

2011 Character Award recipients

Nicholas Bailey
St. Xavier High School
Loveland

Life circumstances taught Nick early some important lessons about walking tall and seeing the world with an open mind and an open heart. Overcoming adversity has helped him find an inner strength that has guided his many selfless actions including adopting a family for the holidays for whom he collected food, clothing and gifts. Nick has also single handedly collected truckloads of canned goods for food pantries, volunteered for the Cincinnati Recreation Commission's wheelchair bowling events, and currently tutors children. That sense of responsibility is carried through into everything he does. An academic honors student for the past three years, he is also a member of his school's Latin team, varsity crew team and Marine Biology Club.

Emma Beyer
Mt. Notre Dame High School
Liberty Township

Emma selflessly gives of herself to others, all while maintaining her smile and sense of spirit. She has served as a student ambassador for four years and has traveled as far away as the Netherlands to represent her school. In the community Emma has volunteered at St. Gabriel Elementary School and for organizations such as St. Vincent DePaul and the Ronald McDonald House; babysat for free for girls whose dad was stationed in Afghanistan; and participated in fund raisers including raising \$2,000 for the Good Samaritan Hospital NICU unit. With all of this, she also finds time to dominate in sportsmanship and talent on the volleyball court.

Angela Bird
Ursuline Academy
Blue Ash

Angela lives every day by the words of Gandhi, "The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others." Beneath her reflective demeanor is an intrepid leader with extraordinary maturity. The past three years she has spent time in the oncology unit at Mercy Mt. Airy Hospital offering a listening ear and reassuring hug to patients. It isn't easy being there for people who have a terminal illness but those who have been touched by Angela call her a blessing. And not just at the hospital. Every Saturday she volunteers at the

Cincinnati Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired. Angela has also taken on many roles at her church from participating in mission trips to coordinating collections to being a teacher's aide. With Gandhi as her inspiration, it should come as no surprise that Angela hopes to one day work as a missionary in Calcutta or Bolivia.

Brian Clift
Bishop Brossart High School
Melbourne (Campbell Co)

Brian came to learn about responsibility and the importance of personal relationships very young. Courage is a word he embraced as he helped his family cope with the sudden, devastating loss of his mother in an accident; and he overcame the challenges of a painful, long term sports injury to run on a track and cross country team. Prevailing over such circumstances has made him a young man of passion for his church, school, family and community. Brian enjoys being involved in his school's campus ministry, writing prayers and helping to plan events. He is an extraordinary minister of Holy Communion and is active in St. Philip Parish' Youth Group. He is also working toward his Eagle Scout rank by designing and replacing a worn down fence.

Sara Constand
Sycamore High School
Blue Ash

Highly respected by her peers, Sara is always seeking the right thing and encouraging others to follow. Those are the strengths she brings to her school roles as a swimmer and lacrosse player, captain of the junior varsity soccer team, class president and a member of her principal's Advisory Committee. Additionally, she gives of her time to the Bread of Life Outreach and serves on the youth council at her church. Through the Northeast Community Challenge Coalition, Sara speaks and plans events aimed at stopping bullying and underage drinking. Staff and volunteers at YMCA Camp Ernst were impacted by her pure joy in life and caring nature when she participated in the Camp's Crew Program responsible for maintaining clean grounds.

Erin Daniels
North College Hill High School
North College Hill

In everything Erin does, she always puts her best foot forward whether in the classroom, in sports or in the community. She is an honor roll student who maintains her grades amidst serving as co-captain on her varsity volleyball team and as president of the Delta GEMS

mentoring group. She also participates on the Student Leadership Team, student council, Service Leaders, yearbook, dance, Project Scope and more. One of her proudest accomplishments is being the head mentor for Girls Creating Change that instills positive values in younger teens. For Erin, summer is a time for additional opportunities. Twice she has interned for UGive, a youth volunteer service organization. And last year she traveled to Peru where she built houses and worked one-on-one with children. All of these activities are important, she said, because "you never know how much you are influencing someone else."

Chartrae' Lechelle Durham
Withrow University
Avondale

Honest, dependable, organized, caring. These have all been used to describe Chartrae,' a young woman determined to make a difference in the world. Studying in the rigorous International Baccalaureate Program, she is a member of the National Honor Society, student council, African Club and Key Club. Her leadership skills are seen in so many activities including when she co-chaired a teacher appreciation dinner, volunteered as a junior counselor at the Boys and Girls Club, helped plan her school's homecoming dance, and served as deputy head of community outreach for the Mount Auburn International Academy. Since her freshman year she has volunteered over 700 hours.

