



CELEBRATION OF YOUTH AWARDS

Health, Wellness & Perseverance



Bellavance Family Award – Sponsored by Richard & Becky Bellavance.

This award recognizes an individual who has experienced significant mental health issues and has or is currently receiving professional treatment and support. Essay must include challenges faced, and their plans to overcome them. The candidate should articulate their commitment to volunteer work and service to others, and point out challenges. The successful candidate will be a student pursuing post-secondary education who has given back to their community.

YMCA Core Values Award – Sponsored by YMCA of Southwestern Ontario.

This award recognizes an individual who encompasses the YMCA Core Values (Caring, Honesty, Respect, Responsibility and Inclusiveness) into their daily lives. Recipient must be a YMCA employee or volunteer, or a family member of a YMCA employee or volunteer. Essay must include why and how the YMCA Core Values are a significant part of their lives.

Thelma McMurray Award – Sponsored by Jim McMurray.

This award recognizes an individual who demonstrates determination to make a better life for themselves by diligently committing to academic achievement, while overcoming obstacles in life. Special consideration will be given to the candidate who has taken leadership initiatives in their school or community and shared their talents with others. Essay must include challenges faced, talents shared, and any leadership initiatives. The successful candidate will be an outstanding student who is pursuing post-secondary education and who may need financial assistance.

Elaine McMurray Memorial Award – Sponsored by Jim McMurray.

This award recognizes an individual who volunteers in the community, practices the YMCA values of caring, honesty, respect, responsibility and inclusiveness; takes initiative in the service of others and mentoring of others, and who has successfully addressed personal challenges. Essay must include commitment to details of volunteer work and service to others and point out challenges that have been overcome. The successful candidate will be an outstanding student pursuing post-secondary education who may require financial assistance.

Mental Health Champion Award - Sponsored by Canadian Mental Health Association.

This award recognizes an individual who has helped promote the mental well-being of others in their community. The successful candidate will have encouraged those with mental health issues to come forward and seek professional treatment and support, or provided leadership to efforts to remove the stigma and secrecy about mental health. Essay should highlight examples of volunteer work in their school and community.

Suicide Prevention Award – Sponsored by Sarnia Lambton Suicide Prevention Committee.

This award recognizes an individual who has helped promote life, hope and the mental well-being of others in the community through their actions and/or leadership with a focus on suicide prevention. The successful candidate will have taken an active role to help cultivate safeguards against suicide and/or reduce the risk of suicide. Student action and leadership could include direct suicide prevention initiatives such as distributing crisis line information, anti-bullying campaigns, LGBTQ Alliance, advocating for mental health support, and community projects. Essay should include examples of how he/she has shown empathic and innovative leadership in raising awareness about preventing suicide and/or promoting mental wellness and what motivated them to take action. The essay may also focus on how to continue to work with suicide prevention and mental wellness for this community or for communities that they will be a part of in the future.

Rebound Founders Award - Sponsored by Sarnia-Lambton Rebound.

This award recognizes an individual who has demonstrated perseverance and resiliency in the face of challenging times. Having personally faced adversity and worked to overcome their own struggles, they have a proven track record for encouraging, supporting and empowering others to make choices for themselves and their future. They must also demonstrate strength in relationship building and leadership through sharing their own experiences to benefit others. Essay must include examples of the aforementioned.