

Cheektowaga Police honors Do The Right Thing recipients

By **Jim Herr** - April 25, 2018

CHEEKTOWAGA – The Cheektowaga Police Department recently honored 49 young people from our community through their Do The Right Thing program.

The Do the Right Thing Program is designed to acknowledge the youth of our community who have distinguished themselves as role models among their peers. They achieve this status by committing random acts of kindness, or simply by Doing the Right Thing.

Any adult – parents, teachers, employers, neighbors, and relatives – from the community can nominate a student for their good deed. These students don't expect any rewards for what they have done, nor did they know they would be recognized by this program.

The event was held Monday at the Creekside Banquet Facility.



*Cheektowaga Police Do The Right Thing awards on April 25, 2018.
(Cheektowaga Police)*

Mahmoud Alkiswani, Joshua Shankland, Jonah Williams

Cleveland Hill Elementary

5th Grade

Nominated by: Marice Pascual

Mahmoud, Joshua and Jonah started a group called the "Eagle Heroes" on their own time. They began making videos to share what it looks like and sounds like to be a Little Eagle. The group presented the idea to me and expressed the desire to send positive messages to students throughout the building. They stated that even though they will be moving on to the Middle School next year, they saw a need in our building to teach younger students and inspire them to be the best Little Eagles they could be! Mahmoud, Joshua and Jonah are

creating videos to promote each month's character trait. The videos will be shared on our school-wide TV news weekly. Gentlemen, thank you for **"Doing the Right Thing"** by inspiring others to be all that they can be.

James Bailey

JFK High School

12th Grade

Nominated by: Amy Capalbo, Ken Thielke and Deborah Sokolski

There are too many dates to be specific, essentially **"Doing The Right Thing"** is a daily occurrence for James. Early in the year Mr. Thielke raved about the good deed that he witnessed James do for another student. This student is one of our special needs students at JFK. This student dropped his books and James stopped in the hallway to help pick them up. James moved on to his PE class and began conversing with his friends. Again James saw this student having trouble carrying all of the books and papers that he has in his hands. James came back and again helped this student to reorganize his belongings so that he could manage everything that he was carrying with him.

The next nomination comes from Mrs. Sokolski. At times, the techniques and media in Creative Crafts can be a challenge. James is always there to listen to and help students when they have questions. He is especially helpful to one student in particular who is another of our special needs students at JFK. James always engages with this student when he is struggling with techniques or with a creative decision and offers advice and assistance.

At JFK we all know James to be a star athlete and respectful student. I consistently see James being a positive role model; for all of our students. He is always smiling and saying hello to his peers and adults when I see him in the hallway, cafeteria, or in the classroom. James, thank you for being compassionate to those in need and **"Doing the Right Thing"** by helping them.

KeShone Beal, Austin Chandler, Jayden Dubard, Abreham Estezia, Joel Mead, Devon Mills, Luke Mortellaro, Jade Rinaldo

Cheektowaga Central High School

11th Grade

Nominated by: Brian Pane and Kristin Bartnik

We are nominating the following students, who have volunteered their time to make our Unified Bowling program a success during its first season. These students committed to attend all bowling meetings and events. This sometimes required missing their own track practice or musical rehearsal to assure that their partners were able to compete that day. Some of these students would assist with the Unified Bowling team and then would return back to school to take part in track practice. These athletes went above and beyond to assure that this program would be successful. During competition these students allowed our athletes to participate with no barriers. They were role models on how to participate with the utmost sportsmanship. These students participated exactly the way that Section VI envisioned Unified sports working. When I think about the title **"Do the Right Thing"** I think about what students would I want my child to be led by. These students! They are the leaders of the future, they are not afraid to take a chance or be afraid about what others may think. They simply make a difference everyday in the lives of those who participate on the Unified Bowling team and in the school community.