Ja'Lon Farr
Aiken College & Career High School
Hartwell

Those who know Ja'Lon admire his natural way of inspiring the best in others. His infectious enthusiasm as a member of the Cincinnati Youth Collaborative's Project REACH College Advising Program has encouraged peers to strive for success. For that, he was named Spring Break Tour Outstanding Student. Ja'Lon's impact is seen through so many diverse ways. He volunteers at the Ronald McDonald House and the Inner City Soup Kitchens. He is a leader in his school's chess and academic teams, and led his National Society for Black Engineers' team to the championship in robotics last year. He is also a member of the National Honor Society and is a General Electric Scholar.

Hakeem A. Frost
Wyoming High School
Wyoming

Motivated to excel, Hakeem has earned respect from adults and peers alike. The YMCA knows him as an engaged participant of the YMCA Teen Achievers college readiness program. Rarely missing an activity, his warm smile and impeccable manors naturally attract others to his side. Such strong leadership qualities are why YMCA staff selected him last year to serve as master of ceremonies for a regional Teen Summit. Outside of the YMCA, Hakeem volunteers for the American Red Cross and the Black Data Processing Association; and is a member of the Alpha Phi Alpha Esquires Youth Group. Hakeem does all this while keeping class work a priority. He is a Cincinnati Hills League Student Athlete Academic Honors recipient.

Jake Haigis
Archbishop Moeller High School
Loveland

Jake is a champion for social responsibility...in his neighborhood and around the world. As a staff member for Unified 4 UNIFAT and president of his school's Unified 4 UNIFAT chapter, he traveled to Uganda in 2010 to visit the students it benefits. He learned that language isn't a barrier for caring; and he helped found Fun, Give, Life 5K which raises money for the Uganda school. An exemplary student, Jake also keeps busy with other diverse activities including running on the varsity cross country team, being a Eucharistic minister, and serving on Moeller's Youth Philanthropy Council, the decision making body for student service project grants.

Hannah Hale
Norwood High School
Norwood

Every day, in everything she does Hannah is a positive example of living life with virtue. Holding a 4.0 GPA – the highest in her class – her high academic standards carry through in her positive attitude toward family, extracurricular activities, and community service. She is captain of her school's varsity girls basketball team and also a member of its soccer team, demonstrating commitment and sportsmanship. Through her church, Hanna is a member of the youth group and has volunteered at homeless shelters, assisted with home repairs for people in need, and engaged residents of nursing homes using crafts. However, no matter how much she has on her plate, Hannah always finds special time to share with family.

**Linnea Head
Seven Hills School
Indian Hill**

Linnea whole-heartedly and infectiously makes her world a better place. Her influence at Seven Hills has been described as 'legendary'; however, her energy extend far beyond its walls. A fearless model for ethics, it was during a school assembly when she stood before her student body and inspired every student to choose 'trust' and stand up against theft. Again she rallied classmates to a cause when she heard about a Ugandan elementary school for displaced children. Last Valentine's Day Linnea's kindness was displayed in drive she organized to provide flowers to mothers and toys to children residing at the Bethany House shelter. Some of her other projects have included an art fair to support student efforts in making sandwiches for a soup kitchen and a prostate cancer fundraiser.

**Shamari Hinkston
Withrow University High School
Mt Airy**

Shamari is keenly aware that one of his most important roles is being a positive example from which his younger brother can learn. He is always seen with a smile on his face and an outstretched hand, there for whenever someone needs help. Ironically others tend to want to help too when they are around him. Shamari has given over 80 hours of service inside and outside of school. Among those activities is the College For Every Student Club through which he encourages elementary students to stay in school. Shamari especially loves visiting residents in a nursing home because "they have no one to visit them and it brings a smile to their faces." Funny how quickly Shamari's smile spreads.

**Connor Hornsby
Heritage Academy
Florence**

Always eager to go the extra mile, Connor sets high goals for himself – and he accomplishes them. At school he is a leader in the youth group, ministry program and the Drama Club, having participated in many productions. Eighteen first graders look up to him as their teacher's aide, but more importantly as a role model who encourages them to do their very best. It is clear to those who know him that Connor is someone who gives of himself, even if that means giving up something of value. Never was that more apparent than when he gave

up a family vacation to help his employer, Chuck E. Cheese, host a party for a teen who was getting deployed to Afghanistan.

