

FRANKLIN TOMORROW'S 14<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL  
**EXEMPLARY COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER AWARDS**

November 17, 2020



## YOUTH INITIATIVE AWARD

### Anissia Fleming

Nominated by: United Way of Greater Nashville



Anissia began volunteering with Raise Your Hand as a high school junior in January 2019. She jumped at the opportunity to tutor students for an hour each week primarily because of her empathy for literacy proficiency. Anissia was assigned to tutor in Ms. Nichols' classroom at Chapman's Retreat Elementary School. On her first day of tutoring, Anissia set the tone for volunteer/student engagement by remembering why she gives back to her community. Anissia says, "To some, tutoring is just for the volunteer hours, but I seriously went in every Tuesday or Wednesday and gave it my all, because I truly enjoy helping others."

As a tutor, Anissia seeks to guide students; teach them new learning and problem-solving strategies; and encourage them throughout every shortcoming and success.

In September 2019, Anissia was promoted to Volunteer Captain due to her strong leadership skills. Anissia demonstrates many exemplary qualities, including:

- engaging students with excitement
- showing a passion for working with students and teachers
- showing a commitment to leadership and learning
- helping students reach their full potential.

And her persistence with students fosters positive outcomes. With her help, during the 2019-2020 school year, 92% of the tutoring students at Chapman's Retreat improved their reading skills.

Anissia is now a proud freshman at Tennessee State University, currently serving as Freshman Class Vice President. "My experience with RYH has proved to me that no matter what, be the leader I was born to be...Serving my community is nothing I take lightly; I am so grateful to be a part of this organization...even in the middle of a pandemic."

As a young adult tutor and college freshman, Anissia models for elementary students the value of literacy, achievement, and volunteerism. As a volunteer, she has been instrumental in helping our teachers give students the support they deserve—and when quantifying her efforts, she provided 16 hours (over \$445) of service during the Spring 2020 tutoring term to make a difference in our community.

## **Anna Lapre**

Nominated by Williamson County Animal Center



Anna Lapre was a volunteer intern for the Community Cat Program of the Williamson County Animal Center for the summer of 2020. As a student at Ensworth High School, Anna was charged with researching and writing about a problem in her community that she sought a solution for. As the daughter of a dedicated animal advocate, Anna naturally tackled the issue of pet overpopulation, and specifically, the problem of outdoor cat population explosion this county has encountered over the last several years.

As an intern, Anna volunteered her time at the shelter every week from April through August. She jumped in and became an invaluable member of the team. She acted as a "right hand" to our community cat coordinator, Samantha Anderson. She not only helped check cats into our clinic, out of our clinics, and transfer them around within the shelter, she also researched several data points on Community Cats and how programs like ours can change the quality of life for cats and solve a community problem. As an advanced Spanish student, Anna also did some community education for us in Spanish speaking communities. She translated for staff when needed, and she helped canvas neighborhoods where known cat populations were. Anna was not reluctant to "get her hands dirty", she brought both intellect and manual labor to the role.

In addition to her "official" intern capacity, Anna also became a volunteer dog walker, following in her mother's footsteps. WCAC has multi-level skills for

volunteer. To advance in skill-level, a volunteer not only has to pass a skills test but has to put in minimum hour requirements in their chosen area. Anna achieved the mid-level volunteer status this fall, indicating that she has spent a minimum number of hours and achieved a more advanced understanding of dog behavior. In addition to her program volunteer time, Anna completed over 20 hours of service to the dogs.

## **Olivia Wolfson**

Nominated by: Emily Snider of Franklin High School



Olivia works tirelessly building and supporting Franklin High's non-profit; Threads of Care. The organization collects gently used clothing by running clothing drives and fundraisers in Middle Tennessee High Schools for Franklin and Nashville's impoverished teens. The organization also generates awareness about teen homelessness. Initially Olivia started as a member in 2017 and has taken on a variety of leadership roles as FHS's Chapter President, Social Media Manager, Deputy Director and last 2 years as the Threads of Care Executive Director. As part of this social enterprise, Olivia jumped at the chance to lead her fellow classmates and continues to create results within the Franklin community. To date she has volunteered over 175 hours helping the organization to collect over 12,900 items, raise over \$5,100 and promote over 55 blog posts/articles. Before the pandemic, teen homelessness was super challenging for our community's youth and now with Covid-19, it has created an even greater hardship. This fall/winter she is launching a multi-high school campaign to collect funds for the Oasis Center in Nashville to help feed homeless teens affected by the pandemic.

Her freshman and sophomore year Olivia participated as Franklin High's representative on the United Way Advisory Council where she volunteered in a variety of community service events.

Olivia is immersed in the arts especially by participating in the National Art Honor Society, The Tennessee Governor's School for the Arts and has also placed in both the Scholastic Art Awards and the Franklin High Art Show. Many of her pieces support social diversity and awareness campaigns. She was also commissioned by Cisco Systems, Inc. to create an art piece to generate awareness about foster children for one of the company's giveback programs.

Olivia is also very active on Franklin High's Mock Trial Team helping the team win at district level and going to state.