

## GREENE COUNTY RECOGNIZES OUTSTANDING AREA YOUTH

The Greene County Children, Youth & Community Advisory Board is pleased to announce their selections for their 2021 Youth Awards.

A description of the activities and involvement within the community for each youth nominated was submitted to the Advisory Board portraying a caring, dedicated individual whose efforts and accomplishments should be recognized. Selecting the awardees out of the many excellent nominations was a very difficult task. However, they are confident that the awards are being made to very deserving young members of our county: **Paige Swartout, Coxsackie-Athens High School – 2021 Greene County Youth of the Year; Sara Leipman, Catskill High School – Children, Youth & Community Advisory Board Chairman’s Choice Award and Scott Baker, Catskill High School – Greene County Department of Human Services Director’s Choice Award.**



Paige Swartout has volunteered her time in numerous ways at Carpenter Shop Outreach Center; the Oak Grove United Methodist Church in Virginia, and Coxsackie Elementary School PTO. Most notably, she has been invaluable to the D.M. Hamilton Steamer Co. #2 in Coxsackie by babysitting, cooking, cleaning and helping in any other way possible. She has been a member of the Town of Coxsackie Ambulance Juniors program since March 2020, as well as became a member of D.M. Hamilton this past February, and has been certified in CPR and First Aid. As a student, she has achieved Honor Roll grades. Per Leif Roberg who nominated her, “Paige is a wonderful person. She is genuinely kind, thoughtful and compassionate. She always tries her best and lives and breathes a life of service. Her devotion to her fellow citizens is beyond reproach.”

Sara Leipman was one of “Santa’s Helpers”, a program through Catskill High School that raises community funds used to purchase food for needy families. She has served on the CHS Student Government since 2015. She has been involved in All County Band, and is very athletic having played Volleyball, Basketball and Softball during her high school years. Per Jean Duncan who nominated her, “she works hard and pushes herself at sports. If she is in pain, she will wait and then continue to play. She works hard at sports and gives 110%”. She is presently attending Questar III as a Certified Nursing Student. *(No photo provided)*

Scott Baker has been a volunteer for the Matthew 25 Food Pantry since 2014. He served as Supervisor for their Power Pak Program, as well as Stamp Out Hunger. In 2014, he was part of the Greene County Youth Fair. He was a member of the Boy Scouts and participated in their annual Scouting for Food Program, Pinewood Derby, as well as earning scouting’s Arrow of Light. As a student at Catskill High School, he has made the Honor Roll, was involved in Student Government, belonged to the Business and Chess Clubs, and was on the school’s wrestling team. Patricia Dushane said in nominating Scott “he has dedicated his time with Matthew 25 since he was in 4<sup>th</sup> grade. He faithfully comes down every day after school to help. . . Scott always has a smile on his face and never complained about hard work. He is a hard worker, honest and a young man of integrity. You don’t see this commitment now a days.” Scott now works at McDonalds in Catskill but still volunteers when he can.



Other youth receiving Merit Recognition are:

- James Mutinsky – Cairo Durham High School
- Morgan Fancher – Windham-Ashland-Jewett School

All of the youth will be honored at opening ceremonies of the Greene County Youth Fair.