Prince Johnson
Clark Montessori
North Avondale

Well mannered, thoughtful, forgiving and brave are all words used to describe Prince. They are qualities that define the way he chooses to live his life whether he is in school, or volunteering in the community or church. Kennedy Heights Arts Center, Crossroads Liberty Street, Gorman Heritage Farm are among the organizations who have benefited from his kindness. However, never have those qualities been more apparent than the night his friends were randomly assaulted coming out of a restaurant and Prince stepped in to protect them, having the group turn on him instead. The brave young man suffered a concussion and numerous other minor injuries but, he told his mom, he'd jump in harm's way again to protect his loved ones...and he forgave the boys who attacked them.

Rachel Klotz
Aldersgate Christian Academy
Mt. Auburn

Growing up in a large family as the daughter of missionaries to Ghana, Rachel's habits of caring and responsibility were instilled early. It is not unusual for this teen with her class' highest GPA to begin her studies at 4:30 a.m. As serious as she takes her academics, Rachel equally balances her extracurricular time as a member of her school volleyball team, honors choir, band, and a college orchestra. Outside of school she is a member of her church choir. Rachel has also ministered to families in need at the Main Street Mission and volunteered at Matthew 25 Ministries. Her drive to excel has not gone unnoticed. Each of the last six years her teachers have nominated Rachel for the Who's Who of America and Youth Leadership.

Jeremy Krauth
Lakota West High School
Liberty Township

Jeremy is dedicated to being a role model for positive character values and his actions have impacted many. Some of his greatest lessons have come from having to overcome obstacles – including helping his mother battle stage 4 stomach cancer. Since her diagnosis three years ago, he has raised several thousand dollars for the American Cancer Society

and is chairman of the Relay for Life Committee. In school, he volunteers in the Drama Department and was involved with the J. Kyle Braid Leadership Group whose goal it is to stop students from using drugs and alcohol. And, during the summer months, in addition to his job at Kings Island he enjoys volunteering for his church's Bible study group for children where he instills in them an appreciation for God, teamwork, and being nice to others.

Stephanie J. Lang
Ursuline Academy
Montgomery

Stephanie knows, with dreams and determination, all things are possible. A member of the National Honor Society and the National Society for High School Scholars, her long term goal is to serve others as a health care provider and an officer in the United States Army. In that pursuit, she was selected to participate in the National Youth Leadership Forum on Medicine and the TAP MD of the Greater Cincinnati Health Council. Her passion for nurturing children has found her teaching Sunday School at her parish for six years; and, through the America's National Teenager Scholarship Organization, volunteering at and raising funds for the Boys and Girls Club. She also gives of her time through numerous other community and school projects.

Jessica Lee
Boone County High School
Burlington

Jessica is a believer in taking responsibility for your own success, and she is well on her way. While taking the most advanced classes offered, she is also enrolled in college courses at Northern Kentucky University. She does all of this while managing a busy schedule that includes the National Honor Society; French, Book and Science Clubs; and the track and field team. Jessica also finds time to serve the community and has volunteered at over 30 nonprofits. She has packed food for hungry children, tutored elementary school students, cleaned homeless shelters, and participated in many fundraisers. Jessica does all this because, "everyone deserves someone who cares about them."

Darryl Long
Hughes Center
Avondale

Darryl has been called the epitome of a leader, known for his qualities of being well mannered, steadfast and studious. A consistent honor roll student, he has participated in the University of Cincinnati's Explorer Program for healthcare training; and is a long term member of the Cincinnati Scholarship Foundation. His preparatory skills earned him a paid internship and qualified him for the STNA test, as well as got him selected by the Cincinnati Youth Collaborative to participate in a Columbus conference. Darryl's dedication has parlayed into service work as well. He has tutored at Pleasant Ridge Elementary and continues to serve as an afterschool volunteer at the Hirsch Recreational Center.

Alex Mangas
Wyoming High School
Wyoming

For Alex, character is not a word but an action. With courage, conviction and passion he is a tireless agent for social change. He is gifted with the ability to see in everyone their unlimited potential. It's no wonder he was chosen for a group to travel to the Ukraine in the first Cincinnati Sister City Youth Exchange. Language and culture differences were of no barrier to the friendships he formed. At home, Alex has taken up a special interest in giving dignity to the displaced – continuing to help distribute clothing in shelters and downtown parks; and having planned a memorial to honor homeless men and women. His compassion for others has also found him inducing laughter at the Ronald McDonald House and bringing hope to impoverished communities through mission trips.

