

2017 Brown/Oak Hill Giving Project Nominations

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Best Buddies International

<http://bestbuddies.org>

Mission statement

We are the world's largest organization dedicated to ending the social, physical and economic isolation of the 200 million people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Why are you nominating this organization?

I nominated Best Buddies, because it helps the people that might not have the chance to live their life to the fullest to have fun. I'm not in Best Buddies, but when I see people having fun with the people that didn't have a chance, it shows that people do care. We made a difference in their lives and ours.

Nominated by: Henry Li

The Children's Room

<http://www.childrensroom.org/>

Mission statement

Caring support for grieving children, teens, and families

Why are you nominating this organization?

The Children's Room has been a lifeline of support to me and to many other families who have lost a loved one. I would like the Oak Hill and Brown community to support this organization so that it can continue to provide this support. When my wife Keri passed away unexpectedly in November 2015, several people recommended that I get in touch with The Children's Room. The peer groups have been welcoming places of mutual support, and they continue to help me and my kids get through one of the most difficult chapters in our lives. It would mean a lot to me to be able to "pay it forward" by supporting this organization.

Nominated by: Tim O'Brien

Closer to Free Ride

<https://www.rideclosertofree.org/>

Mission statement

One hundred percent of the funds raised by Closer to Free riders and volunteers goes to research and patient care at Smilow Cancer Hospital and Yale Cancer Center. For more specific information on how the funds raised by the ride are used visit:

<https://www.rideclosertofree.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=cms.page&id=1022>

Why are you nominating this organization?

I am nominating this organization as it is close to my heart. Cancer affects everyone-- directly or indirectly, and our family has experienced too much of it. There is no cure. We have lost too many loved ones to this awful disease, in all of its forms, and research is the only hope to change this outcome. I am a participant in this event – my third year riding as part of Team Mad About Madeline – to raise awareness of childhood cancer. We lost Maddie a year ago 4/6/2016 after she suffered her third bout of cancer. You can see more about her story on my page:

<https://www.rideclosertofree.org/participant/10129>

I nominate this organization because we need to find a cure!

Nominated by: Marian Brodney

Greater Boston Food Bank

<http://gbfb.org>

Mission statement

GBFB wants to provide food for the 10% of Massachusetts residents that are hungry.

Why are you nominating this organization?

Food is listed as a main necessity along with water, clothes, and shelter. But 1 in 9 people in Eastern Massachusetts don't know where they will get their next meal. I believe that healthy food is something everyone should have, and that is why I want to nominate the Greater Boston Food Bank.

The Greater Boston Food Bank is an organization that is focused on providing nutritious meals to people who don't have enough to eat. It is the leading hunger-relief organization in New England, and is one of the largest hunger-relief agencies in the entire world. This organization is real game-changer because it has already helped so many people in Massachusetts, and people can see that if they browse their website.

GBFB has served food through 140 towns and has provided 57 million pounds of food every year. Just recently, in 2015, they hit their milestone of 600 million pounds of food donated. Not only have they done much in the past, they are also still going strong today. Each month, 140,000 people eat food from the Greater Boston Food Bank.

Nutrition is a big part of the Greater Boston Food Bank. It has many food pantries throughout eastern Massachusetts and they all donate healthy meals. 82% of the food donated meets their highest nutrition standards, and 28% is fresh produce like cabbage and onions, which amounts to a total of 15.9 million pounds of fresh produce donated in just a year.

The Greater Boston Food Bank is a very efficient group, since 92% of the money they get goes to hunger relief. A very small donation can mean the world to a family. Every dollar donated is enough to provide three healthy meals. **At the potluck dinner, if we raise \$50 for the Greater Boston Food Bank, we give meals to 150 people.** This shows that \$50 isn't a tremendous amount of money, but it can make a big difference.

But you shouldn't just take my word to say how awesome GBFB is. Go on their [website](#) to see the many people who describe how the Greater Boston Food Bank changed their lives.

Nominated by: Kyle Zhang

The Jimmy Fund

<http://www.jimmyfund.org/>

Mission statement

To support the fight against cancer in children and adults.

Why are you nominating this organization?

The Jimmy Fund is a non-profit organization that raises millions of dollars to help support the fight against cancer in adults and children. Jimmy Fund supports the search for new cancer treatments and cures for both adults and children at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.