Matthew Brown**Maryvale High School****11th Grade****Nominated by: Thomas Stack and Lori Meyer**

On January 29th, 2018, a fellow student had a medical emergency in class. Matthew sprang into action and did not hesitate to lend assistance. Matthew was seated next to a student who became ill student, he noticed that the student was going to fall from his chair. Matthew turned and was able to catch the student before he could fall and hit his head on the floor. Matthew's quick reaction allowed him to gently lower the student to the floor. He stayed with the student until medical help arrived. Matthew remained calm during the emergency which helped him to remember important information that he was able to share with the school nurse upon arrival. Maryvale is proud to have Matthew as part of our family! Matthew, thank you for **"Doing the Right Thing"** by helping a fellow student during a crisis.

Christian Gueth and Rashad Law**Maryvale High School****11th Grade****Nominated by: Thomas Stack and Lori Meyer**

On Monday January 29th, 2018 a fellow student at Maryvale High School had a medical emergency during class. Christian, along with Rashad, sprinted to the cafeteria to locate the High School Principal, Mr. Stack. After Mr. Stack was informed of the medical emergency, Christian returned to the classroom to offer assistance in any way possible. Christian's and Rashad's ability to think clearly and critically in this situation allowed the school nurse and EMT's to do their job quickly and efficiently. Christian and Rashad, Thank you for **"Doing the Right Thing"**. We are proud to have Christian and Rashad in our Maryvale Family!

Grace Willard**Maryvale High School****11th Grade****Nominated by: Thomas Stack and Lori Meyer**

On January 29th, 2018, a fellow student had a medical emergency in class. Grace was called to action and took up the challenge. Grace assisted in clearing the area the student was in, directing the rest of the class to another room, and provided support to the ill student and her classroom teacher. Grace remained calm and was able to share critical details with the school nurse and EMT staff upon their arrival. Grace's quick thinking helped keep the situation under

control. We are proud to have Grace as part of our Maryvale Family! Thank you Grace for joining the others and helping someone in need and for **"Doing the Right Thing"**.

Alivia Ciapa

Woodrow Wilson Elementary

4th Grade

Nominated by: Katy Ascone and Marice Ann Battaglia

Alivia is a kind and respectful student who always does her best in school. She is always willing to support her peers. Alivia goes above and beyond to include everyone around her. She is a wonderful friend to others. Alivia always has a smile on her face which is contagious! She is a wonderful student! Alivia is a role model to others in the school community and can be counted on to **"Do the Right Thing"**.

Brooke Cosme

Cleveland Hill High School

10th Grade**Nominated by: Patrick Christie**

This act was not part of community service. Brooke found a wallet on the ground and gave it to Mr. Christie on her way into building. The wallet had dollars in it that were clearly visible from the closed wallet (it was bulging) – it turned out to be a Middle school student with special needs who had brought money in to put on their lunch account. Its because of Brooke’s honesty and intergrity that she can be counted on to **“Do the Right Thing”**.

Jasmine Cosme**Cleveland Hill High School****12th Grade****Nominated by: Patrick Christie**

This act was selfless and not part of any program. In early January Jasmine offered her time to help one of our 7th grader students cope with a conflict here at our Middle School. She did this because she knew there was a problem and asked if she could help. She is a trained mentor, but her role is to assist with freshman in the HS. She went above and beyond to help a younger student. She is meeting with her regularly and gave the student her phone number in case the student needed someone to turn to. It’s great to see when someone helps others and consistently **“Does the Right Thing”**

Areyonna Cumbo and Victoria Krygier

Cheektowaga Central Middle School

5th Grade

Nominated by: Walter Wasner and Nirmala Nutaki

I am nominating Areyonna and Victoria for going above and beyond, being welcoming, accepting, caring, and compassionate students. My Math class has the good fortune of having Mrs. Nirmala Nutaki, a professor from Buffalo State College, who has a working relationship with our school district, in our room. Mrs. Nutaki brings her class in during one of my Math classes most Tuesdays and Thursdays during their college semesters. Before bringing her new class in for the first time in January, Mrs. Nutaki mentioned that one of her students coming was from China and was concerned about the language barrier.

