



NEWS RELEASE

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WHITEHOUSE YOUTH TO RECEIVE OUSTANDING YOUTH IN PHILANTHROPY AWARD

TOLEDO, OH— Since 2015, Cecelia “Cece” Hughes has volunteered as a mentor through Bittersweet, Inc.’s Social Living Club (SLC), a program that pairs neurotypical teens and teens with autism to participate in recreational activities.

Teen mentors like Cece lead by example to help teens with autism practice their social skills – including interacting with new peers and working as a group – in a fun, low-pressure environment.

Cece has volunteered more than 40 hours participating in cooking classes, yoga, swimming, soccer, photography and bowling activities. While she’s paired with one specific mentee in each program, Cece is always welcoming and supportive of all the individuals participating.

Over the course of Cece’s volunteer work, her impact has been immense. Through her positive attitude and compassion, Cece has encouraged teens in Bittersweet’s SLC programs to get out of their comfort zones and try new activities on their own. One teen who was new to cooking and worked with Cece at SLC is now attending Penta’s cooking program.

Not only is Cece a mentor, she is also a friend to many of the teens.

Kelly Elton, Director of Social and Recreation Programs at Bittwersweet, Inc. said “Cece is very valuable to this program. SLC has about 20 regular participants, all with positive stories to tell about how Cece was a supportive friend.”

Cece says she plans to continue volunteering as a mentor through her senior year of high school.

Hughes will be presented with the Outstanding Youth in Philanthropy (ages 5-17) Award at the 30th Annual National Philanthropy Day luncheon on November 9, from 11 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. at Premier Banquet Hall in Toledo. The annual event is a community celebration of the philanthropic spirit and practice that results when we work together to “Change the World with a Giving Heart.”

Space is limited to 500 guests, so those who would like to attend are encouraged to reserve their tickets now. Reservations can be made online at AFPNWO.org or by calling [330-329-2472](tel:330-329-2472). The deadline for reservations is Friday, November 3, 2017.

Toledo Community Foundation is the Presenting Sponsor for the 2017 National Philanthropy Day. Other sponsors include Ambassador Sponsor - Toledo Lucas County Public Library; Signature Sponsors - Bowling Green State University, ProMedica Foundations and The University of Toledo; and Supporting Sponsors - The Andersons, Inc., Mercy Health Foundation - Greater Toledo, PNC and The Trust Company.

About Association of Fundraising Professionals

The Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP), with more than 33,000 global members, advances philanthropy by enabling individuals and organizations to practice ethical and effective fundraising. The core activities through which AFP fulfills this mission include education, training, mentoring, research, credentialing and advocacy.

About Association of Fundraising Professionals – Northwest Ohio Chapter

The Northwest Ohio (NWO) Chapter of AFP is an inclusive and diverse community of more than 125 fundraising professionals from 78 nonprofits and 9 consulting firms in 15 counties throughout Northwest Ohio and Southeast Michigan whose nonprofits raise more than \$277 million dollars annually. Members and their institutions abide by a Code of Ethics and Donor Bill of Rights to ensure that funds are raised and stewarded ethically to benefit people within our community, thus strengthening public trust in philanthropy.

About National Philanthropy Day®

National Philanthropy Day® (NPD), observed internationally around November 15th, is an international celebration of the countless contributions individuals and organizations make every day to benefit their communities and enrich our world. NPD was originally conceived of and organized by Douglas Freeman in the 1980s, and President Reagan signed the official NPD proclamation in 1986. Last year, more than 130 AFP chapters held NPD events and activities across North America.

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