Animaesh Manglik
Indian Hill
Indian Hill High School

Animaesh follows his heart and encourages others to do the same. His greatest contribution is his eagerness to serve others. In school, his great love is theatre and he has been in productions since the sixth grade. Additionally, he is a scholar athlete on the varsity track and swim teams, president of the fund raising Slam Dunk for LLS (Leukemia & Lymphoma Society), a reporter for the student newspaper, and a member of the choir programs. He also finds time to be involved with student government, and Latin and Spirit Clubs, as well as various community service projects. Animaesh is nationally recognized for Tae-Kwon-Do and his Indian folk dancing. Staff of YMCA Camp Ernst saw his kindness and hard working spirit first hand when Animaesh participated in the Crew Program responsible for maintaining the grounds' cleanliness.

**Alexander Merk
LaSalle High School
Springfield Township**

Alex learned about courage and strength as he stood side by side his younger brother, a brave warrior in the fight for his life. Ultimately cancer won that battle but it did not defeat Alex's spirit. Through it all Alex showed perseverance as he logged more than 100 service hours, thinking about others before himself. He has collected food for the hungry, worked with freshman and their fathers to build family bonds, and is a leader in his school's Signum Fidel Institute which instills in young students strong values and an eagerness to contribute. Alex is also working toward the admirable Eagle Scout designation. During the summer months he has participated in a mission trip to assist those less fortunate. "Alex quietly acts as the hands and feet of God with every opportunity," wrote his teacher in the nomination.

**Carson Neff
Walnut Hills High School
Pleasant Ridge**

Carson is a talented musician with a strong sense of responsibility and a mature realization that communities only work if people care for others. He balances difficult academic course work with his participation on the Academic Quiz Team, varsity tennis team, club soccer team, community service, and his jazz ensemble and touring musical combo. Much time during his summers is spent as a lifeguard at YMCA Camp Ernst where, he said, his eyes were opened to the idea one can make a tangible difference in the community through individual effort and genuine teamwork. Carson has also volunteered for Special Olympics where he passed along his joy for volleyball to participants.

**Nicolas Paxson
St. Xavier High School
Montgomery**

When Nick gets involved with a cause or an activity, he puts his whole heart in it. He contributes by being sensitive to others yet driven to succeed; and that leadership style has earned him great respect. It is because of his character values that he was honored first

after the 8th grade with the Daniel Buckley Award and then with his golf team's Magis Award. A member of the St. Xavier honor roll and the National Honor Society, Nick manages his academics with volunteer work that has included brightening days for patients of Children's Hospital, passing on his love of golf to kids, helping to coordinate a Christmas party for Chase Elementary School students, and packing food at Matthew 25 Ministries. His personal battle with oral cancer inspired his leading his golf team's fundraiser for cancer research. Sharing his story encouraged others to participate and collect almost \$27,000 – \$2,200 of which was raised by Nick himself.

Jake Perrmann
St. Antoninus
Western Hills

Making friends is about treating others as you want to be treated and bringing out the best in people by your example. In case you were wondering, Jake has many friends. When a member on his swim team struggled just to finish, it was Jake – a beginner himself – whose smile, cheers and high five made the experience one of triumph. Each year Jake was chosen for the team's 'Flipper Award' for his character values – attributes that would be put into practice when injuries sidelined him from sports. With resiliency, Jake simply changed directions. He was a member of the It's Academic Team that won first place in competition and his words in the annual speech competition won a gold medal. He also attended the Ohio Association of Student Council's leadership program and the Leadership Experience and Development conference. Outside school Jake volunteers in the community, tutors, and is active in his parish.

Mariah Faith Reynolds
School for Creative & Performing Arts
Riverside (near Delhi)

Mariah has been described as a caring soul who does whatever she can to help others. An honors student, she has started two organizations, collected over 3000 books, given speeches honoring WWII veterans, raised more than \$35,000 to organizations, sent over 7,000 Valentine's Day cards to U.S. service personnel, collected 462 pairs of gloves for those in need, and created a website to link volunteer opportunities for teens. She is also an honors student and current World's Jr. Teen Miss Ohio Tourism, who enjoys acting in school plays, singing in the choir and competing with the academic team. For all that she does, she has received the President's Gold Service Award each year since 2007, earned the

President's Lifetime Call to Service Award in 2010 and been named one of Ohio's top youth volunteers.

