

The 2026 Annual
Lt. Joe Gullickson
Memorial Picnic



THE
MAVERICK
FOUNDATION

25 YEARS

OF

REMEMBRANCE & HOMAGE

Special thanks to **Danielle McLaughlin**, our first Scholarship Recipient in 2002, for your faithful support and dedication.

“Success is not something that can be measured by wealth. It is being a responsible and productive person. Being successful is not always about receiving. It is also about giving. It is leading by example and being a person that people aspire to be. I believe true success is living your life to its fullest potential and enjoying what you do.”

– Danielle MacLaughlin



Special Thank You to **Emma Fitzgerald**, for singing **The Star-Spangled Banner!**



Thank you Andrew Rocca, Evalyn Maxwell,
and the Turner Kickball Team



OUR MISSION

The Maverick Foundation develops mentoring relationships with eighth graders entering high school who are determined to reach their full potential in all areas of life and especially have a passion for community service. With the Congressional Award as our partner, we advise and guide our scholarship recipients helping them to set and achieve goals in community service, personal development, physical fitness, and expedition/exploration.

SCHOLARSHIPS GRANTED

Since 2002, The Maverick Foundation has awarded \$657,340 in scholarships to 102 recipients and have committed \$160,250 for the next four years. We awarded \$36,250 in 2026. We currently have thirty-seven active scholarship recipients including nine new rising stars who recently joined our team.

Scholarships are incentive based with each having a maximum value of \$7,000. Recipients are required to achieve the Congressional Award Bronze Medal by December of their Sophomore Year (\$1,000), the Silver Medal by December of their Junior Year (\$1,000), and the Gold Medal by December of their Senior Year (\$2,000). An annual \$750 scholarship is awarded for the four years based on consistent progress towards each medal level.

CONGRESSIONAL AWARD RECOGNITION

In partnership with the Congressional Award, The Maverick Foundation advises and supports our scholarship recipients through the three medal levels of The Congressional Award Program. Each medal requires successfully completing the following goals:

CONGRESSIONAL AWARD MEDAL REQUIREMENTS			
PROGRAM AREA	BRONZE	SILVER	GOLD
Volunteer	100 Hours	200 Hours	400 Hours
Personal Development	50 Hours	100 Hours	200 Hours
Physical Fitness	50 Hours	100 Hours	200 Hours
Expedition/Exploration	2 Day	3 Day	5 Day

The Maverick Foundation is proud of the hard work and dedication of our scholarship recipients that resulted in **83 Bronze Medals, 70 Silver Medals, and 54 Gold Medals** since 2002 for a total of **207 Medals** that includes eight Bronze, six Silver, and five Gold Medals earned in 2026.

2026 MEDAL ROSTER:

GOLD

Lily Ahlborn
Talia Lioce
Annie Falcone
Sean Britton
Connor Kukal

SILVER

Madison Backstrom
Michael Avitto
Gabiella Peragine
Nicole Falanga
Jason Anderson

BRONZE

Robyn Rockfeller
Sophia DeSantis
Alexis Vautrinot
Connor Gioia
Steven Ragucci
Gianna Pizzo

COMMUNITY SERVICE COMMITMENTS

Our scholarship recipients proactively engage and support a wide array of non-profit organizations and causes that benefit the greater community at-large. Each recipient impacts their community in their own unique way. Since 2002, they have volunteered 24,805 hours that includes 1,900 hours in 2026. We are proud to have positively impacted our community with the following causes and organizations:

- Autism Walks
- Beach Clean-ups
- Bread of Life
- Breast Cancer Walks
- Brotherhood for the Fallen
- Clove Lakes Healthcare & Rehabilitation Center
- DKMS
- Friends of Staten Island
- Grace Foundation
- Great Kills Little League
- Hearing Our Heroes
- Knights of Columbus
- Ladies for Charity
- Little Free Library
- Meals on Wheels
- Michael J. Vesci Foundation
- Mid-Hudson Valley Association for People with Disabilities
- Moore Cares for toiletry drives & food drives, collecting school supplies, and turkey packing
- New York City Fire Museum
- Polar Bear Plunges
- Project Hospitality
- Society of St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry
- South Shore Community Pantry
- Staten Island Giving Circle
- Staten Island Community Gardens
- Staten Island Moravian Cemetery
- Sunrise Assisted Living Facility
- Tunnel to Towers Foundation
- Westerleigh Little League
- Where to Turn
- Staten Island Monuments
- Staten Island Zoo
- Blackburn Family Cancer Foundation
- Operation Gratitude
- American Cancer Society
- Michael J. Vesci Foundation
- Holy Family Basketball Club
- Emergency Children's Help Organization (ECHO)
- Achilles International



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATING SENIORS



LILY AHLBORN

- Achieved The Congressional Award Gold Medal
- Overall GPA of 99
- Member of National Honor Society & Science Honor Society
- Member of Société de Français
- Organized a DKMS Bone Marrow Donor Drive (July 2025)
- 2026 U.S. Synchronized Skating Novice Silver National Medalist
- Dr. Harry Britenstool Award for Girl Scouts
- Platinum Graduating Senior Award for U.S. Figure Skating
- Member of Hillside Swim and Dive Team
- Committed to Penn State University for Engineering



