City of Wolverhampton

Young Citizens Award Finalists

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CHELSEA RIST

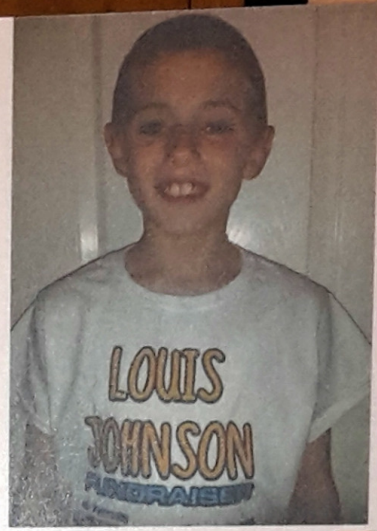
For the last year, Chelsea Rist has been taking part in beauty pageants. Her mother, who proposed her, says that success in beauty pageants is not just about looking pretty. It is about the person within. Chelsea has used her involvement to raise £800 between April and Christmas last year. She has raised money for sanitary products for young girls in Africa, clothes for the homeless through the Red Bag Company and cash for Birmingham Children's Hospital, The Rainbow Foundation, Anti Bullying U.K. and Autism Awareness. She supported the Rotary Club at its Christmas collection.

Since Christmas, Chelsea has raised £250 for the Christie Foundation. In June she planned to do a sky dive in aid of the Christie Foundation and Short Lives. Her target is to raise £500. In July she is doing an abseil for Acorns Children's Hospice and a 5k colour blast run for Compton Hospice. Chelsea has had to overcome bullying and she shares caring duties with her mom for a disabled father and a granddad who has dementia. She is a caring and compassionate girl who shows determination to go the extra mile to help others.

DOROTHEA MORIARTY

Dorothea Moriarty was nominated by a member of staff at her school, St. Edmunds Catholic Academy, and the mother of a boy who has Aspergers Syndrome to whom she has shown exceptional compassion, support and kindness. She was very supportive in school but this has continued since the boy was taken into Birmingham Children's Mental Hospital last September. Thea has constantly kept in touch, been to visit him, taken him to the cinema and for a meal and delivered messages from others at school. The mother of the boy writes 'without Thea's selfless wisdom and compassion our son would be in a far darker place. She has definitely been instrumental in his recovery process for which we as a family will be forever grateful. She has been an absolute rock for our son, helping him to believe in himself and others when doctors couldn't. She has shown wisdom and compassion which far outweigh her tender years. She is an amazing ambassador for the youth of today, a genuine young person who puts other people's needs and feelings before her own.' ' She is a radiant beam of light in his life'.

In addition, Thea has demonstrated good citizenship in her school community. She was a leading light in raising funds to buy sleeping bags for a homeless shelter in Wolverhampton and deliver them. She was featured for this in the Express and Star. The school regards her as an exceptionally caring young lady of whom they are very proud.



LOUIS JOHNSON

Louis was nominated by his mother and a neighbour. He is nine years old. For nearly five years he has been raising money for Compton Hospice and other charities. Last Christmas he raised £583 by selling Christmas cards he made himself. He baked cakes and helped host CRY Wolves to raise awareness about Cardiac arrest in 14 to 30 year olds. He has baked cakes to raise money at his local church. Nat West Bank have allowed him to fund raise for his chosen charity at their bank. Louis has raised thousands of pounds for charity over several years. In addition, he has donated books to New Cross Hospital. In May he was collecting for Compton Hospice and Promise Dreams at Perton Carnival. He holds a Blue Peter badge for his charity work.

His neighbour said 'This young man should be recognised for what he is doing. He is an inspiration to us all. I don't know his age or where he lives but I have seen his Facebook page'.

SOPHIE THORPE

Sophie has demonstrated that she can inspire others through Beavers, as head chorister at her Church and Head Girl at Wolverhampton Girls High School. She has mentored younger children and choristers and she has a passion for helping people in underdeveloped parts of the world and has a keen interest in global issues. When she was 16 she travelled to Malawi to visit a Medic Malawi Project supporting a hospital, orphanage and school. On her return she spoke passionately about it in a school assembly prompting the school to raise £1,000.00 and give netball bibs. This experience whetted her appetite for longer term engagement and prompted her desire to study geography at University and seek a qualification to help her to address inequality either globally or locally. She has led a 'one world' school harvest celebration and this Autumn she will be going abroad for a year. She has resolved to spend a gap year teaching English in a remote part of Nepal. After reaching Nepal she will have to travel 4.5 hours by bus, 9 hours off road and 3 hours on foot to reach the remote village where she will be working. Living conditions will take her well beyond her comfort zone.

She has had to undertake fund raising for her gap year which has involved approaching many voluntary organisations for donations and a variety of fund raising ideas. She was a speaker at Bilston and Wolverhampton St. Georges Rotary Clubs.

