and encouraging school and community participation.

### Baltimore City

**Cheree Davis**

**The Baltimore Talent Development High School**

Cheree Davis is a founding teacher of The Baltimore Talent Development High School in the Baltimore City Public Schools System, where she has taught American Government and World History for last five years of her 12-year teaching career. She previously taught Special Education at Forest Park Senior High School.

A native of Cleveland, Ohio, She earned a Bachelors Degree in Social Studies Comprehensive from the historic Kent State University. Kent is where she also earned her first major service award called the Shirley Crosby Community Involvement Award. After working at the Good Shepherd Center, which is a therapeutic treatment center for emotionally disturbed girls, Davis began her graduate school career at Towson University in order to earn her Masters Degree in Special Education with an endorsement in History.

During the past years, Davis has organized student service-learning projects to benefit the Baltimore City Cancer Program, the local Headstart Program, Bea Gaddy Hunger Center, and the Baltimore City Public School System. In October of 2007, Davis was nominated to become an Oprah Winfrey Ambassador teacher which lead to her starting an after school club called Youth

4 Change. This past summer three of her students traveled to India to help build a school and learn leadership skills. After securing community partnerships with companies such as Target and the Vanguard Justice Society in Baltimore, she was able to raise more than \$7,000 dollars for her students' trip. During finals week of last year, a phone call came into the school office indicating she and her students were being awarded \$8,900 from the O Ambassadors Leaders Today Program. She and her students were awarded the Maryland Pride Award for this project.

Currently, her club is planning a trip to Kenya where they will participate in clean water projects and additional leadership training. She and her students will also embark on a speaking tour around the Baltimore City Public School System speaking to other at-risk youth about how service-learning can help change their lives for the better. Recently, her club was awarded a grant from O Ambassadors to purchase video equipment to record their club happenings and events.

Finally, Davis and her students will make every effort to continue their commitment to helping young people in Kenya who participate in a program called Girls World. This program allows her students to share their life with a girl from Kenya with the hopes of helping her remain optimistic about life. This is been a remarkable experience for everyone involved.

### **Baltimore City**

**Nancy Rose Malone**

**Claremont Separate Public Day High School**

Nancy Rose Malone is the transition teacher and graduate coordinator for Baltimore City's Claremont High School. She has a Bachelor of Arts from Southern Connecticut State University, Master of Science Degree in Special Education from Coppin State University, and Advanced Professional Certificate. Malone is a thirty-five year special education teacher with the Baltimore City School System. She has written and directed grants for S.S. STARZ (Students plus Support Equals Stars) Work Study Summer Academy, 1993-2008. This program provides job experiences to students participating in multiple service-learning activities. Malone also serves as Claremont PTO/School Improvement Team parent/school/community liaison. Professional awards include American Federation of Teachers Living Legacy Award, Baltimore Teacher's Union Award, Maryland's MVC Award, and Governor's Citation, and Channel 11's All Star Salute for her Special Education Student Inclusion advocacies.

As a special educator, service-learning and job coach, and Special Olympic sports coach, her career is dedicated to creating opportunities to develop students' abilities. Through a multitude of activities, such as volunteering at Johns Hopkins Hospital, Martin Luther King Early Head Start day care site, Meals on Wheels, Alliance Incorporated, distributing "Baltimore Running Festival" materials to race day participants, packing holiday food baskets for the East Baltimore community, supporting and Special Olympics events, her initiatives further develop students' independent life skills and encourage functional academic and social skills. Involvement with these activities often awards them recognition at various local, state, and national events.

Malone continuously seeks opportunities for additional service-learning projects.

**Baltimore City**

**Keah Wade**

**Achievement Academy at Harbor City High School**

Keah L. Wade is a high school English teacher in the Baltimore City Public School System. She has been teaching in an urban school district for 10 years. As a graduate of Morgan State University, Wade has matriculated to several universities and has earned her Master of Arts in Teaching as well as an Administrator I Certification from Coppin State College. She is planning to start work on her doctorate in the Fall of 2009.