SEAN BRITTON

- Achieved The Congressional Award Gold Medal
- Overall GPA of 85
- Volunteer with the New York City Fire Museum
- Cataloged over 800 object records adding information and details for the New York City Fire Museum
- Weight lifts at Rare Breed Gym
- Member of the Monsignor Farrell Business and Finance Club
- Committed to SUNY Oneonta for Business Administration



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATING SENIORS



TALIA LIOCE

- Earned the Girl Scouts Gold Award
- Announced co-salutatorian of the NDA class of 2026
- Overall GPA of 100.6
- Attending the University of Miami for Mechanical Engineering



- Member of Notre Dame Academy Varsity Golf Team
- Active Member of National Honor Society
- Elected Student Government Representative
- Organized a DKMS Bone Marrow Donor Drive (July 2025)
- Steward for Little Free Library
- Server at St. Roch's Food Pantry
- Nostra, NDA Yearbook Editor



ANNIE FALCONE

- Member of National Honors Society
- Flag Football player for Nationally ranked team "All City girls"
- Captain of the Moore Women Golf Team
- Member of the Moore soccer team.
- Volunteers 5 days a week at Bishop Ahern Special Education School
- Volunteer work at Product With A Purpose store in Ship Bottom NJ
- Volunteer with Our Lady Of Good Counsel Food Pantry
- Volunteer with The Knights of Columbus Toy and Back Pack Drives
- Volunteer with Moore Cares
- Committed to the University of Tampa
- Majoring in marketing and real estate



Congratulations to the Class of 2030 Scholarship Recipients

AUDREY BARRY



- Runner for St. Teresa - St. Rita Falcons Track Team
- Member of St. Teresa - St. Rita Theater Program
- Member of St. Teresa - St. Rita Art Club
- Instructs younger students in art and crafting
- Volunteer with Westerleigh Park Coalition



Grammar School

St. Teresa - St. Rita
Stream Academy

High School

Xaverian High School

Scholarship

Jim Boylan Scholarship

OLIVIA DESANTIS



- Player for the Staten Island Youth Soccer League
- Active member of the Girl Scouts
- Volunteer with Bethany Lutheran Bible Camp
- Assists with the Notre Dame Bread of Life Food Drive
- Assists with the OLG Food Pantry
- Contributed to Sammie's Buddy Bench Project
- Singer with the OLG Children's Choir

"Success isn't just about winning or being the best, but being humble, respectful, kind, and always willing to help. Don't give up, try your absolute best in what you do, and live in the moment with family and loved ones. Success is living without regrets and doing everything you can do to help others."



Grammar School

Our Lady of Good
Counsel

High School

Xaverian

Scholarship

John Thomann

MADELYN GEISSLER



- Consistent Principal's List Student
- Runner for Blessed Sacrament Titans Track Team
- Basketball Player for the Blessed Sacrament Titans
- Soccer Player for the Blessed Sacrament Titans
- Member of the Blessed Sacrament Drama Program
- Passionate Artist
- Volunteer Fundraiser Events for RUMC & Tunnel to Towers

"There is so much that can be learned by exploring new ideas and meeting new people. Through that you are able to learn from others. You can learn from people's strengths and weaknesses. Sometimes that could teach you more about yourself."



Grammar School

Blessed Sacrament

High School

Notre Dame Academy

Scholarship

Bill Hodge Scholarship

Congratulations to the Class of 2030 Scholarship Recipients

LILA MAHON



- Member of National Junior Honor Society
- Captain of OLQP Archery Team
- Player for OLQP Basketball Team
- Member of Disciples on a Mission that reaches out to the community to share kindness, compassion, and God's love.
- Organized a fundraiser for Mary's Place by the Sea that raised \$2,000 in memory of her aunt Kiki
- Tutors students kindergarten through fourth grade.

"My aunt Kiki believed deeply in kindness. She would go out of her way to talk to strangers, listen to their stories, and help when she could. Her personal motto was "always be nice" and she lived that every day."



Grammar School

Our Lady Queen of Peace

High School

Notre Dame Academy

Scholarship

Jim Boylan

ELIZABETH MURPHY



- Consistent Honor Roll Student
- Maverick Foundation Good Citizen Award Recipient
- Basketball Player for the Blessed Sacrament Titans
- Soccer Player for Silver Lake Soccer Academy
- School volunteer helping her teachers
- Mentor for first grade buddy program
- Volunteer with Fundraiser Events for RUMC & Tunnel to Towers

"When we slow down and realize what is happening around us, we can learn important things about ourselves and others. We start to notice who truly supports us and what kind of person we want to become. Being aware helps us make better choices instead of just following the crowd."