Areyonna and Victoria immediately asked if the student could work with them.

The first day they met her, Areyonna and Victoria made her feel welcomed, not only by being friendly and helpful, but also by asking her questions so they could get to know her, they were able to find out that she liked pandas. Two days later, when Mrs. Nutaki and her students arrived, Areyona and Victoria presented her with a decorative panda, which Areyonna had made with a special printer. As Mrs. Nutaki described the exchange, "The smile on the college girl's face when she received the panda from the two students in my class had me (Mrs. Nutaki) smiling all day." She was so proud of Areyonna and Victoria in my class, As am I. Areyonna and Victoria thank you for caring and for **"Doing the Right Thing"**.

Dan Curry

Cleveland Hill High School

11th Grade

Nominated by: Jeffrey Krause

On March 5th Dan found a Iphone 7 on the stairs of the High School. Dan immediately handed the phone over to a teacher who brought it to the office. A short time later a student came to the oddice to look for the phone. The

student was very happy and relieved that someone would turn it in. Dan we thank you for your honesty and for **"Doing the Right Thing"**.

Matthew DeSilva

TR Elementary

2nd Grade

Nominated by: Michaelene Barnas

Matthew is a second grade student at our school. Matthew is a kind, caring, conscientious, and quiet. So what is it about Matthew that makes him so popular and well liked? Matthew comes to school each day with a smile on his face and ready to learn. Matthew is admired and respected for his "courage". Matthew exhibits courage each day by **"Doing the Right Thing"** when others around him are not. Despite the sometimes challenging behavior of his classmates, these very students choose Matthew as their role model. Matthew is a role model and a leader. He demonstrates all of his wonderful qualities each and every day at school. Congratulations Matthew!

Kayleigh Ernst

Cleveland Hill High School

9th Grade

Nominated by: Jeffrey Krause

One day on the way to class Kayleigh found a twenty dollar bill on the ground in the hall she immediately came down to my office to turn it in, stating "if she lost twenty dollars she would hope someone would do the same". By consistently **"Doing the Right Thing"** Kayleigh's character shows through.

Rebekah Gerace

Cleveland Hill Middle School

7th Grade

Nominated by: Kathy Coolett

On October 5th, 2017 Rebekah found another student's wallet on the stairwell. This wallet contained a large amount of money. She brought it to the main office without hesitation. Rebekah you **"Did the Right Thing"** and we are very proud of you.

Angelo Gonzalez-Pacheco**Union East Elementary****4th Grade****Nominated by: Kristie Huttenlocker**

This is Angelo's second year in my class. This year Angelo has shown great improvements. He has been a great role model to the younger students in the class. Angelo will help with any task that is asked of him and he does it with such pride. He has shown such empathy for a certain student with special education and medical needs. He became a buddy to her and assisted with her work and many daily classroom tasks. In addition, he guided another student who does not always do the right thing, down the correct path. Academically, he has become more confident in his abilities, he is more willing to participate and continues to put forth the effort to figure things out. His confidence has not only helped his academics, but he has used it to positively influence his classmates. Angelo has matured throughout these two years and will be a great asset to future classrooms. We are very proud of him!!! Great Job for **"Doing the Right Thing"**

Giada Heaton

Cheektowaga Central Middle School

6th Grade

Nominated by: Stephanie Schwartz and Heidi Maloney

In our School District, students receive tickets or "Warrior Ways" as an acknowledgement for following the 5B's. These are: Be Safe, Be Kind, Be Responsible, Be On Time and Ready, and Be Respectful. Students are able to "spend" their Warrior Ways in various ways throughout the day and week. Some of the ways students spend their Warrior Ways is at the school store that includes school supplies, toys, books, and everyday necessities. The students look forward to shopping at this store twice a month. Another thing students can buy in the store is slime. Slime is a big item that students love to buy. After Giada saw that slime was being sold in the school store this year, she

asked if she could help make more slime to be sold. The slime was always sold out very quickly and she wanted to make more so that more students had the opportunity to buy it every time the school store was open. She did not expect anything in return for doing this. She just wanted to help her peers and the school store out. No one asked her to do this, she just offered to make it completely on her own. She has made slime for our school store multiple times now and always asks when she can make more for us. She always wants to contribute! Giada is a young lady who likes to **"Do The Right Thing"** without asking for anything in return.

