

## **2020 St. Vincent's Youth Award Winner**

### **Brennan Hogan Archbishop Stepinac High School, Class of 2021**

John said in the Bible, "Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth." I think of this quote often as it encourages me to help others around me. It also gives me something to think about before I do something and makes me think how it would affect other people.

Ever since a young age, my parents have pushed me to volunteer. It has allowed me to witness and take part of many things that will affect me my entire life time. They have encouraged me to do everything such as work at soup kitchens, help at community events, help out around my local parish, and even volunteer to be the school mascot.

Volunteering has especially changed me during the ongoing Covid-19 Pandemic. I was lucky to be given the opportunity to sew masks to give to the hardworking medical professionals on the front lines of the battle against the invisible enemy. Every week day since March 13th, I was able to work for 4 hours at MacInspires, a work center designed for after school programs and the STEM community, to make masks. This was very inspiring as we would get large orders from hospitals and would have to make them quickly. It was our own little business. Everyone from General Dynamics to the FBI asked for masks. It taught me many things through this volunteer experience. I was able to hear stories of generosity and love throughout these hospitals. I also learned about supply and demand and looking at things from a business stand point. I also learned how to sew, which will definitely help me later in life.

It was a very humbling experience and I hope to continue to do this until the workers can take off the masks.