Wade has served in numerous capacities during her tenure in the school system. She has been senior class advisor, senior class treasurer, instructional support teacher, and a department head. It was during her role as senior class advisor that she began to institute service-learning projects for many of her students who had not yet earned their required 75 hours. Students participated and were involved in an array of activities; including helping the community to clean areas surrounding Lake Clifton Park and their school, a Red Cross Blood Drive, as well as creating coloring books and other activities for the Kids Helping Hopkins program. Students genuinely enjoyed and appreciated the opportunities there were given to participate in such valuable and meaningful service-learning projects. Students were able to display their exceptional communication, leadership, organizational skills through these projects.

Wade has returned to the classroom full-time this school year so that she can positively impact children's lives. She continues to work with students to ensure they participate in meaningful service-learning projects and develop compassion for others.

**Charles County**

**Michael Ficalora**

**Piccowaxen Middle School**

Mike Ficalora teaches at Piccowaxen Middle School in Charles County, Maryland as a 7<sup>th</sup> grade science teacher. The positions he has held at Piccowaxen Middle School include the head of the science department, 7<sup>th</sup> grade team leader, Maryland School Assessment Coordinator, Robotics Club sponsor, Environmental Club sponsor, and, of course, student service-learning coordinator. Student service-learning projects that Ficalora has been involved in include mostly environmental projects, such as developing nature trails, installing wetlands, creating outside classrooms, and implementing recycling programs. The student service-learning program has been one of the most rewarding programs for both Ficalora and the students under his direction.

## **Dorchester County**

**Valerie Lomax**

**North Dorchester Middle School**

Valerie Lomax is an eighth grade social studies teacher at North Dorchester Middle School in Dorchester County. She has been a teacher for eighteen years in Dorchester County. In addition to social studies, she has taught special education children in both the structured learning environment and emotional disability classrooms. In 1992, she left teaching for three years to work for the Mid-shore Council on Children Youth and Families to work with families who had school age children at risk of out of home placement. Here she provided case management and coordinated wrap around services to keep the student in the home with their family and in their home school.

Lomax received her History Degree and Secondary Education Teaching Certification from Salisbury University. She continued at Salisbury to obtain a Masters Degree in Educational Psychology. In addition to her degrees, she attended the University of Maryland Eastern Shore for her Special Education Certification. She has also completed post graduate classes at Loyola College and Washington College.

For a number of years, her students have participated in several service-learning projects. The major project for her 8<sup>th</sup> grade social studies class is “Voting Counts” designed to increase voter awareness and turnout in Dorchester County. However, each year the students also participate in projects to collect food for the local food bank, provide hats and gloves for a giving tree which benefits local families, raise money for the Pennies for Patients program and volunteer time to support the community organizations that put on the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) program for younger students in the community. Lomax participated in professional development during the summer to create additional service-learning projects to be included in the science curriculum in the middle schools in Dorchester County.

## **Montgomery County**

**Erinn Rigney**

**James Hubert Blake High School**

Erinn Rigney is a social studies teacher in Montgomery County Public Schools. She is currently in her third year of teaching. A graduate of the University of Notre Dame, Rigney earned her Master of Education in Secondary Education from Loyola University Chicago.

Along with teaching National State and Local government and psychology and coaching junior varsity girls soccer at James Hubert Blake High School, Rigney serves as the service-learning co-coordinator as well as the student government association co-advisor. Her various roles have given her the ability to incorporate meaningful service-learning opportunities into students’ daily lives through projects such as making over 800 sandwiches for a local food bank, raising \$5,000 for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, and collecting donations for St. Jude’s Research Hospital with her soccer team.

Rigney continues to challenge students to make connections between their world inside the classroom and the larger world outside in order to develop a sense of compassion and service to others that will stay with them for their entire lives.

