

# Niagara Wheatfield Community Boosters awards scholarships

Recipients include seven members of the NW Class of '22

On Saturday, Aug. 6, the Niagara Wheatfield Community Boosters awarded seven scholarships to members of the Niagara Wheatfield High School Class of 2022. Included are NWF graduates Nicolette Faller, Evan Hardy, Braden Muldoon, Madison Siegmann, Kelsey Tylec, Cory Walck and Sarah Wikander.

The scholarship awards were presented in memory of Ann D. Bishara, president of the Niagara Wheatfield Boosters, who passed away this past April. Bishara served as a dedicated teacher in the Niagara Wheatfield Central School District for more than 50 years and was class advisor to over 1,500 students.

"She encouraged everyone to pursue their dreams, no matter what challenges they encountered in life," said organization treasurer Debbie Sheehan in the Boosters release.

According to her son, Dave Bishara, "Ann coordinated the NW Community Booster Scholarships Program up until her passing. On June 6 at the NW Senior Awards Night Ceremony, Mrs. Debbie Sheehan, treasurer, submitted the NW Community Boosters 2022 scholarship winners in memory of Ann. Mr. Al Pogel presented them to the winners.

"All present to took a moment of silence to honor Mrs. Bishara's great work and dedication to education, her colleagues and all of the students at Niagara Wheatfield High School. She always

quoted Eleanor Roosevelt to her students - 'The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.'"

Dave Bishara said he plans on continuing his involvement in the NW Community Boosters organization with Sheehan.

## Nicolette Faller

Nicolette Faller is the daughter of Jim and Barb Faller of Sanborn. She carried a 97.287 GPA and ranks No. 37 out of the NW class of 276 graduates. A member of the National Honor Society, she was active in numerous NW musical and theatre activities and participated in musical plays each spring and fall.

A recipient of bronze and silver awards from the Girl Scouts, she earned her Gold Award (the equivalent to the Boy Scouts Eagle Scout Award) by creating a garden at Girl Scout Camp Windy Meadows aimed to commemorate locally celebrated women in Scouting and inspire the next generation of girls who visit the camp.

She is a recipient of the 21st Century Leadership Award, the George H. Ball Community Achievement Award and the George Eastman Young Leader Award (June 2021) for community involvement, high grades, and leadership qualities. Nicolette has mentored elementary-aged children participating in musicals and volunteered at Mount St. Mary's Hospital, aiding patients with escort and delivery services.

She plans on attending SUNY Geneseo to obtain a double major in psychology and sociomedical science. She also plans on attending graduate school for her masters in clinical psychology and ultimately become a pediatric clinical psychologist.

## Evan Hardy

Evan Hardy is the son of Kenneth and Linda Hardy of Wheatfield. He holds a GPA of 98.457 and ranks No. 19 of 276 graduates. His academic achievements include the Lions Club Award, Falcon Pride Award and NYS Seal of Bi-Literacy in Spanish Award. A scholar athlete he served as treasurer of the National Honor Society and vice president of the Niagara Wheatfield After School Assistance Program, where he helped kids in all subjects, specializing in math. He is active in the Take A Look at Teaching Club; was captain of the Niagara Wheatfield varsity bowling team; served as a recreational camp counselor in the Town of Cambria and works at the Volare Lodge I.S.D.A. bingo concession stand.

Evan has been an employee at Wegmans Food Markets since 2019, and plans on attending Niagara University towards a degree in math and continue volunteering in the community.

## Braden Muldoon

Braden Muldoon is the son of David and Karen Muldoon of North Tonawanda. He holds a GPA of 96.948 in and ranks No. 40 of 276 in his graduating class. His honors include the Falcon Pride Award, Academic Honor's Award and Seal of Bi-Literacy Award in Spanish, and the Varsity Hockey Grinder Game Award.

The graduate holds a "passion for health, fitness and sports for all of his life," and volunteered at his mother's in-home day care, playing games with children and teaching them about sports.

He is a member of National Honor Society and a member of the JV lacrosse, JV hockey, varsity hockey and varsity tennis teams at NW; outside of school he participated in NWAA lacrosse, travel hockey and was team captain. Braden also enjoys playing piano and guitar.