****Heidi Maloney** writes that Giada's physical education class was completing a dance unit in which students had to form a group and create a routine that included several different components as explained by Mr. Haberl and Miss. Barbati. I was in attendance the day the students were performing their routines to receive their final grades for the unit. A classmate of Giada's had been struggling for awhile. This student did not have a group to perform with and was in danger of receiving a grade of zero. He was encouraged to dance on his own and try to fulfill enough of the requirements to receive at least partial credit. Many classmates were being supportive, but this student was hesitant and did not know what to do. I was about to jump in myself, when Giada came running out of the bleachers. She asked Miss. Barbati if she could dance with the student. Miss Barbati selected a song, laid out the paperwork with the dance routine requirements, and I truly felt honored to witness the magic unfold. Giada encouraged the student to join her on the gym mat and she created a routine on the fly. She would run back and forth from the mat to the table where Miss. Barbati had laid out the papers. "Do one of these! You need one of these!" Miss. Barbati would cry out. You could see the wheels in Giada's head turning as she quickly tried to select moves that this student could perform. She would then run back to the mat and say "Come on! Do this!" while demonstrating the moves, encouraging her classmate to copy her movements. It was the most selfless act I have seen a student do in my 16 years of teaching. Giada did not care what the other students thought, she did not think about herself in that moment, she poured out her heart and soul into a routine that earned the student full credit. This took less than two minutes of her time. The entire audience of students and teachers alike applauded, I of course, was close to tears. I am honored to call myself Giada's teacher, and hope that my own children grow to have hearts as genuine as hers. Thank you Giada for always **"Doing the Right Thing"**.

Quinton Hollingsworth**Union East Elementary****1st Grade****Nominated by: Donna Lillis**

Quinton always invites classmates to work with his partners when their partners are absent! Whether it is during math or reading, an extra partner usually works with Quinton and his partner because Quinton "...likes to be respectful"! Thank you Quinton for including others and **"Doing the Right Thing"**.

Kaylee Jasinski**TR Elementary****Pre-K****Nominated by: Debbie Eiss**

Kaylee started school in September anxious and scared. She overcame her own anxiety when she met a non- verbal student who really needed a friend.

Kaylee would take her new friend by the hand and walk with her into school. She did not want her friend to miss out on classroom activities due to her shyness and anxiety. Kaylee became the voice of her friend until the friend was able to speak for herself which took many months.

If Kaylee was ill and needed to stay home, she worried about how her friend would do on that day.

Thank you Kaylee for **"Doing the Right Thing"** and because of your kindness and patience, your friend is more at ease in our classroom and is now speaking to others more frequently.

Jesse Koczur

Woodrow Wilson Elementary

4th Grade

Nominated by: Julie Ziobro

Jesse has shown great empathy for others. He started staying back to help clean up the cafeteria instead of having recess, and when his teacher asked him why he wanted to do that he said, "They have so much work to do and their job is so hard—I just want to help." He has inspired more boys to take turns helping the cafeteria staff. He often sees others who are sad and he will go out of his way to ask if everything is okay and try to calm them down. He will even insert himself into bullying situations to stand up for those being bullied. Jesse, your willingness to help others shows that you'll be **"Doing the Right Thing"** for a long time.

