Anjana Peddireddi Receives Community Service Award

Anjana Peddireddi was one of two Centerville High School seniors honored Monday by Washington Township Trustees with the Township’s annual Community Service Award. The award includes a $1,000 scholarship with half of the scholarship funded by an anonymous donor from Washington Township and half funded by Judy Blair, in memory of her husband, Terry Blair, a former Washington Township trustee and a member of the Ohio General Assembly.

Anjana has been an avid participant in Centerville High School’s Interact Club and has been a leader in the club for the past two years. Initially, she joined the club to meet new friends and socialize but she quickly found that she genuinely enjoyed all the good work that the club was doing. “It’s been a great opportunity to learn from people who are older than me. I’ve been able to meet people and have conversations that wouldn’t have happened if I didn’t get involved in Interact Club,” says Anjana.

In addition to the Interact Club, Anjana has volunteered at Sycamore Medical Center for three years and at Camp Innovation for one year where she helped students learn about STEM topics during summer camp. This year, she has spent a couple weekends volunteering at Veteran’s Administration COVID-19 vaccination clinics to help veterans receive their vaccines. “Anjana embodies ‘service above self’ in her life and actions,” says CHS teacher and Interact Club advisor Liz Cameron. “She volunteers her time and efforts to make the world a better place and not just to build her resume She is an inspiration!”

“Volunteering started out as something to keep me busy – a healthy outlet,” says Anjana. “It quickly turned into a passion when I started volunteering at SICSA a few years ago.” Every Sunday, Anjana would spend the day exercising the dogs and playing with the cats. “It never feels like work. When you find something you’re passionate about, it becomes something you get to do rather than something you have to do,” says Anjana.

Among her many volunteer activities, Anjana has a favorite: A tennis instructor through the non-profit organization, Buddy Up Tennis, she works with children with Down Syndrome to help build confidence, make new friends and learn the sport of tennis. “I’ve volunteered with Buddy Up Tennis all four years of high school. There are so many ways to get involved and, through volunteering, I’ve had opportunities to meet such incredible and fun people that I wouldn’t have before,” says Anjana.

Anjana attributes her dedication and commitment to education to her grandfather, who lives in India. She speaks about how her grandfather came from humble beginnings and worked hard to prioritize education and put Anjana’s mother and sisters through school.

In addition to the over 300 hours of volunteer service Anjana has accumulated throughout high school, she also works part time at Old Scratch Pizza in Washington Township.
After graduation, Anjana will head to The Ohio State University where she plans to study Neuroscience and Philosophy. “And possibly Psychology,” says Anjana. “Becoming a doctor has been a lifelong dream. I have always been interested in how the brain and mind work and am excited to learn more about both in college,” says Anjana.

Washington Township Trustees established the Community Service Award to recognize student volunteers and, in the process, draw attention to the importance of public service. This year, for the first time, Trustees are presenting two Community Service Awards. Advisors for Centerville High School’s four service organizations – Key Club, Octagon Club, Interact Club and National Honor Society – select two students who, through sustained effort, best exemplify service to the local, national or international community. Anjana’s award will be funded through an anonymous donor from the Township and Judy Blair, in memory of her husband Terry Blair, a former Washington Township trustee and a member of the Ohio General Assembly. “If we are to create and maintain strong, vibrant communities then we must recognize how important service is to citizenship. Our youth are laying the foundation for a lifetime of civic engagement and leadership and we want to celebrate that through our Community Service Awards,” says Trustee President Scott Paulson.

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