

In 1981, the Alumnae of the Sacred Heart of Bloomfield Hills instituted the Community Service Award. This award recognizes Sacred Heart's strong support of the Upper School service program and reinforces our commitment to serve the wider community. It was decided that this award would be given annually to a graduating senior who has been exemplary in her service to others. Because they know her best, it is the faculty and senior students who participate in this selection.

The student is chosen on the basis of three criteria:

- Consistent responsibility and dedication to service
- The development of a positive attitude and enthusiasm for service, and
- A valuable and significant contribution to the service program.

Kayla Sebest is the recipient of the 2013 Alumnae/Alumni Community Service Award. Kayla's work models Goal III – "Schools of the Sacred Heart commit themselves to a social awareness that impels to action." Kayla is an exceptional human being and an excellent student who is very conscious of other's needs. She has a kind heart and a generous spirit.

Kayla has been involved in many activities and areas of service throughout her life. She has a great concern for the poor and hungry and, of course, for those living with disabilities. Kayla has served for two years at Wing Lake, a school responding to the needs of children (ages 5-25) who live with emotional, physical, and various learning disabilities. She has been a great source of support to the students, faculty, and staff of the school. In addition, Kayla has assisted her schoolmates as they adjust to this wonderful - yet challenging - setting.

Kayla leads a student organization that once a month offers their service to Focus: HOPE. On Saturday morning throughout the year (including the summer months) the group joins forces with another school to pack boxes of food for the elderly, and they then deliver the food to Detroit's people in need. This is Kayla's fourth year with the organization and her second year as leader of the group. Kayla's gentle, faithful, and committed way is a great encouragement to others who see this service as the highlight of their month. She leads by example and is an inspiration and role model to her peers.

In addition, Kayla is involved in other services and does it without fanfare - in a quiet, unassuming manner. She and her mother joined together to care for her brother who had some significant degenerative disabilities, and together they faced many challenges. Her major life focus was the care of her brother, who entered eternal life this past autumn. While attending to and supporting her brother, in addition to all her other outstanding service projects, Kayla has maintained High Honors or Honor status throughout her years at the Academy of the Sacred Heart. She is bright and very conscientious. Kayla has a thirst for learning; she is a member of National Honor Society; and she regularly tutors students who struggle academically or who may be looking for some assistance. Kayla is a wonderfully attentive young woman and is a steady source of support. She encourages others to succeed in various ways.

The Alumnae and Alumni Association of the Academy of the Sacred Heart, Bloomfield Hills is pleased and honored to present the 2013 Community Service Award to Kayla Sebest and congratulate her on living out Goal III.