Nominated by: Madeline Xerras

Joi A. Fonfield Enrichment Scholarship

<http://www.newton.k12.ma.us/cms/lib8/MA01907692/Centricity/Domain/521/Enrichment%20letter%2015.pdf>

Mission statement

The Joi A. Fonfield Enrichment Scholarship is awarded to Newton Students who reside in Boston from grades 7-12 who wish to participate in enrichment activities which enhance a student's exposure to academic and cultural programs outside of regular school activities.

Why are you nominating this organization?

I, Imani Fonfield, and my mom Gladys Fonfield are the sister and mother of Joi A. Fonfield. Joi was a former Williams and Brown student here in Newton. Unfortunately, in 2001, Joi unexpectedly passed away at the age of 13. Since Joi and my mom lived in Boston at the time, Joi attended Williams and Brown through the METCO program.

My mom and I would be so honored if you would support the efforts to keep Joi's memory alive through a scholarship that was started in her name upon her untimely death. It is through the Joi A. Fonfield Scholarship that students who have the same determination to succeed academically as herself are given the chance to acquire academic enrichment, college tours, excursion programs, MCAS/SAT Review for high school seniors and summer enrichment programs such as the Calculus Project.

Joi's desire was to achieve academic excellence after seeing an upper classman do so well at a Newton METCO Award Ceremony. Since then, Joi not only achieved academic excellence in school, but exemplified astonishing leadership skills, community engagement, dance, theater and a deep passion for reading and writing. My mom wanted to provide more students with opportunities to expand and enhance their education in Newton Schools from this scholarship to continue students' success.

Prior to Joi's unexpected passing, she had achieved so many things. Joi was the regional winner for the US Olympic Ski Team's national "Sportsmanship for Life" essay contest just before her earthly departure. Additionally, Joi committed to volunteering and fundraising, all while Joi and my mom battled financial challenges of their own. Joi felt a sense of great accomplishment and pure happiness in doing so.

Like most thirteen-year-olds both then and now, Joi attended a Bat Mitzvah of one of her friends, not knowing it would be her last. Following the event at the Harvard Club in Boston in which Joi said she would never forget, she was laid to rest in the fancy dress she wore there.

All in all, Joi was destined to be great; her style and zest for learning came early in life as a template for others to live by. Even though my sister is not able to continue to strive as a student, this scholarship will pass it on. With the help from people such as yourselves, my sister's dream to succeed can live forever and the results will lie in the triumph of many financially-challenged Boston students. My mom and I ask that you support the Joi A. Fonfield Enrichment Scholarship.

Nominated by: Imani Fonfield

Kiva

<http://kiva.org>

Mission statement

To help give loans to people who can probably never give them back.

Why are you nominating this organization?

Because they help people all around the world start a new life by giving loans to buy food, water, etc.

Nominated by: Mattan Landkof

Leukemia and Lymphoma Society

<https://www.lls.org/massachusetts>

Mission statement

The mission of The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS) is: Cure leukemia, lymphoma, Hodgkin's disease and myeloma, and improve the quality of life of patients and their families.

Why are you nominating this organization?

I think this is an important cause that affects almost everybody in some way.

Nominated by: Ari, Todd, Si-Ming, JoVaughn, Henry, Lisa, Kiran (Schnorr/Bachhuber Advisory)

Macheo US

<http://www.macheo.org/about-macheo/organization-in-kenya/the-organization-in-the-united-states/>

Mission statement

Macheo seeks to provide orphans and vulnerable children in Kenya with a better future, caring for 56 children in a safe and secure home in Thika, with enhanced educational opportunities, counseling, health and welfare. We provide daily food to thousands of disadvantaged school children in the rural and slum communities surrounding Macheo, to elevate their nutritional status, improving their ability to learn and develop normally.

Why are you nominating this organization?

Macheo does very important work with very few resources and with a lot of help and enthusiasm from its volunteers. Macheo not only runs a Children's center which provides food and home to children who are orphaned, but also educates families to enable them to care for their children at home. They have many programs that help the community surrounding them: The Primary and Secondary School Programs, Health Program, and Family Empowerment Program. The Macheo US board of directors consists of volunteers, so there is no overhead and 100% of all funds are transferred to Kenya. Every donation counts and can make a real difference. For example, \$35 keeps a child in the program for a month. Macheo US is also great in connecting the donors with the children by providing reports and pictures, so those who donate can see the difference they make.

Nominated by: Alisa Sokol, Michael Bolgov

MIRA (Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition)

<https://www.miracoalition.org/>

Mission statement

MIRA supports immigrants, refugees, and undocumented citizens across Massachusetts, as well as providing training and support to organizations who advocate for these people.

Why are you nominating this organization?