He is a volunteer at Paws for Love through the Erie County SPCA, where he brings his own certified pet to hospitals, nursing

homes, funeral parlors and schools to help others alleviate sadness, stress and loneliness. Brandon also serves meals at a homeless shelter, participates at the Town of Wheatfield Youth Center; and volunteers at St. Christopher's Church and with the Town of Wheatfield Recreation Department. He is also a member of LYNC (Leadership for the Youth of Niagara Communities).

Braden plans to attend the State University at Brockport and pursue a degree in physical education.

## Madison Siegmann

Madison is the daughter of Paul and Jacqueline Siegmann of North Tonawanda. She holds a GPA of 95.006 and ranks No. 63 of 276 at Niagara Wheatfield. She was a class officer and member of the National Honor Society, and also participated on the stage crew, Outdoor Club, Environmental Club, Alaska Club and the Pep Club.

She has volunteered with Venturing Club 824 at the Cub Scout Summer Camp; in Allegheny Clean-up Day and in National Youth Leadership Training; Madison also works with Feathers of Love Trunk or Treat and as a Santa's Helper. At Niagara Wheatfield she was president of the Environmental Club, secretary of the Alaska Club and secretary of the Class of 2022.

She works as a cashier at Marsh's General Store in the Town of Niagara and is pursuing a degree from the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry. Following graduation she plans to pursue a career with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or the U.S. Forest Service.

## Kelsey Tylec

Kelsey is the daughter of Jeffrey and Billie Tylec of North Tonawanda. She holds a GPA of 97.47 and ranks No. 34 of 276 at Niagara Wheatfield. She is a member of the National Honor Society and a NYSPHSAA Scholar Athlete, recognized as an Impact Player and a Rookie of the Year.

At NW she was active in varsity volleyball, JV volleyball, and NCVC Travel Volleyball and was a league, sectional and regional champion, and a two-time State Runner-up for the Beach/Indoor Nationals.

She has interned for the Niagara County SPCA; volunteered in Girls in Sports and at the Foster Parent Picnic; and participated in the Tuscarora Water Collection project during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In addition a fundraiser program and made her own label, Ginny's Journey, where she sold merchandise for a NW student battling Leukemia. She was a fundraiser for Clearwater Marine Aquarium, raising \$1,000 and fundraiser for Footsteps of WNY, Ni-

agara County SPCA and St. Jude's Cancer Research Hospital.

Kelsey is a recipient of the Lions Club Citizenship Award.

She currently employed at Pane's Restaurant and working towards a management position. Kelsey was accepted at both the State University at Buffalo and James Madison University. She plans to major in business towards obtaining a law degree.

## Cory Walck

Cory is the son of Timothy and Brenda Walck of Sanborn. He holds a GPA of 100.96; ranks No. 1 out of NW graduates 276 and is class Valedictorian of the NW Class of 2022. He is a member of the National Honor Society and received the Falcon Pride Award.

Cory was active with the NW concert band; played trumpet with the Junior All County Band and is a member of the Sanborn Fire Company Marching Band. He was a member of the NW JV volleyball team and the varsity golf team where he earned a varsity letter.

A life-long member of St. Peter's Lutheran Church, he is active the Youth Group Program where he participates in monthly events, including volunteering and at Community Missions work such as "Feed the Falls."

Cory is employed as a manager at Hoover's Dairy and Restaurant; he plans on attending medical school. Cory said he is proud to be named as the Niagara Wheatfield Class of 2022 valedictorian.

## Sarah Wikander

Sarah is the daughter of Thomas and Laurie Wikander of North Tonawanda. She holds a GPA of 99.6 and ranks No. 10 of 276 at NW.

She is a recipient of the NW Falcon Pride Award and NW Academic Honors Award, and a member of the National Honor Society and Student Council. She is recognized as a NW Community All-Star, is a Niagara Falls DAR Good Citizen Scholar and received both NW Niagara PAL Leadership and NYS Seal of Bi-Literacy Awards.

Highly regarded for her community volunteer work Sarah is co-president to the Holy Ghost Senior Youth Group; works as a NT Library Junior Friend volunteer, and with the St. James & Holy Ghost Vacation Bible School and was an officer of the NW Student Council.

Sarah also serves with the Interact Club; is a member of the Take a Look at Teaching (TALOT) Club, a member of the NW After School Assistance Program and a graduate of the Leadership for the Youth of Niagara Committees.

She will be attending St. John Fisher University in the fall and pursue a career as an elementary teacher and continue volunteering in the community.

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