Tanner Kowalski**Woodrow Wilson Elementary****4th Grade****Nominated by: Katy Ascone and Marice Ann Battaglia**

Tanner is a hardworking, kind, and caring young man! He always lends a hand to help his peers, teachers and staff. Tanner is always on the look out for friends in need! If anyone feels sad or down, he is there to help. Tanner is also very funny! He loves to make people smile and is very witty! He is a creative writer and has written several stories. He is always smiling and is an absolute pleasure to have in class! Tanner thank you for **"Doing the Right Thing"** and making the people around you happy!

Fiona Kramarsyck**TR Elementary****Kindergarten****Nominated by: Stacie Dunford**

Fiona is a kindergarten student in my class at TR Elementary school. Fiona is that student that I know I can always count on to be kind and caring to her peers. She is kind hearted and would do anything to make another friend smile. One example that comes to mind when I think of Fiona is a time when another student in the class was upset and crying because her mom had just went to the hospital to have surgery. Fiona went over to her, offered to hold her hand and started to tell her that it was going to be okay. She offered

comfort to this student and stayed by her side throughout the day. The next morning, Fiona waited for this student to arrive and gave her a hug and made sure that her day started out with a smile. The kindness and thoughtfulness for others is exceptional for someone her age. Fiona is someone who should be recognized for always **“Doing the Right Thing”**.

Noorulhuda Muneam

Cheektowaga Central High School

12th Grade

Nominated by: Pamela Nordstrom

Noor Munerm is a very respectful and conscientious student. She is a self-starter who typically accomplishes higher than average standards with her projects. Her work is noticeable of superior quality due to unique and creative problem solving. Additionally, Noor volunteers to help others in the classroom. She is well liked due to her cooperative nature, maturity, responsible efforts, work ethic, and drive to get the best from her education opportunities. Noor exhibits leadership qualities with a compassion towards others, while **“Doing the Right Thing”!**

Aidan Nguyen

Maryvale Primary**2nd Grade****Nominated by: Bridget Herod**

Aidan went to NYC, with his parents and his 4 year old sister. As they got on the elevator his sister hit a button before their parents got in and they got separated. The elevator went down to the lobby with Aidan and his sister, leaving their parents on the 15th floor . Aidan held his sister's hand so no strangers would take her, they both were crying and screaming. Aidan walked them over to a security guard and told him "my parents are on the 15th floor" the security guard took them up and brought them to their father. Their mother ran to the lobby, she did not see them and thought the were kidnapped. Because of Aidan "**Doing the Right Thing**" they weren't kidnapped and returned to their parents safe and sound.

Tyler Nunz**Union East Elementary****1st Grade****Nominated by: Donna Lillis**

Every time Tyler shops at our School Store, he triesto buy a gift for his sister Aubrey! Many of our classmates often ask Tyler how many tickets he has to buy Aubrey's gift as Tyler counts his tickets the day before our class shops at our School Store! We love how Tyler's kindness shows through and for his special kind of "**Doing the Right Thing**"!

Bryson Palladino**Union East Elementary****1st Grade****Nominated by: Donna Lillis**

Bryson donated his extra Halloween candy to our class! Bryson helps classmates who demonstrate the most 5B's each day to pick a piece of candy out "...and feel excited about living the 5B's"! So many of our classmates who make their best 5B choices all day think it is "...so fun..." to pick candy out of Bryson's 5B Class Candy Bag with Bryson and be like Bryson "...to live the Warrior Way...". Thank you Bryson for thinking of others and **"Doing the Right Thing"**.

Michael Patronaggio**TR Elementary****1st Grade**

Nominated by: Mary Potienko

Michael is a pleasure to have as a student. Every morning he enters the classroom ready to learn and help others. In December, a shy, new student joined our class. Michael helped the student adjust to the classroom routines and encouraged him throughout the day. Michael's compassion and willingness to help others is the reason I am nominating him for the **"Do the Right Thing"** award.