I am nominating MIRA because the population it supports is in danger of losing their civil liberties due to the new political administration in the United States. Having a centralized group to organize action across the state is really important. MIRA organizes direct support of populations but it also trains other people to help refugees and immigrants. MIRA also works with legal services to help people with their needs. Even a small amount would make a difference because every cent matters since there is no government funding and its workers are volunteers. The money is important but the publicity we could provide to MIRA from Brown and Oak Hill is even more essential.

Nominated by: Ari Zeren

MSPCA -Angell

<https://www.mspca.org/>

Mission statement

The mission of the MSPCA-Angell is to protect animals, relieve their suffering, advance their health and welfare, prevent cruelty, and work for a just and compassionate society.

Why are you nominating this organization?

We want to help out the MSPCA because we don't want to kill animals as we feel like they should have a second chance at life. This organization is great because it prevents animals from being put to sleep. The more we help the MSPCA, the less animals will be put to sleep. The MSPCA rescues animals from the streets and abusive homes. If this organization has more money they will be able to buy more food and medication for animals.

Nominated by: Mr.Winkler's Advisory

MSPCA -Angell

<https://www.mspca.org/>

Mission statement

The mission of the MSPCA-Angell is to protect animals, relieve their suffering, advance their health and welfare, prevent cruelty, and work for a just and compassionate society.

Why are you nominating this organization?

I'm nominating this organization because hundreds of pets are abandoned each year because of some silly reasons. MSPCA wants to change that. It's not fair for pets to be treated like objects. They want to help accomplish for there to be no animal cruelty. They give animal another chance to live a better life, they provide animals with animal protection and veterinary medicine and provide direct hands-on care for thousands of animals each year.

Nominated by: Carolina Tran

MSPCA-Angell

<https://www.mspca.org>

Mission statement

The mission of the MSPCA-Angell is to protect animals, relieve their suffering, advance their health and welfare, prevent cruelty, and work for a just and compassionate society.

Why are you nominating this organization?

I feel strongly about caring for animals and protecting them from cruelty.

Nominated by: Jocelyn, Grace, Reghan, Iris, Simon (Schnorr/Bachhuber advisory)

MSPCA-Angell

<https://www.mspca.org/>

Mission statement

Kindness and care for Animals

Why are you nominating this organization?

I am nominating this organization because I feel it is important to help and rescue animals. MSPCA Angell does exactly this. It helps animals that have experienced cruelty. You can also report animal cruelty on their website. It helps all animals find homes. Their website also says "the best way to find your pet is to contact us as soon as you notice your pet missing." If you lost your beloved pet wouldn't you want an animal shelter to take them in and help you find them? This organization matters because they really try to help animals, and they don't take just dogs and cats. They organize events to help their animals. For example they are organizing a five kilometer run for both people and dogs and they are doing an ice cream social. This organization has a farm, Nevis Farm, that rescues many types of animals. It helps horses, goats, birds, pigs, rabbits and small animals (guinea pigs, ferrets). Another great thing this organization does is that it helps animals by working "locally and nationally to improve animal protection laws and regulations." A donation could help the shelter in so many ways and I think they would appreciate one.

Information gotten at: <https://www.mspca.org/>

Nominated by: Giulia Puppini

My Team Triumph Massachusetts

<http://www.myteamtriumph.org>

Mission statement

To enrich the health and well-being of individuals with disabilities by fostering lasting, authentic relationships through the teamwork environment of endurance athletics.

Why are you nominating this organization?

My family has been involved with this wonderful community of runners for 3 years and have become friends with some of the kindest folks you could ever meet. We look forward to each and every race with such great anticipation. MYTEAM TRIUMPH is an athletic ride-along program created for children, teens, adults, and veterans with disabilities who would normally not be able to experience endurance events such as triathlons or road races. With MYTEAM TRIUMPH, participants with disabilities get to do it all! They will "Captain" a team of "Angels" through an entire race guaranteeing them their moment of glory as they cross that finish line that so many of us take for granted. The donations would allow us to continue the upkeep of the running chairs and would also assist in the funding the relatively small amount of advertising that the organization does.

Nominated by: Jeff Primeau

Mystic Aquarium

<http://www.maritimeaquarium.org/support/donation-opportunities>

Mission statement

Today, some 20 million people, among them the vast majority of The Maritime Aquarium's visitors, live within a one-hour drive of the Sound. The cumulative effects of their actions make sustaining the natural functioning of the Sound a real challenge. But in this challenge lies our opportunity to fulfill the promise of aquariums articulated by the Pew Oceans Commission (2003), and foster an ocean conservation ethic focused on this fine body of water in Connecticut's front yard.

