

The Alumnae and Alumni Association of the Academy of the Sacred Heart, Bloomfield Hills, is pleased and honored to present the 2017 Community Service Award to **Nikoo Ghaffarloo**.

During Nikoo's four years at the Academy of the Sacred Heart's Upper School, she has shown kindness, thoughtfulness, and a generous heart that guides her involvement in and dedication to serving others. Her many contributions include:

- Volunteering at Wing Lake for three years
- Volunteering at Focus: HOPE for three years
- Working during her junior and senior years as the leader of the Campus Ministry SCG group
- Choosing service Project Term experiences her freshman and junior years
- Selecting an alternative spring break by working on a volunteer mission in the Amazon
- Working on National Honor Society projects including tutoring students and raising money to support the education of children in need
- Working with a group of sophomore leaders, helping them to recognize their leadership abilities and self-worth and
- Planning a surprise retreat for the senior class, which resulted in a strong bond and deeper respect between classmates

Nikoo is very involved in student leadership, and she brought her learnings to Sacred Heart to assist in developing exceptional student leaders:

- She participated in the MASC/MAHS and Michigan Youth Leadership Conference leadership camps
- She volunteers on the recruitment team at Michigan Youth Leadership Conference
- She volunteers as a programming intern at the Michigan Youth Leadership Conference
- She was part of the Michigan Youth Leadership Mentorship program, working with young leaders her junior and senior years and
- She volunteered as a conference alumna counselor at the Michigan Youth Leadership Conference during her junior and senior years

In addition, Nikoo is involved in various service initiatives with the greater community including:

- Volunteering for four years at SCAMP, a summer camp for children and adults with disabilities
- Volunteering at friendship circle, throughout her whole high school career
- Creating, implementing, and continuing a "Walk for Sean Charity Walk," benefiting a student on the Autism Spectrum who was hit by a car and passed away
- Volunteering for three years at Henry Ford Hospital in Transportation and Nursing Units
- Performing multiple charity piano recitals and
- Volunteering for four years as a martial arts teacher and coach

“It fills me with joy to realize that I can lay down my life daily for God.” The words of St. Rose Philippine Duchesne mirror Nikoo’s own reflection stating, “I have learned about how much I love community service. Whenever I come back from community service ... I always feel so happy. Through working with children with special needs, I have also learned about the power of non-verbal communication and the power of a smile or helping hand.”