Grammar School

Blessed Sacrament

High School

Staint Joseph By-the-Sea

Scholarship

Jim Boylan

AIDAN OLIVINA



- Runner for St. Teresa - St. Rita Falcons Track Team
- Dedicated Student of Piano
- Helped with Starting the St. Teresa - St. Rita Archery Team
- Trains and competes in Mixed Martial Arts

"Every version of the Bible teaches us to love one another as God loves us. God would want us to look around at each other and make the world a better place. We can do this by spending time with loved ones, take pride in our work, helping others, accepting our differences, and giving back to our communities."



Grammar School

St. Teresa - St. Rita
Stream Academy

High School

Moore Catholic

Scholarship

Gullickson McGuire

Congratulations to the Class of 2030 Scholarship Recipients



EMILY PENROSE



- Member of OLGC Cheer Team
- Player for OLGC Soccer Team
- Player for OLGC Basketball Team
- Member of Girl Scout Troop 5257
- Assists with OLGC Food Pantry and Bread of Life Food Drive
- Stagehand for OLGC Talent Show

"Things are not always what they seem. You can miss things in life if you do not stop to appreciate them. We must slow down to appreciate life and the people around us. If we become more involved in our community, we will understand what we can do to help and make life easier for those around us."

Grammar School

Our Lady of Good Counsel

High School

Notre Dame Academy

Scholarship

John Thomann



LAYLA PRIOLO-FITCH



- Maverick Foundation Good Citizen Award Recipient
- Singer with the Youth Choir of St. Rita Church
- Runner with the St. Teresa St. Rita track team
- Member of Girl Scout Troop 5525

"This program is about stepping outside your comfort zone and doing something that will give you courage and confidence to help yourself grow and be a better person. I am going to try my best and keep pushing to be a better person."

Grammar School

St. Teresa - St. Rita
Stream Academy

High School

Moore Catholic

Scholarship

Gullickson McGuire



SALVATORE RAGUCCI



- Member of Boy Scout Troop 77 with Star Rank
- CCD Catechist with OLGC School
- Player for OLGC Blue Knights Soccer Team
- Learning & Competes in Brazilian Jiu Jitsu - Judo
- Learning & Competes in Fencing
- Volunteer with OLGC Food Pantry

"Work hard and never give up."

Grammar School

Our Lady of Good Counsel

High School

Saint Peter's High School

Scholarship

Terry Sweeney



Our flagship annual scholarship to Moore Catholic High School was established to honor the memory of **Joe Gullickson**, who made the ultimate sacrifice as a lieutenant with the FDNY on September 11, 2001 at the WTC and **Dan McGuire**, who tragically lost his life in automobile accident in 1976 at the age of 17.

“Opportunity & Challenge” “To the Max”



Joe possessed a genuine concern for others and would do anything for anyone anytime. “No” was not in his vocabulary. FDNY Captain Tom Giordano said in his eulogy, ***“Joe was an exceptional officer, always learning, always teaching, and, above all, always looking out for his men. I am proud to call Joe a brother, a hero, and a friend.”***



Dan was a natural leader and co-captain of Moore Catholic’s track team. He always gave 110% and was a true friend. Track Coach Bill Hodge said, ***“If ever I was to have a son, Danny is like what I want my son to be. He had so many good attributes – he was a tough, fine athlete, and combined that with sensitivity towards his fellow human beings.”*** Dan’s favorite motto was, ***“To the Max.”***

My Brother

As a gift from God,
You came to us on Saint Joseph’s Day
And were so named in his honor.

Our time together was brief, the years too few
So much you gave of yourself
Always with a welcome smile and a helping hand.

On 9/11 with the Ladder 101 Red Hook Raiders
To the Towers you courageously raced
Knowing the danger, unknowing your fate,
That was the ultimate sacrifice you were to make.

Now you are my eternal hero
Forever you are my loving brother
Always remembered with admiration and appreciation.
So, you continue to do great things here on earth
While smiling down upon us from heaven.

– Robert Gullickson



Gullickson McGuire

Scholarship Recipients

ROBYN ROCKFELLER

2025 Scholarship Recipient



- Average GPA of 91
- Member of the SWHS Varsity Soccer Team
- Member of the SWHS Flag Football Team
- SWHS Indoor Track Team Runner
- Member of the Law and Politics program at SWHS
- Taking Law and Forensics classes
- Volunteer with Meals on Wheels
- Participates in "Kindness Cards" program, writing encouraging cards to elderly people in nursing homes.
- Volunteer cleaning at Silver Lake Park with Forest Regional Residents CIVICS Association
- Volunteer with New York Blood Center, hosting blood drives in the community
- Participates in community runs to raise funds for charity

GABRIELLA PERAGINE

2023 Scholarship Recipient



- Consistent First Honors student with overall GPA of 98.58
- Achieved the Congressional Award Silver Medal
- Member of National Honor Society
- Member of National Social Studies Honor Society
- Member of Mathematics Honor Society
- Member of National English Society
- Volunteer at Sunrise Assisted Living
- Volunteer Coach at Westerleigh Little League
- Certified Lifeguard at Great Kills Swim Club
- Participated in the Polar Plunge for the Special Olympics
- Member of Maverick's Care