Why are you nominating this organization?

Mystic Aquarium does a lot for the ocean animals and the ocean itself. They recently released a baby seal back into the ocean. Mystic Aquarium also has beluga whales, sea lions, penguins and other marine life. The Mystic Aquarium treats animals, and money would help them pay for medical treatment for the animals that need help.

Nominated by: Elise Ware

National Brain Tumor Society

http://www.braintumorcommunity.org/site/TR/TeamraiserEvents/BostonBrainTumorRide?px=3403185&pg=personal&fr_id=2410

Mission statement

Advance research and public policy to improve the availability of new and better treatments, and fuel the discovery of a cure for brain tumors.

Why are you nominating this organization?

We are nominating the National Brain Tumor Society for Alex's mom who has a brain tumor that affects her right leg. She has been a participant in the National Brain Tumor Society for around 20 years. This organization holds a ride every year that people donate to in support of brain tumor research. A donation to the National Brain Tumor Society from the Giving Project would boost research to find a cure for brain tumors, and help people like Alex's mom, whose lives have been affected by brain tumors.

Nominated by: Alex Shapiro and Zack Matzkin

Newton Food Pantry

<http://www.newtonfoodpantry.org/>

Mission statement

The Newton Food Pantry wants to make sure that people don't go to bed hungry. People donate food to them and they're open once a month to give food to those who need it.

Why are you nominating this organization?

I think that this organization could do good things if we donate them some money, because they buy the food or it gets donated, and if they have more food, then they can give more to those in need. I think this organization is doing good for a lot of people in Newton and could do even better with our help.

Nominated by: Meejee Sarvey

NeXus Newton

<http://outmetrowest.org/our-programs-overview-faqs/nexus/>

Mission statement

NeXus is a first-in-the-Commonwealth program for LGBTQ and allied middle school youth. Open to all youth in grades 6-8, NeXus provides a safe space to explore questions relating to sexual orientation and gender identity.

Why are you nominating this organization?

We are nominating NeXus Newton because we know how important it is for young people to have an open and safe space where they can express themselves. All of us have experienced what it feels like to be alone with no one who understands us. NeXus is a completely nonprofit organization. A donation would help NeXus set up locations, provide resources for activities and meet ups and help create an overall safe space.

Nominated by: Gender and Sexuality Awareness club (GSA) of Oak Hill Middle School

Planned Parenthood

https://www.plannedparenthood.org/health-center/massachusetts/boston/02215/greater-boston-health-center-3293-90610?utm_campaign=greater-boston-health-center&utm_medium=organic&utm_source=local-listing

Mission statement

Planned Parenthood is trying to help educate people (mostly women) on how to live a long and healthy life. They try to teach people worldwide about health issues, reproductive education, and more on how to stay healthy when so many people around the world do not have access to this kind of education. Planned Parenthood also fights for legal, social, and political improvements all around the globe.

Why are you nominating this organization?

I believe that it is critical that people acknowledge the importance of this kind of education, so when kids around the world face many different types of health issues, they are prepared to face them and know how to deal with it. In our school, we are very privileged to have a great health education, and I think it is unfair that so many people and children around the world are dying or hurt just because they do not have access to any health education. This is also important so they can teach future generations and create a more sustainable world where the majority of people are living content and happy lives. I think that even whether people are in poverty, or living just fine, we all deserve a good chance at a health education. Maybe some people think that people are better off without any kind of this education, but it is very important to educate women (prevent unintended pregnancies), and educate teens of the importance of this education. If Congress shuts down Planned Parenthood, then 2.5 million people a year would lose access to birth control, cancer screenings, STD tests, and more. This is why I think we should donate to this non-profit organization.

Nominated by: Tae Hong

Razia's Ray Of Hope Foundation

<https://raziasrayofhope.org/>

Mission statement

Razia's Ray Of Hope Foundation educates, empowers, and changes Afghanistan one girl at a time.

Why are you nominating this organization?