ALFIE BAUGH

Alfie was Wolverhampton Young Citizen of the Year Runner up last year. He has been nominated again because he has continued his charity and community service activities. Last year he raised £680 for Comic Relief by making red nose cupcakes and selling those over two weekends from home. He printed off over 100 flyers and posted them to all his neighbours and streets in the local area and also told all his friends and teachers. Many people came to his house just to donate money. Alfie also asked a local business man, Peter James, to match whatever he had raised and Peter was delighted to say yes! Alfie is a very motivated, confident and caring boy and not only does he raise money for charity but he writes a weekly newsletter for all the residents in his neighbourhood. There is a convent near to his home so he has arranged for one of the nuns there to write a weekly prayer to put in his newsletter and a neighbour writes an astronomy column. For two years running Alfie has organised a bonfire night event on the open space in his local community. He sent a newsletter out asking all his neighbours to meet up in the park and each bring a firework. He got all the neighbours together and arranged a street firework display which was a great night and all the neighbours joined in. Everybody in the neighbourhood knows Alfie; he takes everyone's dustbins in on bin day, he helps a disabled lady who lives just over the road and litter picks in the street to keep the street clean. He never asks for anything but neighbours write him cards and send chocolates to tell him how much they enjoy his newsletter, and what he does for them so he knows that he is a highly valued part of the community. Last summer Alfie asked the Manager of Waitrose if he could organise a Macmillan Coffee event in his coffee bar. He got leaflets printed and cakes donated and over 100 people attended. He raised £960. Two members of Alfie's family have diabetes and one has had a double transplant. Diabetes U.K is an important charity for the family. This Summer, Alfie will be doing a 90 mile sponsored walk from Manchester Diabetic Centre to Wolverhampton. He will walk 15 miles a day. He has been in training for several months and has set up a Just Giving page online. We wish him luck.

EMMA CURRAN

Emma was nominated by two fellow members of the Wolverhampton City Youth Council. She joined the Council in 2013 and soon made a mark with her enthusiasm and creative ideas. She became Chairman in 2014/15 and this year she is Membership and Democracy Officer. Nationally, she represents the City as an elected member of the Youth Parliament. Here she spoke at the 2015 Youth Parliament House of Commons sitting in a debate on religious discrimination and racism. She has led a campaign in favour of Votes at 16 and on Mental Health.

Emma is a pupil at Wolverhampton Girls High School. She has completed her Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award and she was part of the winning team in a Women in Engineering Day at Molineux Stadium. She was part of a mock Magistrates trial where she mentored the teams and she is a peer counsellor. She has helped girls with peer pressure, body image and relationship issues.

She is a member of the Development Group for the City's new Youth Zone, The Way. Emma is a committed Girl Guide. She attends regularly and has been involved in a multitude of projects. She represented the Wolverhampton Girl Guide Association on trips to Croatia (2013) Gambia (February 2015) and France (Summer 2015). In the Gambia, her group painted the walls of a school, made crafts with children and donated supplies to a local hospital. She is working her way towards being a Queens Guide.

Emma is a volunteer at Wolverhampton Tennis Club where she teaches 3 to 6 year olds, umpires at competitions, completed a programme called 'Tennis Futures' where she did 60 hours of voluntary work, completed a tennis leaders course and quantified as a first aider. She has represented the club in the Women's D Team and was recognised as an 'Every Point Junior' for her help at presentations.

MARESHA GREWAL

Maresha was nominated by her school. She is Deputy Head Girl at St. Edmunds Catholic Academy.

Maresha is always proactively involved with charity events. She has contributed to annual charity walks, Christmas shoe box appeals, Good Shepherd appeal, car washes, CAFOD events and the YMCA Sleepeasy campaign twice. She sang at the Pope's visit in 2011.

She is dedicated to the sport of taekwondo. She was a black belt at 13, volunteered at colour belt gradings twice a year for the last five years, coached younger members of the Wolverhampton Club and led circuit training.

Throughout her school life, Maresha has helped with younger years in the school in netball and athletics and has umpired indoor and outdoor events. In year 9 she achieved Bronze, silver and gold leadership awards as a result of volunteering for over 200 hours of sports events. This enabled her to volunteer at the great Tesco and Sainsbuys run as well as helping in primary and secondary school sports days.

She has become a true inspiration to young sports women but also demonstrates a passion for good citizenship and community service.

ORLA HARTSHORNE

Orla was nominated by a teacher at her school, Wolverhampton Girls High School. She has participated in many events to help others but has a particular commitment to the Fairtrade Foundation. In addition to participating in assemblies she led an enterprise project to sell Fairtrade products within her school and to expand the enterprise to other schools including Highfields and St Judes Schools. The enterprise raised £600 which was split between Compton Hospice and Bull Dog Rescue. She has been a member of the school's fair-trade committee for four years and helped the school gain Fairtrade School Status. In addition, Orla has helped organise charity events such as staff rounders and Christmas shoe box collections.

She volunteers at Sunrise Home for the elderly in the Dementia/Alzheimer unit and helps with activities together with other girls from the school. She has helped year 2 pupils at Merridale Primary school with their reading one morning a week for three months. She writes for an agenda-less political blog, Naked Politics, that aims to encourage young people to be interested in politics. She mentors younger students and has a positive 'bubbly' personality.