Gullickson McGuire

Scholarship Recipients



NICOLE FALANGA

2023 Scholarship Recipient

- National Honors Society
- Goal Keeper for Moore Catholic Soccer Team
- Travel Soccer with Silver Lake Soccer Academy
- Volunteer with the Polar Bear Plunge which raises money for the Special Olympics and the Bread of Life food drives
- Fills Christmas stockings and Easter baskets for families in need
- Member of the Social Studies, English and Math Honor Societies.
- Volunteer at the Staten Island Zoo
- Practices baking with the hope of owning her own pastry shop one day
- Consistent First Honors Report Cards
- Member of the Moore Catholic School Band



JASON ANDERSEN

2024 Scholarship Recipient

- Member of the Moore Catholic Varsity Soccer team
- A consistent Honor Roll Student
- Volunteers with SI Monuments maintaining Military grave markers and general clean up in multiple cemeteries
- Volunteers with Holy Family Basketball Program
- Volunteer with American Cancer Society where he helped raise over \$38,000 in 3 years
- Volunteer with the Vesci Foundation
- Volunteer in multiple awareness walks such as Autism Speaks, Light the Night Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, Suicide Prevention and Walk for Apraxia
- Participants in many Maverick Cares food and clothing drives

Gullickson McGuire

Scholarship Recipients



SOPHIA DESANTIS

2024 Scholarship Recipient

- Player for Moore Catholic Varsity Soccer
- Assists with Lantern Light Studios, broadcasting the morning news at Moore Catholic
- Member of Maverick Cares
- Bethany Lutheran Bible Camp Counselor
- Staten Island Zoo Junior Docent
- Girl Scout Troop 5001
- Participant in Bread of Life Food Drive
- Tunnel to Towers Run sandwich making
- Our Lady of Good Counsel Food Pantry Volunteer



ALEXIS VAUTRINOT

2024 Scholarship Recipient

- Overall GPA of 92 in Honors
- Member of Maverick Care, participating in charitable events, food drives and Polar Plunge for Special Olympics
- Member of Moore's art club
- Certified in CPR
- Volunteer with New York Public Library
- Member of Moore Catholic Cross Country and Track Teams
- Summer employee with the Summer Youth Employment Program through the City of New York
- Completed a week nature exploration of Yellowstone National Park and the Grand Teton National Park

John Thomann

Scholarship Recipients



John Thomann

For anyone who knew John Thomann, we would all agree that he was taken from all of us far too soon. His battle with melanoma was valiant and served as an inspiration. There are many adjectives that can be used to describe him.

- **COMMITTED**, no one worked harder than John from his high school job pumping gas to his last days at Turner. Coming to work every day, regardless of the effort that it took. He understood that people were counting on him and he refused to let them down.
- **INTERESTED**, John took a genuine interest in everyone that he met and anything that might be their passion. John would ask countless questions trying to understand the person through their interests.
- **PASSIONATE**, John had many interests of his own and he was passionate about them. He enjoyed muscle cars, in particular, his '66 GTO. He enjoyed Long Island, Mattituck, boating and fishing were also among John's interests. He loved and respected the military, in particular, vintage military aircraft. He shared his enthusiasm with others, encouraging many to join in. Many Turner staffers spent Memorial Day sitting on a cold and wet Jones Beach to watch the annual airshow that John loved so much.
- **OPTIMISTIC**, The Mets, the Jets, the Islanders...nothing else needs to be said.

Most of all John Thomann LOVED. He loved his family. Kathleen, Jacqueline and James were undoubtedly the center of his world. His brothers and sisters and other family members were all in John's world as well. He cherished his 30 year friendships with his classmates from Maria Regina HS. He loved the NY construction industry, his colleagues at Turner, especially "the boys and girls of Turner Interiors" as he would often say. He loved the owners, especially the difficult ones, the architects and designers, the subcontractors, and vendors, but most of all John loved the challenges that we all face every day.

The son of an NYPD ESU Sargent with 37 years on the job and the brother of an FDNY firefighter assigned to Vinegar Hill Ladder 23 in Manhattan, John highly regarded and admired the dedication and bravery of our first responders especially the NYPD and FDNY. He faithfully made time from his busy schedule each and every year to remember 9/11. John always asked what he could do for the Maverick Foundation and was one of our strongest supporters behind the scenes...just the way he liked it.

The Maverick Foundation is honored and proud to present these scholarships in memory of John who truly was a unique individual and lived each day with a smile and kind word.



