

2011 Yudian Community Service Award Winners

The Yudian community service award board held a luncheon ceremony on November 12th, 2011. Two outstanding students, Elizabeth Masoudi and Dayzy Martinez-Bity, each received the \$1000 award. There are eight high school students from metro Denver high schools nominated by their school's counselor or administrator this year.

Elizabeth Masoudi is from Colorado Academy. She lost her two younger sister and brother and some extended family members in a 2008 airplane crash accident. Teachers and classmates wondered whether Liz would be able to begin school that year, just a few weeks later, and how in the world she would be able to carry on. Not only did she arrive at school that fall and excel academically, but she began to think of ways to direct her grief so that the loss of her siblings wouldn't just a tragedy, but might lead to something good for other young children. That year, Liz and her family established a memorial fund at her previous school, St. Anne's (where her sister and brother would have been in 7th and 3rd grade respectively). The fund provides scholarship for low income/disadvantage students. Liz helped raised money for the fund and worked in a project that invite people, instead of donating directly to the fund, to participated in different community service activities. Liz says the work with the memorial fund has been incredibly valuable to her "because it has allowed me to take a very difficult part of my life and use it to help some very deserving kids." Liz also got involved with the school's largest service organization on campus, Students HOPE (Help Other People Eat). The event brings over 1400 of Denver's homeless to the campus during the holiday season for a full day of "shopping", activities, meals, flu shots, and visits with Santa. Liz helped with the set-up and co-chaired the clothes committee that collected donations for many months leading up to the event. Liz says "Working with HOPE has been a great experience for me because of CA and rest of the community have given an incredible amount to me in term of support and love, HOPE gives me a chance to give back to both CA and an outer community that I do not encounter as often. Liz's incredible strength, compassion and resiliency and her perpetual instinct to give back to those around her made her a 2011 Yudian Community Service Award winner.



Dayzy Martinez-Bity is from Emily Griffith High School. She is from a home with disruptive and domestic situations often involving law enforcement. She had poor grades reflected poor attendance when entering EGHS. Dayzy then was diagnosed with underachieve thyroid condition and was put on medication. The medication helped her attending classes regularly with concurrent enrollment in high school and Fashion Design classes at Emily Griffith Technical College. Dayzy was elected as the student representative for the school's Collaborative Decision Making Committee where she representing students interests in school wide decisions; she is an volunteer at AGAPE hospice; she has been involved in and led activities in bake sales and car washes to raise funds for community projects at EGHS and West High School. Recently, she participated in building a



playground with Kaboom project at Valdez Elementary School. Dayzy often attends classes from 9a.m, to 9 p.m. and still maintains a 3.75 GPA. Dayzy's doctors are still struggling to adjust the dosage of her thyroid medication. She still preserves, planning next year's Student Council activities, which includes a service project for the refugees in the ESL program at Emily Griffith Technical College. There is an increase in student involvement with planned school activities as a result of Dayzy's efforts. Dayzy's fortitude and commitment, despite "rough nights" at home, dealing with police and going to court with her mother, taking younger siblings to school or medical appointment, made her a 2011 Yudian Community Service Award winner

The Yudian Community Service Award recognizes high school students who have demonstrated active and distinguished service to our community. Yudian's purpose in establishing the award was to inspire students to make difference in our community by their volunteer contributions and commitment to community service.



The mission of the Yudian Community Board is to promote youth volunteerism as a vehicle for healing of body, mind and the spirit.

2011 Yudian Community Service Award Ceremony

November 12th, 2011, 11:30 to 1:00

Purple Ginger Asian Fusion

7240 S. Clinton St. in Englewood.

For the Yudian Award details, please contact:

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