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to not have to go to school? You probably have and thought it would be great but in reality, some girls can't and don't go to school. Since the Taliban regime that outlawed all education for females took power, Afghan girls have a very hard time getting an education. According to the United Nations, there have been more than 100 attacks in the last four years on female education. Some attacks include throwing acid on the girls' faces, poisoning the schools' limited drinking water, and burning the schools. So, Razia Jan (the president of this organization) opened the Zabuli Education Center in Deh'Subz, Afghanistan. Razia's Ray Of Hope Foundation's (headquartered in Wellesley, Massachusetts) goal is to provide as many girls in Afghanistan as possible with a free education, uniforms, shoes, warm coats, and meals. I first discovered this foundation when the director of my hockey camp last summer teamed up with Razia's Ray Of Hope to help create athletic opportunities for Afghan girls. So, she challenged us to help raise money to provide the Zabuli Education Center with sports equipment that the girls can use for soccer, volleyball, and badminton, which are popular Afghan sports. Although the Zabuli Education Center has been a huge success, it does not have an athletic program. I think this should and needs to change because sports matter in girls' lives. Sport is a fun way to build confidence, teamwork, and physical and mental strength. Athletics is a great way to teach kids how to deal with success and failure, shows them the results of working hard and doing their best, and many more life lessons. Over 600 girls get an education at the Zabuli Education Center. But illiteracy is still very common in Afghanistan. And many more boys have the opportunity for an education compared to girls. I think girls and young women should have the same opportunity to an education as boys and young men do. The girls going to the Zabuli Education Center are very poor and most have been through extreme hardships in a warzone. The Zabuli Education Center shows a positive change in women's rights with many more females going to school in Afghanistan and all over the world. I support Razia's Ray Of Hope Foundation because I believe that every girl should get a chance to get an education and have an opportunity to play a sport. An education empowers girls and young women to work up to their full potential and reach their best selves. A donation from the Giving Project will give another girl an education that will empower them to make a

difference in their community or around the world. A donation will also support the teachers at the Zabuli Education Center, help keep the school running for as long as possible, and will give a meal to a hungry Afghan girl. Overall, Razia's Ray Of Hope is a great organization because education gives girls and their families a ray of hope for a brighter future.

Nominated by: Abby Matsuyasu

Red Cross Society of China

<http://redcross.org.cn/>

Mission statement

Helping the refugees in times of conflict and providing assistance to disaster victims.

Why are you nominating this organization?

Give medical support for people in China. Train doctors, and help people with diseases. Also build libraries and improve education for students. Donation can help improve people lives in China.

Nominated by: Peter Chen

Rise Against Hunger

<http://www.riseagainsthunger.org/>

Mission statement

Rise Against Hunger is an organization that helps the fight against hunger. They have helped families and individuals world wide with the hunger crisis.

Why are you nominating this organization?

Rise Against Hunger has made large contributions with helping no hunger. They do several things to be part of the solution of no hunger. For example, when there is a natural disaster in some part of the world, they make contributions to help fix the areas where people live or where people would have access to food. They also host meal packaging events where a group of people gather and package up meals. They include multiple nutritious foods such as rice, vegetables, vitamins and minerals and so much more. They are then sent to people who are in need of food. Rise Against Hunger has made 315,576,949 meal packages. They have made a huge impact already. By donating just a relatively small amount of money Rise Against Hunger can buy more supplies/ingredients to create meal packages. They can also use their money to rebuild the places where food used to grow, but got destroyed (from natural disasters). That way people can have easy access to food.

Did you know that in the year 2000, 13% of the world suffered with hunger? Then, in 2016 11% of the world suffered with hunger. Many people have become more aware of this problem in the 16 year time gap. Asia is the location where most people are suffering with this crisis. Rise Against Hunger helps 74 locations worldwide (some of which are located in Asia).

Rise Against Hunger is an organization that is special to me. I have helped out before in a meal packaging event. The experience gave me the fulfilling feeling of doing a good deed. Lots of people gathered in a rather large gymnasium. After instructions, we all split off into groups of about 5-6 people. We worked for a while and produced thousands of meals. After, everybody contributed to donating some money to the organization. Any help, big or small, would be appreciated by Rise Against Hunger and the people receiving the food. They would easily say that it matters to them.

Someone once said that "If hunger is not the problem, then eating is not the solution." I think that this relates to what we can help with. We can donate money so people can have access to food, but we can also help people become more aware of this problem by showing them how we can make an impact (small or big) with our donation.

In addition, Buzz Aldrin has said, "If we can conquer space, we can conquer childhood hunger." What Aldrin is saying is if we can do an enormous task such as conquer space, we can make an effort to try to solve the hunger crisis.

In conclusion, we can make an impact by supporting Rise Against Hunger. The donation would be appreciated and would truly matter.

Nominated by: Alyssa Feinberg

Save the Harbor/Save the Bay

<http://www.savetheharbor.org/>

Mission statement

Save the Harbor/Save the Bay's main goal is to restore and protect the Boston Harbor, Massachusetts Bay, and the marine environment.