GABRIELLA AVITTO

2025 Scholarship Recipient

- Part of the Honors Program at Notre Dame Academy
- Member of the Baking Club
- Member of the Service Club
- Member of the Pickleball Club
- Partnered with fellow Maverick Scholarship recipients to organize and execute two blood drives for the American Red Cross.
- Volunteer at local food pantr
- Supports the Tunnel to Towers Foundation through their annual run and pasta appreciation dinner
- Creates Cards for Hospitalized Kids.
- Part of the JV Soccer Team at NDA where she eanted the Most Improved Player award this season
- Member of Varsity Golf Team
- Member of Varsity Swim Team — competed in both the 100-yard butterfly and backstroke at the 2026 NYCHSAA City Championships



John Thomann

Scholarship Recipients



CONNOR KUKAL

2024 Scholarship Recipient



- Archery team won the 2026 New York State Championships in both Bullseye and 3D.
- Two-time New York State Champion in Bullseye and 3D (2025 & 2026)
- Recipient of the 2025 Emergency Children's Help Organization Volunteer Award

- Recipient of the 2025 CYU Volunteer Service Award - Gold Level
- Honor Roll student at St. Joseph-by-the-Sea
- Member of the St. Joseph-by-the-Sea Robotics Club and Team
- Member of the St. Joseph-by-the-Sea Pre-Med Club
- Member of the St. Joseph-by-the-Sea Holy Name Society
- Completed five day expedition trip to Washington DC
- Volunteer with Special Olympic Swim Meets
- Volunteer with Tunnel to Towers making sandwiches
- Volunteer with Forest Ave Civic Association
- Frequent Blood Drive donor
- Volunteer with A Very Special Place
- Volunteer with "A Million Thanks" collecting thank you cards for veterans
- Participates in Winter Coat Drive
- OLCG Volunteer swim coach



John Thomann

Scholarship Recipients



JULIANNA BINETTI

2025 Scholarship Recipient

- Plays soccer for the Manalapan Soccer Club.
- Active volunteer at the Old Bridge Library where she assists in building children's literacy, writes book reviews, helps decorate, assists children with technology, and prepares materials for library events.
- Volunteer at the Mattison Crossing Assisted Living Facility where she visits and spends time with many senior residents, assists with arts and crafts, assists with holiday parties, and makes and distributes cards for the senior residents.
- Volunteer at Hope House Family Shelter, bringing supplies, and creating Easter Baskets for underprivileged children.
- Volunteer with the Freehold Open Door Food Pantry
- Volunteer at the Bravest Fall Festival & Fundraiser for Firefighter Mark Dziemain



GIANNA PIZZO

2024 Scholarship Recipient

- Second year Varisty Cheerleading at St. Joseph Hill Academy.
- Came in 15th in the Nation for Cheerleading in 2026
- Second time becoming an all American Cheerleader
- Pin it Forward Award for demonstrating the need for cheerleaders in American schools
- A Cadette Girl Scout and currently working on her Gold Award
- Second year on the JV Flag Football team that made it to the championship and got second in the league
- Volunteer for the Special Olympics
- Volunteer for the American Cancer Society
- Volunteer for Tunnel to Towers
- Assists in the OLGC Food Pantry
- Assists with decorations at Angel's Circle seasonally
- Volunteer Cheer Coach for OLGC school
- Member of the Baking Club
- Member of Caring Cards Club
- Member of Hope for Animals Club



John Thomann

Scholarship Recipients



CONNOR GIOIA

2025 Scholarship Recipient

- Consistent Honors Student, maintaining a GPA of 88
- Member of Boy Scouts Troop 8 with Star Rank
- Member of Hillside Swim Team
- Altar Server with OLGC Parish
- Volunteer with Knights of Columbus
- Volunteer with Special Olympics
- Volunteer Coach for the OLGC Swim Team
- Maverick Foundation Good Citizen Award Recipient
- Inducted into the International Thespian Society
- JV Swimming and Track, throwing shot put and javelin
- Member of the Farrell players stage crew



Coach Bill Hodge

HE LIVED "TO THE MAX"



In November of 2010, the track and field community lost a shining light with the sudden passing of Coach Bill Hodge. He died doing what he loved to do for over four decades . . .

inspiring and coaching runners to achieve their full potential in running and in life. Bill began his lifelong dedication to track and field as a runner at Monsignor Farrell High School and Staten Island Community College. Bill began his coaching career at Moore Catholic High School where he jump started a lackluster program through his enthusiasm, dedication, and great personality. Bill knew instinctively when a proverbial kick in the pants was needed or words of encouragement or a joke to break up the tension with his quick humor. His runners always gave 110% because they knew he was there with them . . . heart and soul. When the Moore Catholic team tragically lost their Co-Captain and leader, Dan McGuire, Bill handled the traumatic loss with such class and reverence. He kept the team together and used Dan's favorite phrase as our motto, "To the Max!"

Bill progressed through numerous college coaching assignments including Wagner College, Robert Morris University, Lafayette, Columbia University, Bucknell University, Rider University, and, most recently, Belmont Abbey College. During his career, Bill was honored as "Coach of the Year" in four different NCAA Division I conferences.

A four year runner at Moore Catholic, John Cizin, says of Bill, "He taught me so much more about life than just running. He taught me about hard work, teamwork, and dedication." Bill's accomplishments will be there for the record books in the annals of track and field for the ages but his true and most important impact on the world was the intangible positive influence he had on the so many young people he coached in life without even knowing it. He wrote in my high school yearbook, "Keep Plugging!" This is so typical for Bill with his infectious positive attitude.

The Maverick Foundation is honored and proud to present the annual Bill Hodge Memorial Scholarship to a special young adult who embraces the character and values of Bill, is determined to reach his or her full potential in all areas, possesses the desire to help others, and leads by example.

