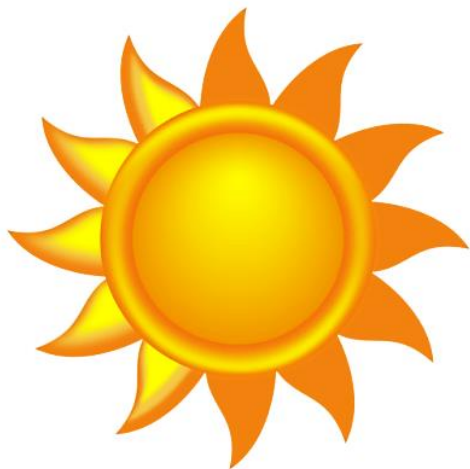


RAY OF HOPE

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION AND MONTHLY RECIPIENT



Created by Needham Youth Services in partnership with the Needham Business Association, the **RAY of Hope Program** (Recognize A Youth) was designed to identify young people who have performed outstanding service to the Needham community and/or who by their actions are excellent role models for their peers. In an era where youth and their behaviors are all-too-frequently noted in a negative context, this program seeks to acknowledge positive youth activities and validate those who are engaged in making Needham a community that cares. The RAY of Hope Program is a recognition that young people and their development are of critical importance to the functioning of the Needham community and our collective futures.

March 2016 Recipient – Amanda Lombard

Amanda is a senior at Needham High School. She was nominated by Tracy Murphy, the Director of volunteer services at Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital. "At BID- Needham our mission requires a positive patient experience to remain the primary objective. Amanda's volunteer work at the hospital has proven to be a wonderful example of this mission," recognizes Tracy.

Amanda started working at BID to fulfill her community service requirement for Needham High School but has worked there for a little over two years and loves it. Amanda is a senior student volunteer, which entails training new volunteers, sharing her expertise and knowledge on all aspects of volunteer duties and hospital policies and procedures. Amada spends afternoons each week discharging patients, transporting specimens to the laboratory from various medical departments, and completing non-clinical tasks throughout the hospital.

"Amanda is a bright young woman with a passion for helping others. She is full of ambition and she places hospital patients and families, her duties, and fellow volunteers ahead of herself," acknowledges Tracy. We are grateful to have Amanda volunteer for BID-Needham and we feel she exemplifies an outstanding RAY of Hope candidate.

On top of the work at the hospital, she was, until this year, a competitive skater where she spent 6 days per week practicing with her coaches and on a team. "It taught me how to be an individual while being a part of a larger community at the same time," says Amanda. I feel as though my work at the hospital has done the same.