Zachary Richardson
Finneytown High School
Finneytown

Zach approaches tasks like he approaches relationships – with enthusiasm. Others know him as the young man who always gives it his all, whether he is studying for a test, nurturing the strengths in children, or reaching out to those in need. Zach is involved in Finneytown's theatre department, yearbook, art club and homecoming committee. It is his strong sense of values that has earned him his school's Student of the Month and Stephanie Hummer 'Big Heart' Award. Powel Crosley, Jr. YMCA staff and children have come to know him first as an all star camper, then a respected Camper in Leadership Training. And many in the community value him for his volunteerism...including the Interfaith Hospitality Network, Ronald McDonald House, and his church.

Abigail Rieger
Mother of Mercy High School
Green Township

Abby embraces life, including its challenges and its opportunities for growth. A Leading Scholar Scholarship recipient whose long term goal is to become a pediatric oncologist, she participates in University Hospital's Medical Explorers Program. Amidst her rigorous academic schedule, it is important for her to give back. In school Abby volunteers through the Key Club, PALS (letter writing to seniors), the Urban Immersion Trip, and as a student council homeroom representative. She also volunteers for Good Samaritan Hospital and the Aubrey Rose Foundation, which honored her with its Aubrey Rose Foundation Scholarship and its Above & Beyond Scholarship. Those honors are not the first time her values have been noticed. Abby also earned the Girl Scout Bronze and Marian Awards.

Dion'te Riley
Withrow University High School
Evanston

Dion'te is a shining example of caring, respect, responsibility and honesty. He has generously given of himself to improve the lives of others. Through his baseball teams, he has served as a mentor and community activist. In 2008 he travelled to the Dominican Republic to participate in a food drive. He personally collected enough food to fill 17 grocery

carts for families in need. With other teammates of The Cincinnati Spikes, he helped ensure other children had uniforms they needed to also learn character values through sports. Furthermore he read stories to children and assisted in rebuilding homes that were damaged in flooding. As a member of his school's varsity baseball team, Dion'te was a role model to youth in a baseball camp they facilitated.

Nicole Robertson
Campbell County High School
Alexandria

One of Nicole's great passions is paying it forward to those who need help the most. By reaching out to touch others, she has gained a greater appreciation for what matters most in life – family, friends and health. Through volunteering with the Knights of Columbus and her role as a junior swim coach for the Northern Kentucky Special Olympics, Nicole's joyful guidance has inspired those with disabilities. Additionally, Nicole is active in her 4-H Club and gives of her time to her church preschool program, St. Elizabeth Hospital, and numerous other causes including organizing a book drive. She even started a volunteer club in her elementary school to encourage others to give back too.

Yesenia Sanchez
Butler Tech/Monroe High School
Liberty Township

Yesenia's positive attitude has a way of making everyone around her a better person. She exudes confidence in all that she does. Volunteers and staff of the YMCA Black & Latino Achievers Program have seen that first hand. A YMCA Teen Achiever of two years, she is a peer leader in the Program's Toastmasters. Yesenia's sense of responsibility is also demonstrated through volunteer commitments as an usher at church and a reporter for TRUedutertainment website. Class work is a top priority for her and she does it while also managing her time with being on the Monroe High School varsity soccer and track teams.

Alexandria Marie Smith
Withrow University
Coryville

Alexandria has a tender heart for others, a trait that has been instilled in her early. She was just ten years old when she learned the meaning of giving back by accompanying her grandmother on weekly visits to a nursing home. Alexandria has been finding ways to serve ever since. At her church, she mentors girls through its children's ministry, cleans and helps

serve snacks. Through the G.A.P. Program, she organizes activities for youth, serving as a caring role model and example of good decisions. Alexandria also enjoys volunteering with her classmates from school, making their impact on numerous causes. "It makes me feel good to know I'm making a little difference," she said. And for that, she will be a recipient of the President's Volunteer Award.