Bill Hodge Scholarship Recipients



MADISON BACKSTROM

2024 Scholarship Recipient

- Achieved an Overall 96 Grade Point Average
- Consistent Honor Roll Student
- Volunteer with local CYO Track and Running Events
- Runner with The Camp Track & Field Club
- Achieved personal best times in the 1500m with a 5:46 pace, in the 400m with a 1:10 pace, and in the 800m with 2:46 pace.
- Dedicated to learning Sign Language with 150+ Self-paced Learning Hours
- Volunteer with the Staten Island Zoo
- Volunteer with Achilles International assisting blind runners and walkers.
- Volunteer with Girls Club mentoring younger girls to be the best they can be.
- Completed a two-day virtual trip of China inspired by the book and movie Joy Luck Club

Bill Hodge

Scholarship Recipients

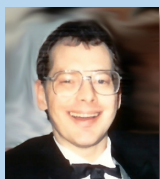


JACK HAYDEN

2025 Scholarship Recipient

- Embodies the MFHS motto of "Vir Fidelis"
- Volunteer with Michael's Cause
- Volunteer with Tunnel to Towers
- Volunteer with the Lt. Bobby Ryan "Hot Corner" Toy Drive
- Volunteer with Notre Dame Club/Giving Circle "Soup-er Bowl Foundation"
- Volunteer with Saint Roch's Food Pantry
- Works Part Time at Little Wedding Works
- Member of MFHS Student Ambassador's Club
- Plays for MFHS Freshman Football Team
- Plays for MHHS Freshman Baseball Team





TERRY SWEENEY HE LIVED STRONG

There are special people in the world who inspire and amaze us with their spirit for life and ability to rise above adversity and insurmountable odds with grace and courage. Terry Sweeney was one of these people.

Despite being afflicted with a rare degenerative neurological disease at a young age that gradually denied him of his motor skills until it ultimately took his life, Terry had a radiant smile and a magnetic personality that defied his condition. He stayed involved with his passion for sports especially his beloved Saint Peter's Eagles with its hallowed basketball heritage. Although confined to a wheelchair for his entire adult life, it did not prevent him from attending activities and events that had to have been difficult for him but you could never tell.

Even in his last days when Terry could not speak or eat and the disease was really taking its toll, you could tell how happy he was to see you. His sense of humor was infamous not only to make a joke at your expense but his ability to even laugh at himself.

You could really tell how special he was by how many true friends he had. To know him was to love him and anyone who came to know him was a better person. Terry "lived strong" long before the phrase was coined on a yellow rubber wristband. He never had the opportunity to pursue a career or get married and have a family but he never complained and always made the most of what he did have.

Terry led by example without even knowing it.

The Maverick Foundation is honored and proud to present the annual Terry Sweeney Memorial Scholarship to a special young adult who embraces the character and values of Terry, is determined to reach his or her full potential in all areas, possesses the desire to help others, and leads by example.

Terry Sweeney Scholarship Recipients



MICHAEL AVITTO 2023 Scholarship Recipient

- Member of Scholars Program at St. Peter's Boys High School.
- Dedicated member of both the Lasallian Youth and Italian Heritage Clubs.
- Competed in the 100-yard breaststroke at the 2026 NYCHSAA City Swim Championships
- Earned the Swim and Dive Team's Captain's Award
- Member of the Varsity Golf Team
- Plays travel Baseball for the TKR Reds Organization.
- Dedicates time to supporting two local food pantries
- Volunteers with Tunnel to Towers Foundation, participating in their annual run and pasta appreciation dinner
- Creates cards for Hospitalized Kids and weaves paracord bracelets for Operation Gratitude



JIM BOYLAN

James (Jim) Boylan was a man dedicated to the service of our great city and country who served in the army during the Korean War and had a 27 year career with the FDNY. Jim was also a longtime member of the Knights of Columbus. Jim was also struck by tragedy three times in his life with the loss of two beloved wives and his daughter Laura. Yet through it all, Jim carried this heavy burden with humility and would not weigh you down with his loss. He was a genuine friend and a kind man who was sincerely interested in your life and did not hesitate to help you if he could in any way. Jim's childhood friend, Father Phillip Blaine, said during his eulogy, "Jim was always a good guy and I do not mean that in a superficial way." Anyone who met Jim just once came away with that same impression. He loved to share a laugh with you and always had a smile on his face when he met you. Jim's well-rounded life made him an avid golfer and tennis player as well as a big fan of country music. Jim was also a graduate of Wagner College with a degree in business. Jim was a dedicated and stalwart supporter of The Maverick Foundation and a lifelong friend of The Gullickson Family.

The Maverick Foundation is honored and proud to offer an annual scholarship in memory of Jim Boylan to the son or daughter of a New York City firefighter who is an eighth grader and will be attending a Catholic high School on Staten Island.

