Abdullah Nasir Earns 18th Annual Community Service Award

Centerville High School Senior Abdullah Nasir was honored Monday by Washington Township Trustees with the township’s 18th annual Community Service Award. For the third year, the award includes a $500 scholarship.

Abdullah has contributed his time to five separate CHS service clubs, including Octagon Club, National Honor Society, Key Club, Interact Club and Students Against Drunk Driving. As class secretary, he helped coordinate last year’s Spirit Chain project that raised $72,500 for local charities -- a new school record. He also has taught science to elementary students through Chem Buddies, mentored freshmen through Elk Connectors, and tutored middle school students through Study Buddies.

“Abdullah is an outstanding young man and has made service an integral part of his life,” says National Honor Society Advisor Andrew Yuker, noting that outside of school he has logged more than 700 hours of volunteer service through Muslim Youth Outreach (MYO). “Thanks to MYO, volunteer work has become a passion for Abdullah, and he’s grown to love working with and helping others.”

A founding member of MYO when he was in eighth grade, Abdullah has worked with other Muslim youth to assist the Dayton Food Bank, House of Bread, Hannah’s Treasure Chest, St. Vincent de Paul, St. Leonard, Five Rivers MetroParks and Catholic Social Services. The group also meets weekly at the mosque to writes cards for veterans.

But among his many volunteer activities, Abdullah has a favorite: On Fridays he visits the home of local Tanzanian refugees where he tutors several young people and frequently plays soccer with them. "We’ve been with the kids four years and we’ve seen them grow and become more passionate," he says. "They’re amazing kids and it’s heartwarming to develop that connection. It just feels like a family."

Abdullah credits his mother with setting the example for his voluntarism. An early memory is accompanying her to the mosque during Ramadan where they met with others to assemble food bags and deliver them to people in need. “To me, volunteering was enjoyable. We could make a difference while having fun together.”

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His advice to other students is simple, direct and wise: “I would tell them two things. The first is to get involved with whatever you can. You never know what kind of difference you can make or what kind of difference volunteering can make in you. Second, be sure that you go in with a pure and genuine intent.”

Besides volunteering, Abdullah has run track four years at Centerville and has served as secretary of the Medical Science Club, co-president of Investment Club, and co-founder of the CHS Muslim Student Association. He also has participated in Model UN, Health Occupation Students of America and the Spanish Honor Society. The son of Umara and Muhammad Chaudry, 1257 Beech Trail Dr., he will study biology in the fall at The Ohio State University.

Trustees established the Community Service Award to recognize student volunteers and, in the process, draw attention to the importance of public service. Advisors for Centerville High School’s four service organizations – Key Club, Octagon Club, Interact Club and National Honor Society – select the student who, through sustained effort, best exemplifies service to the local, national or international community. “By recognizing students who are generous with their time, we hope to foster an ethic of voluntarism among the next generation,” says Trustee President Sharon Lowry. “Service is an important aspect of citizenship and volunteers are essential if we are to create and maintain strong, vibrant communities.”

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