

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

### **Jonah Mathisson Rye High School, Class of 2020**

When I was three years old, I declared my aspiration to one day ride the ambulance. I have lived with that vision ever since. In August of 2018, I joined Mamaroneck EMS as the youngest of over forty members. Over the course of nearly two years, I have volunteered over 400 hours on the ambulance. Now, at 17, I am still the youngest member in the corps. As an attendant, my responsibilities include assisting the paramedics with patient care as well as inventorying, restocking, and cleaning the ambulance. I take a regular shift every Monday from six to midnight.

I have crewed many calls, but also many types of calls: broken bones, fevers, mental health issues, strokes, heart attacks, allergic reactions. I am the most proud of having received recognition for assisting with a life-saving resuscitation on a patient who was in cardiac arrest. He walked out of the hospital on his own two feet just days later.

Seeing the critical impact that emergency medical services have on our community has taught me the value of what an individual person can do, even as a teenager. I enjoy my commitment to EMS because even after two years of service, I still learning something new on almost every call. Working on the ambulance, where every second counts, has also taught me the value of preparedness and teamwork.

In less than two weeks, I will begin a course to become a registered EMT. While volunteering as an attendant has been extremely rewarding, I look forward to receiving a classroom education that will enable me to assist in a greater capacity in the field.

I hope to receive this award, not only for myself, but to show others in my community the difference they can make. In volunteering with Mamaroneck EMS, I have not only found meaningful work that has shaped the way I view the world, but also a home away from home.