**Worcester County**

**Jamie Barlett**

**Stephen Decatur High School**

Jamie Bartlett is a 4<sup>th</sup> year teacher in Worcester County Public Schools. Bartlett holds an undergraduate degree in Political Science and a Master of Arts in Teaching Degree from Salisbury University in Salisbury, Maryland.

Bartlett teaches government primarily to 9<sup>th</sup> grade students at Stephen Decatur High School in Berlin, Maryland. In addition to preparing students for success on the Government High School Assessment, this course provides students with the opportunity to complete their service-learning requirements.

Bartlett serves on several committees in the school community, including the After Prom Committee, Mentoring Committee, and is the Technology Committee co-chair for the Accreditation for Growth (AFG) program. She also serves as the Ecology Club co-sponsor and is a mentor teacher for teacher interns from Salisbury University. In addition, she assists students in preparation for the High School Assessment through the After School Academy.

As a government teacher, Bartlett has helped her students complete their service-learning projects required for high school graduation. These projects have allowed students to become involved in their communities, many continuing to serve past the course requirements. Her students have served in places as varied as after school programs, recreation departments, local libraries, nursing homes, hospitals, homeless shelters, etc. They have also been involved in fundraisers such as the Leukemia Society's Light the Night Walk, the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life, and the March of Dimes Walk for Babies.

**Worcester County**

**Twynette Binns**

**Pocomoke Middle School**

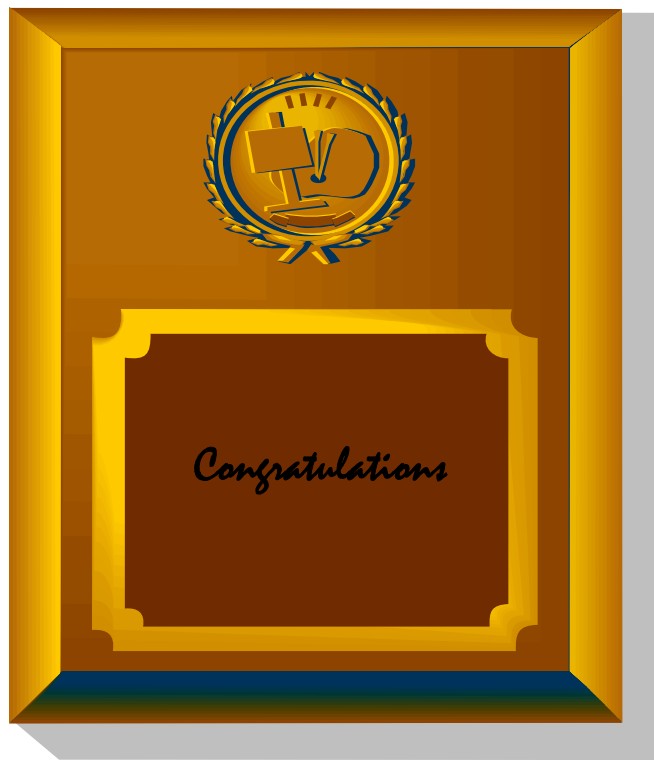
Twynette Binns is a social studies teacher for the Worcester County School System. She has been a teacher for 10 years. A graduate of the Salisbury State University, Binns earned a degree in History. She has had the opportunity to work in the United States and the island of Bermuda.

Along with her involvement in service-learning projects Binns was Pocomoke Middle School's Teacher of the Year 2008. She teaches sixth grade Ancient World History. She is a member of the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support (PBIS) and Arts Immersion teams. Binns is a mentor to students in the school's mentor program. She is also a mentor to first year teachers at her school. To further share her expertise, she is assisting Salisbury University by hosting an intern from the Education Department. Students at her school participate in a variety of service-learning projects which include outreach to Kenya through Kenya Connect, Chesapeake Bay

conservation, and working with the elderly. Binns has personally coordinated for her students the clean up and promotion of the Costen House Museum and Garden, a local landmark and home of the first mayor of Pocomoke City. She and her students have also adopted a section of the Wicomico River for clean up and the planting of grasses.