Why are you nominating this organization?

I am nominating Save the Harbor/Save the Bay because they have done a lot of work to changed the bodies of water in Boston from being very polluted to being clean enough for people to appreciate. The organization was founded in 1986 by the lawyer, judge and reporter involved in the Boston Harbor Case, which fought to put in place environmental regulations to prevent polluting the waters. At that time, Boston was known around the country for its dirty waters and the health hazards it would cause if you went into these dirty waters. Since then Save the Harbor/Save the Bay has worked hard in leading cleanup efforts so the waters are clean enough for people to enjoy.

Save the Harbor/Save the Bay has turned 34 ignored islands into great places for people to visit and enjoy. They have also helped to clean up beaches in the North and South Shores so they are safer for visitors. The clean up efforts have also been very helpful in North Dorchester Bay and have helped to make the beaches in South Boston some of the cleanest city beaches in America. It is especially helpful for people who live in the city to have some place close to their homes to get fresh air and clean water to swim in.

In addition, they are spreading the word by having free youth environmental education and family programs to restore and protect Boston Harbor and Massachusetts Bay. These programs have connected over 100,000 youths, teens and their families to Boston Harbor and the Boston Harbor Islands National Park. Having these education programs is very helpful because it teaches the new generation to not make the mistakes that we have made, like littering and polluting oceans and other bodies of water. Doing this stops future generations from polluting, because they would not have the bad habits we have anymore.

For me, this is especially important because of how it affects the marine animals. I was devastated after finding out that over 30% of marine habitats have now been destroyed

because of the waste we have all created and dumped into the ocean. Since then, I have felt much more connected to the marine animals and the ocean and I really want to help them. Donations to Save the Harbor/Save the Bay would help pay for the clean up and the educational programs, and help keep the beaches around Boston beautiful. The money from these donations would really help both the marine animals and the people of Boston.

Nominated by: Sarah Feinberg

Skating Club of Boston - Therapeutic Skating Program

<https://skatingacademy.org/programs/therapeutic-skating/>

Mission statement

Therapeutic Skating is a unique program providing children and young adults with disabilities access to the sport of figure skating by offering them an opportunity to participate in a specialized skating experience.

Why are you nominating this organization?

I have worked as a volunteer skating coach for two years with the Therapeutic Skating Program. At first, I was nervous and unsure what to expect, but over time I have formed a bond with the skaters, and especially with my student -- David. David is seven years old and has several disabilities including autism. For the longest time, David hugged the wall of the rink, seeking the comfort of knowing it was there in case he fell. Gradually, I have worked to move David away from the wall and grow his confidence as a skater. He has learned to skate backwards and is working on learning how to stop. This weekend, he and I will perform in the Skating Club's annual Ice Chips show, featuring Olympic and nationally ranked skaters. This is an amazing opportunity for David and the other skaters, but it costs more money than many of the families can afford. I have worked to raise funds for the program since last year and have already been able to donate enough money to sponsor several of the skaters, but many more are struggling to pay the fees associated with the program and I fear many do not enroll because of the price. The Director is working to find funding, but he has been unsuccessful. I told him I would do everything I could to help, and have even volunteered to babysit for donations in my neighborhood. Any additional funds would be well used by the program and its amazing participants.

Nominated by: Maya Himelfarb

Stride Adaptive Sports

<http://www.stride.org/>

Mission statement

To educate and empower individuals with special needs in life-changing sport and recreation programs to sustain healthy, active and fun lifestyles.

Why are you nominating this organization?

I'm nominating this organization because I feel so lucky that I am able to play the sports I do and wish that all can share in that joy that I experience.

Nominated by: Zachary Hayden

Water.Org

<http://water.org/>

Mission statement

The members of Water.org want everyone to have clean drinking water and the dignity of a toilet.

Why are you nominating this organization?

A small donation to Water.Org will give people the ability to have drinking water near them. 663 million people live in the world without clean water, and nearly 2.395 billion people live without clean water or the dignity of a toilet. Water.Org also helps girls get better education because in many countries, girls miss a lot of school every day because they had to spend most of their day getting water for their entire family. Also, no sanitation can cause harm. Nearly 1,000 kids every day die due to preventable water and sanitation-related diarrheal diseases. Water.Org is helping kids and families to have clean water and clean sanitation. If you don't donate money, you could help by giving water to local food pantries so people could have something to drink.

Nominated by: Ryan Liu