Jim Boylan

Scholarship Recipients



MARY KATE RUSSO

2024 Scholarship Recipient

- Inducted into National Honors Society
- JV NDA Basketball team captain
- Most Improved Player NDA Basketball
- JV NDA Soccer
- Sportsmanship Award NDA Soccer
- Varsity NDA Track and Field
- Coach's Award NDA Track and Field
- EEP 16U Basketball
- Student Government Class Representative
- Elected as French Club President
- Secretary of Sign Language Club
- NDA Stage Crew

Jim Boylan

Scholarship Recipients



MACKENZIE SCHAMING

2023 Scholarship Recipient

- Honor Roll Student with an overall GPA of 101.5
 - Member of the National Honor Society
 - Member of the Science National Honors Society
 - Nominee for the Posse Scholarship
-
- Participates in local fundraisers, community events, youth sports clinics, toy drives, and a polar plunge
 - Supporter of the Tunnel to Towers run
 - Volunteers at the Special Olympics
 - Volunteer at school events such as open houses and Christmas fairs.
 - Quarterback for SJHA Varsity Football Team
 - Player for SJHA Varsity Basketball Team



ISABELLA ODESSA

2024 Scholarship Recipient

- Volunteer with American Cancer Society Fashion Shows and Making Strides
 - Volunteer with Making Strides
 - Volunteer with Angel's Circle
 - Volunteer with Our Lady of Good Counsel Food Pantry
 - Volunteer with Convent of the Daughters of Divine Charity
-
- Volunteer as an Assistant Coach for CYO volleyball team
 - Volunteer with Tunnel to Towers
 - Player for NYC Juniors 15s Volleyball Team

Jim Boylan

Scholarship Recipients



ERIN SCHAMING

2024 Scholarship Recipient



- Honor Roll Student with an overall GPA of 95
- Member of Xaverian JV Cheerleading Team
- Member of the Xaverian Biomedical Club
- Volunteer with Tunnel to Towers Foundation
- Volunteer with Special Olympics
- Volunteer with community causes and events including a bone marrow drive, a Swim-A-Thon, Biddle House fundraising tea, Bravest Barbecue, Hillside Toy Fundraiser, a Polar Plunge, Pocketbook Bingo at OLGC, and Hillside Helping.



STEVEN RAGUCCI

2025 Scholarship Recipient

- Monsignor Farrell's Scholars Program
- Overall cumulative average of 99.7
- Received first in merit for religion for freshman year
- Monsignor Farrell Freshman Football
- Monsignor Farrell JV Lacrosse
- Member of Boy Scouts Troop 77



- Trains in Brazilian Jiu Jitsu and Judo
- Volunteer at St. Roch's Food Pantry
- Volunteer at OLGC Food Pantry
- Member of Monsignor Farrell Student Ambassadors Society
- Member of Monsignor Farrell American Sign Language Club
- Helped organize a Local Coat Drive this past winter season
- Helped organize a Local Toy Drive during the Christmas season



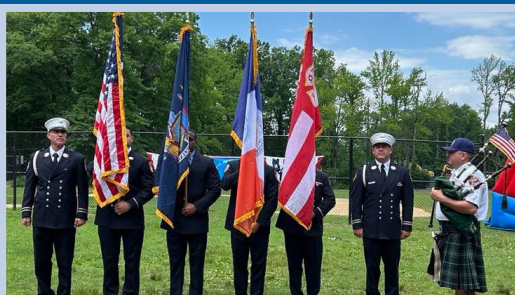
23rd Annual Good Citizen Award Program

Nine Good Citizen Awards
presented this year for a total of
366 since 2004

Nine well deserving eighth grade students received Good Citizen Awards at their graduation ceremony that included a certificate along with a tee-shirt and a medal. Each student was nominated by their eighth grade teacher for being an exemplary role model who regularly demonstrates respect for others, willingness to help others, and having a worthy academic record, especially regarding conduct and effort.

Students were also selected for overcoming a significant obstacle in their lives such as an illness or difficult family situation while maintaining a positive attitude and achieving their goals. The recipients for each of the following schools are:

NAME	SCHOOL
Louis Athas	Saint Ann School
Alexandra Marie Callahan	Sacred Heart School
Dominick Capuano	Our Lady Star of the Sea School
Natalie Frustaci	Notre Dame Academy
Gadiel Garcia	Our Lady Queen of Peace School
James Licata	Saint Patrick School
Elizabeth Murphy	Blessed Sacrament School
Layla Priolo-Fitch	St. Teresa St. Rita Stream Academy
Anthony Varvaro	Our Lady of Good Counsel School





Thank you so much, Mr. Gullickson. Your support and encouragement throughout high school have meant a great deal to me. I'm incredibly grateful for the opportunities, guidance, and confidence you have given me through the Maverick Foundation and beyond.

Thank you for always believing in me and for helping me grow both academically and personally. I appreciate your kind words and look forward to staying in touch.