Lucas Phetkhosa**Union East Elementary****4th Grade****Nominated by: Jena Schrantz**

Lucas is a 4th grade student here at Union East Elementary School within the Cheektowaga Central Schools. I am nominating Lucas for the **"Do the Right Thing"** Award because he is an amazing friend and student here at school. With being the school counselor, I am involved with students in some of their most difficult times. Lucas has been an incredible friend to one specific student who is having some trouble in school along with at home,. This student confides in and trusts him more than I have ever seen him interact with another student. When asked who you feel you could trust and work with, this student always says "my best friend, Lucas". These boys just became friends this school year through having the same teacher. Lucas is seated next to this student and assists him throughout the day when he is having a difficult time with his work and more importantly when he is struggling with focusing and completing tasks. I truly feel without Lucas in this students class, he would not enjoy coming to school as much as he does. School is a safe and caring place for some of our students and they truly love coming to school and escaping their sometimes difficult home lives. Lucas helps this student escape the

difficulties and troubles of his home life in being a wonderful classmate and even better friend.

Mason Pieri

Cheektowaga Central Middle School

5th Grade

Nominated by: Courtney Cieplinski

On March 28th, Mason came to me after his art class and said that the class had talked about random acts of kindness. He said that he wanted the locker numbers of two of his friends to leave them a post-it with a kind message. He posted them and asked if he could make more for other students in the 5th grade. The answer was "yes" but I wasn't sure if he'd really make more, or maybe just more for our homeroom. The next day, Mason came in with a post-it for every kid in the 5th grade. He stayed after school that day to post them on each locker in the 5th grade wing. He wanted every 5th grader to be surprised the next day when they came to school. This idea of spreading a kind word to others is just one example of how Mason is respectful and kind each day. He really is a wonderful young man with such a big heart. The best part about what he did is that he spread kindness anonymously to not just his classmates, but to lots of children he didn't know. Some notes said things like "You're awesome", "You are wonderful" and "Kindness begins with you". In a world where we see bullying and kindness sometimes go by the wayside, I'm proud of Mason's efforts to spread positivity and make people feel good! I hope others will learn from Mason did and that it doesn't take a lot to make someone feel good. Thank you for being a kind young man and **"Doing the Right Thing"**. Way to go, Mason!

Jalon Rainey

Cheektowaga Central Middle School

7th Grade

Nominated by: Amy Skierczynski

In our School District students receive tickets or warrior ways as an acknowledgement for following the 5B's which are Be Safe, Be Kind, Be Responsible, Be On Time and Ready, and Be Respectful. Students are able to "spend" their warrior ways in various ways throughout the day and week. One of the ways students spend their warrior ways is at the school store that

includes school supplies, toys, books, and everyday necessities. The students look forward to shopping at this store twice a month. In October, Jalon used all of his warrior ways to buy toothpaste and toothbrushes to donate to the hurricane victims in Puerto Rico. Instead of buying items for himself, he thought of others that needed it more than he did. Jalon is also a member of the Ambassador's Club. The members of this club help the local community by running food drives and raising funds for local charities. Jalon is definitely a young man that makes it a priority to **"Do The Right Thing"**!

Eric Ramsey

Cleveland Hill Middle School

7th Grade

Nominated by: Pat Christie

On January 3rd Eric reported that a peer had brought fireworks to school and intended to blow them off. This turned out to be true. Because of Eric's quick thinking and **"Doing the Right Thing"** chaos and potential injury here at school were averted.

Arianna Rine**TR Elementary****1st Grade****Nominated by: Gretchen Judge and Jamie Hooper**

Arianna is always very helpful both to her classmates and teachers. She always goes the extra mile to **"Do the Right Thing"**. One day she helped a student out who was struggling while reading. This student very quickly became frustrated. Arianna talked to this student and calmed him down. She then sat with the student and read with him. She took her time sounding out words for him and asked questions throughout. This is a daily example of how Arianna is a role model in the classroom.

