

GREENE COUNTY RECOGNIZES OUTSTANDING AREA YOUTH

The Greene County Children, Youth & Community Advisory Board is pleased to announce their selections for their 2022 Youth Awards.

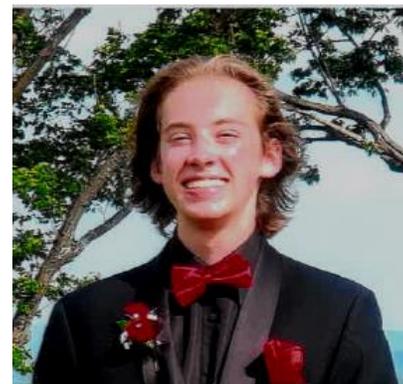
A description of the activities and involvement within the community for each youth nominated was submitted to the Advisory Board portraying a caring, dedicated individual whose efforts and accomplishments should be recognized. Selecting the awardees out of the many excellent nominations was a very difficult task. However, they are confident that the awards are being made to very deserving young members of our county: **Samuel Mozzillo, Cossackie-Athens High School – 2022 Greene County Youth of the Year; Gabriel Hoglund – Cossackie-Athens High School – Children, Youth & Community Advisory Board Chairman’s Choice Award and Brianna Leishear, Windham Ashland Jewett Central School – Greene County Department of Human Services Director’s Award.**



Samuel Mozzillo is the son of Samuel and Lucille Mozzillo of Athens has been a volunteer in his community since 2015 when he joined the Cairo Boy Scouts, and has served as a Senior Patrol Leader, Junior Asst. Scout Master, as well as assisted the Cairo Hose Company with their annual Election Day Spaghetti Dinner. In 2021, he was awarded the rank of Eagle Scout, with his project being the construction of a song bird enclosure for Friends of the Feathered and Furry. Since 2017, he has assisted the E J Arthur PTO at various events including the annual Halloween parties, Breakfast with Santa, 5K run and other school events. As a Scout, he is devoted to our veterans and has played taps for both the Greene County Honor-A-Vet ceremony and at funeral services for Veterans, as well as distributed poppies for Memorial Day as a Sons of the American Legion member. In 2020, he joined the Athens Volunteer Fire Department and has participated in drills, fire calls, as well as the social side of parades and hanging holiday lights around the Village of Athens for Christmas. In 2021, Sam was named as an Ambassador to the Hugh O’Brien Youth

Leadership (HOBY) Conference and this June, he will attend American Legion Boys State, a most respected and selective educational program of government instruction for U.S. high school students. Samuel has made the school’s honor roll several times and was named to the National Honor Society last year. He is active in various clubs (Drama Club, Varsity Club, Hope Club, and Outdoor Club) and as a member of Band/Chorus was named to All County. In addition, he is an athlete having been of the school’s Soccer, Volleyball and Baseball teams. He has been named a Scholar-Athlete and won MIP for soccer and MVP for volleyball this school year. Darlene Mergendahl, his nominator, sums Sam up this way, “if you need something to be taken care of, Sam will always be the first person to raise his hand to volunteer.”

Gabriel D. Hoglund is the son of Eric and Jean Hoglund of Hannacroix and began giving back to his community in 2013 as an Altar Server at St. Mary’s Roman Catholic Church in Cossackie. He later assisted with the church’s podcast project and in 2021, joined the church’s Youth & Faith Formation group. Since 2019, he has assisted RSVP volunteers with Home Delivered Meals when on vacation from school; has helped with the annual Thanksgiving Dinner provided by Hope’s Mission and serves as a tutor for Math for Special Education students in the C-A school district. In 2019, he co-founded the C-A High School Christian Life Club and currently serves as Vice-President. Gabriel was appointed to the NYS YMCA & Youth Government having served as a Legislative Chair and in 2021 was awarded “Best Bill” and “Best Debater”. He volunteers his time by stocking shelves at the Cossackie Food Pantry and by serving as a music tutor for guitar and ukulele. This past February he worked with Catholic Charities Food Distribution Truck by



loading boxes and bringing to clients' cars. He has received several personal achievement awards: Young Playwright Capital Repertory Theater and nationally was named one of the top 5,000 Fastest Rubik's Cube Solvers by the World Cube Association. Academically, Gabe has made the High Honor Roll and is a member of the National Honor Society. He has served as his class treasurer and was President of the 2020 Mock Trial team. He is a member of the school's Investment Club, Outdoors Club, currently President; a member of the Jazz Band (bassist) and Senior Band (1st Clarinet), and serves as Editor-in-Chief of the school newspaper. He has been on the school's soccer, volleyball and track teams.



Brianna Leishear is the daughter of Ron and Brandy Dunham of Windham. She has served as a volunteer at the Windham Community Food Pantry since 2018. She has served on the Student Council at Windham-Ashland-Jewett, and has been a member of the National Junior Honor Society and the National Honor Society. While a student, she has been the treasurer of the school band, chorus, Drama Club, and the Student Council. In addition, she is involved in the school's Jazz Band, Acapella Club, Women's Choir, Clarinet and Sax Ensemble. She has played on the girls' soccer, softball and cheerleading teams. Per Anne Jakubowski, nominator, "we highly value her selflessness and desire to serve others. Brianna is a valued asset to the community."

Congratulations to all these fine young Greene County residents. They are truly role models for others. All of the youth will be honored at opening ceremonies of the Greene County Youth Fair.