Binns has made a commitment to service-learning to ensure that the students at Pocomoke Middle School will be engaged in projects that will benefit the public and encourage students to continue to give back their community.

# 2009 Service-Learning Principals of the Year



## What is a Service-Learning Principal of the Year?

A school leader who best supports his or her faculty to carry out high quality service-learning with students. These principals support teachers, promote high quality service-learning, and are vocal advocates for service-learning. These principals advance the quality and visibility of service-learning within their school and district.

## 2009 Service-Learning Principals of the Year

### Allegany County

**Michael Calhoun**

**Allegany High School**

Mr. Michael Calhoun is one of those few individuals that can balance his administrative responsibilities while keeping in touch with the needs of the school and the surrounding community. He takes that initiative to be supportive of any teacher who is willing to expand the learning experience through service-learning opportunities. He is a dedicated professional and an advocate for field trips, fundraising, and resources that help to ensure a successful service-learning project. Calhoun never asks for any recognition and this is why he deserves to be recognized for this award.

### Frederick County

**Barbara Keiling**

**Thurmont Middle School**

In the face of great professional challenges, Mrs. Barbara Keiling has been unwavering in her support of and belief in service-learning as an instructional strategy. Whether it is asking a student about their recent service-learning experience or talking to a teacher about the plans for an upcoming project, Keiling is engaged in the day-to-day service-learning implementation plan at Thurmont Middle. From the moment students enter the building on 5<sup>th</sup> grade move-up day, Keiling makes certain that they know about the service-learning requirements and program. Keiling is very deserving of recognition for her strong leadership and support of service-learning.

### Howard County

**Brenda Thomas**

**Lime Kiln Middle School**

In the four short years since becoming principal at Lime Kiln Middle School, Mrs. Brenda Thomas has been critical in establishing a strong student service-learning institute the school has a grade 6-8 focus dedicated to establishing, strengthening and maintaining partnerships with community groups which fortifies and advances the quality and scope of student service. Thomas leads by shared innovation, a comprehensive vision, and thoughtful implementation. She makes sure service-learning activities are assessed and improved. Thomas believes that service is not just a school-based set of actions, but an imperative community long-term responsibility with students and teachers leading the way.

## **Local School System Service-Learning Coordinators**

Many local school system service-learning coordinators have devoted countless hours to ensure that Maryland students engage in high quality service-learning experiences. The Maryland State Department of Education extends a special and heartfelt “thank you” to each of them. Below is a list of Maryland’s current service-learning coordinators.

Kara Kennell	Allegany County Public Schools
Dan Whetzel	Allegany County Public Schools
Don Sholl	Anne Arundel County Public Schools
Tamara Barron	Baltimore City Public School System
Sonja Karwacki	Baltimore County Public Schools
Sean Patterson	Baltimore County Public Schools
Laveeta Hutchins	Calvert County Public Schools
Janet Fountain	Caroline County Public Schools
Estelle Sanzenbacher	Carroll County Public Schools
Kim Youngblood	Cecil County Public Schools
Jack Tuttle	Charles County Public Schools
Patricia Vickers	Dorchester County Public Schools
James Ferrant	Frederick County Public Schools
Karen Ray	Garrett County Public Schools
Nancy Reynolds	Harford County Public Schools
Kenneth Gill	Howard County Public Schools
Terri Mullikin	Kent County Public Schools
Pam Meador	Montgomery County Public Schools
Kara Libby	Prince George’s County Public Schools
Diane Larrimore	Queen Anne’s County Public Schools
Kevin Wright	St. Mary’s County Public Schools
Conal Turner	Somerset County Public Schools
Sue Angel	Talbot County Public Schools
Sharon Chirgott	Washington County Public Schools
Brian Raygor	Wicomico County Public Schools
Joshua Fradel	Worcester County Public Schools