** This year a visually impaired student was mainstreamed into my first grade classroom. I decided to choose a peer buddy to help make her transition into the new setting as smooth as possible. Immediately , I knew Arianna was perfect for the job. Arianna is patient, kind, very intelligent and loving. She quickly discovered her new classmate shared many of her same interests. She also found out that blindness does not make a person helpless. Arianna learned to offer information to her friend instead of help. Most importantly, Arianna offered her unconditional frinedship.

The girls quickly formed a bond. I will never forget when my new student introduced Arianna to her vision specialist by asking "would you like to meet my new best friend?"

In addition to **"Doing the Right Thing"**, Arianna has received one of life's greatest gifts, one of true friendship.

Parker Ruzeski**JFK High School**

9th Grade

Nominated by: Casey Snyder

September 29th Parker found a large amount of money on the gym floor. He turned the money into me so we could figure out who lost the money. No one noticed him pick it up and he could have kept it for himself, but he choose to **"Do the Right Thing"** and turn it in. Parker, Thank You for your honesty.

Kiara Scaife

Union East Elementary

Pre-K

Nominated by: Heather Matusiak

Kiara is a role model to fellow students in her Pre-K classroom. She comes to school every day with a smile on her face and is ready to learn. Kiara is caring, sweet, compassionate and kind to all her classmates and consistently shows respect to others. She is always willing to lend a hand whether it's organizing, cleaning or running an errand. We catch Kiara **"Doing the Right Thing"**, even though she doesn't know we are watching. Kiara has been nominated many times for the "student of the week" award and was also chosen to represent our UPK classroom at a Cheektowaga Central School District Board Presentation in January. Kiara is a perfect example of students living the "Warrior Way" here at Union East Elementary School.

Wynter Sniatecki**TR Elementary****1st Grade****Nominated by: Emily Markiewicz**

Wynter is a kind, thoughtful and dependable student in the classroom. Her generosity extends beyond our school walls. In January, Wynter donated over a foot of her hair to Wigs for Kids . This act of kindness came as no surprise to anyone who knows Wynter. I am so proud of Wynter for **"Doing the Right Thing"** through her selfless acts and her desire to help children in need!

William Warych**Pine Hill Education Center High School****12th Grade****Nominated by: Tracey Korbel, Lynn Shufelt, Josh Lopez, Marissa Baker, Rhonda Drzewiecki, Dave Ryan, Kathy Crumlish and Julie Stuhmiller**

Billy is one of our longest running students at Pine Hill, started his education with us in middle school. We feel that he is deserving of this nomination for the following reasons: Billy often helps cheer up his peers if they are down by making them laugh or offering them food. He makes himself available to students who might need someone to talk to. Billy helps out around the school with various tasks, from setting up at community nights to helping the custodial staff. He stands up for what he feels is right, even if it isn't the popular with his friends. Billy also saved the money he earned from his after school job to buy his parents a brand new television. These selfless acts are part of **"Doing the**

Right Thing” and are what makes Billy deserving of this award. Way to go Billy!

Irielle Watkins

Maryvale Middle School

6th Grade

Nominated by: Kelly Shaver, Peter Frank

Irielle is a 6th grade student at Maryvale Middle School. Her brother Xavier has leukemia and was in need of a bone marrow transplant. Irielle was going to be her brother’s donor and they went through surgery on December 1st, 2017. Irielle and her brother enjoy playing video games together which Irielle shared they do every single day. Irielle is courageous and brave and provided her brother with an amazing gift. There is no better way of **“Doing the Right Thing”** than by helping another person need.

Tariq Whitaker

Cheektowaga Central High School

12th Grade

Nominated by: Lindsay Hedges

Tariq is a positive leader within the school community. On several occasions he has stepped up to help underclassmen who are having issues in class. He sits down and speaks to them and listens to their story. He guides them to make better choice. He talks to them about how they can be positive leaders in our school community. Tariq follows up with each and every young man. I witnessed him "mentoring". Tariq is truly a class act and is guiding his peers to **"Do the Right Thing"**.