— Talia Lioce

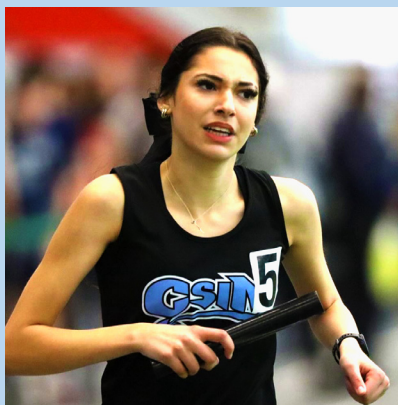
"A time to honor,
A time to remember,
Although Twenty-five years have passed,
You remain in our hearts steadfast.
Now and forever."

— Robert Gullickson



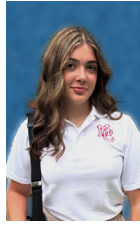
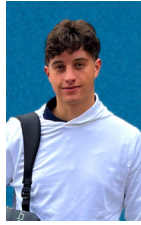
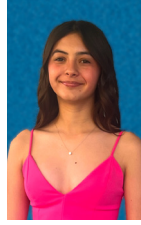
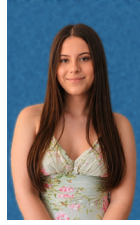
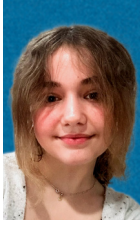
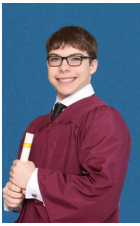
"This year has been amazing and I loved being part of the Maverick Foundation, receiving my silver medal, and working so hard to get my gold medal. It has been a very busy year, but I loved working on all of my goals for the Maverick Foundation. I can't wait to continue to grow in my community as a person and on the track this year."

- Madison Backstrom



Thank you for your hard work, dedication, and for being outstanding role models in your community

SCHOLARSHIP ROSTER 2026		
Lily Ahlborn	Notre Dame Academy	Graduate
Sean Britton	Monsignor Farrell	Graduate
Annie Falcone	Moore Catholic	Graduate
Talia Lioce	Notre Dame Academy	Graduate
Michael Avitto	St. Peter's High School	Senior
Nicole Falanga	Moore Catholic	Senior
Gabriella Peragine	Moore Catholic	Senior
MacKenzie Schaming	St. Joseph Hill Academy	Senior
Madison Abram	Xaverian High School	Junior
Jason Andersen	Moore Catholic	Junior
Madison Backstrom	Notre Dame Academy	Junior
Connor Kukal	St. Joseph By-the-Sea	Junior
Isabella Odessa	St. Joseph Hill Academy	Junior
Mary Kate Russo	Notre Dame Academy	Junior
Erin Schaming	Xaverian High School	Junior
Alexis Vautrinot	Moore Catholic	Junior
Sophia DeSantis	Moore Catholic	Junior
Gianna Pizzo	St. Joseph Hill Academy	Junior
Gabriella Avitto	Notre Dame Academy	Sophomore
Julianna Binetti	Notre Dame Academy	Sophomore
Connor Gioia	Monsignor Farrell	Sophomore
Jack Hayden	Monsignor Farrell	Sophomore
Steven Ragucci	Monsignor Farrell	Sophomore
Robyn Rockfeller	Notre Dame Academy	Sophomore
Audrey Barry	Xaverian High School	Freshman
Olivia DeSantis	Xaverian High School	Freshman
Madelyn Geissler	Notre Dame Academy	Freshman
Lila Mahon	Notre Dame Academy	Freshman
Elizabeth Murphy	Saint Joseph By-the-Sea	Freshman
Aidan Olivina	Moore Catholic	Freshman
Emily Penrose	Notre Dame Academy	Freshman
Layla Priolo-Fitch	Moore Catholic	Freshman
Salvatore Ragucci	Saint Peter's High School	Freshman



The Maverick Foundation would like to give special thanks to our generous donors. Your continued support is felt and appreciated by each and every scholarship recipient; paving the way for brighter futures.

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The Maverick Foundation appreciates all our friends and supporters, especially Turner Construction Company as our primary sponsor for this event.



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Special Thanks to:

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Thanking E-J Electrical Company for their generous donation especially Tony Mann, Frank Lambraia, Dave Ferguson, Matt Duffy

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CHRISTINE GATLIN



RED HOOK RAIDER FOREVER

“To live in the hearts of those left behind is not to die.”

FDNY Lt. Joseph Gullickson of Ladder 101 sacrificed his life while saving the lives of others on September 11, 2001 at the WTC. Joseph was a firefighter for fourteen years and was well respected among his fellow firefighters. Captain Tom Giordano said, “Joe was an exceptional officer, always learning, always teaching, and, above all, always looking out for his men. This was a man dedicated to his job and totally devoted to his family. I am proud to call Joe a brother, a hero, a friend.”



“The whole trick to life is to open your eyes and see what is going on around you.”

Dan McGuire

Dan was a natural leader and co-captain of Moore Catholic's track team. He always gave 110% and was a true friend. Track Coach Bill Hodge said, “If ever I was to have a son, Danny is like what I want my son to be. He had so many good attributes – he was a tough, fine athlete, and combined that with sensitivity towards his fellow human beings.” Dan's favorite motto was, “To the Max.”



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