Sidney Stacy
McAuley High School
Colerain Township

It's been 10 years since Sid said she wanted to raise money for a goat for Heifer International, sprouting her love for giving back. Since then, she has been a church Sunday school teacher for the last six years. She is also a volunteer lifeguard for YMCA Camp Ernst. However, Sid's favorite place to give back is Shriners Hospital for Children because it allows her to see the life lessons her father and role model sees every day as the captain of the Colerain Township Fire Department. Helping others, he taught her, is deeply rooted in a person's genes. As Senior Class President, a 4-year member and Captain of McAuley's varsity basketball team, member of the National Honor Society, National Latin Honor Society and many other clubs, Sid is stretched to her limits at times but keeps herself grounded. When asked to sum up her life in 6 words or less she quotes Latin *non ducor duco* - I am not led; I lead.

Robert Stevenson
Colerain High School
Colerain Township

It seems befitting that Robert's favorite quote is, "The value of a man resides in what he gives and not in what he is capable of receiving," from Albert Einstein. Robert takes great joy in listening and offering words of encouragement, in reaching out to help those unable to help themselves, and in striving for personal goals. A 2011 YMCA Teen Achiever scholarship recipient, he is a member of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection Explorer Program, his school's Black Culture Club, Skills USA, and track & field team. He has volunteered in senior centers and participated in numerous walkathons. It is his dedication to community service that earned him an additional \$3,000 scholarship, this one from the JCPenney Care, Share, Win essay contest.

Katelyn Sussli
Mount Notre Dame Academy

Loveland

Katelyn has all of the qualities of a great leader – composure, maturity, passion, and of course, a warm smile. She is an executive board member for her school's Youth Philanthropy Council and a philanthropy ambassador for a larger community-wide effort with the same purpose – to teach teens about civic responsibility by researching and granting money to nonprofits. Her inspiring actions earned her the first Roger Grein Spirit of Philanthropy Award; and in Katelyn's style, instead of keeping her gift she carefully selected the right charity to which she'd give it. But that doesn't tell her whole story. Katelyn's leadership found her again at the helm of a major effort as she engaged nearly half of her school in raising over \$25,000 for Relay for Life benefitting the American Cancer Society. Not satisfied, she is preparing for an even bigger response this year! In fact, every activity in which she gets involved becomes a success...and there have been many.

Tyler Swanson Roger Bacon High School Colerain Township

Known for his compassion, Tyler is a hard worker who puts his fullest energy into all of his responsibilities. In his role on Student Senate as a Senior Leader, he has inspired success in freshman by creating programs, tutoring and advising them. Tyler is also vice president of his school's Community Outreach Board, and active in its St. Vincent De Paul chapter; and committed to its Bacon Buddies Program in which he organizes activities for spending quality time with children in Over-the-Rhine. "Everyone deserves the opportunity to have a role model," he said of his passion for volunteerism. Tyler believes caring is about making the time for what is most important whether that is nurturing young lives or stepping up to organize a unity assembly.

Salamata Waiga North College Hill High School North College Hill

When it comes to effort, Salamata gives nothing less than her all. Staff and volunteers of UGive saw that first hand when she was a participant of its UCREW leadership program and an intern last summer. Salamata served on UGive's Logistics Committee where she was looked up to for having such attention to detail and efficiency. Her genuine leadership motivated other committee members to follow her path. That sense of responsibility is also seen in school where Salamata is a majorette, and part of the student leadership team,

student council and service leaders. No matter what the activity, it seems, Salamata inspires greater good.

Alison Woulms
Gilbert A. Dater High School
Green Township

A determined young woman with inner strength measuring way beyond her years, Alison's greatest classroom has been her home. She learned about fortitude from the brave battle of her father against a long term illness, love from the tenderness of family, and responsibility from stepping up to be part of her father's fight. She is determined to make her impact. While maintaining straight A's and a part-time job, Alison manages a busy schedule that includes having spent over 250 hours of community service. A past president of her class student council and Venture Scout Group, she has volunteered through the Mayerson Foundation and Ugive among others. She volunteers at church in many ways including working with the children's program, serving as president of the youth group, and traveling on mission trips.

LeighAndria Young
School for Creative & Performing Arts
Over-the-Rhine

Life hasn't been easy for LeighAndria, challenging her with difficult circumstances. Yet the experiences have given her courage and compassion. They have taught her to be a better, more resilient person and for that she is looked up to as a role model and leader. LeighAndria's sense of responsibility begins in the home where she helps her single father struggle with the challenges of making ends meet while raising ten biological and three step children. At school she is senior class president and tutors younger girls, stressing that they love and express themselves through art. A creative writing major and honor roll student, she has performed original poetry to diverse audiences and has spoken to hundreds of peers at the Mayerson Community Service Workshop.