

youth LeadershipMontgomery

• Program Sponsor:



Youth Leadership Montgomery (YLM) is a two-part program based on a partnership between YLM and Maryland Leadership Workshops (MLW) that provides an experience to develop leadership skills and community awareness for any Montgomery County public or independent high school student entering grades 9-12.

During the week-long residential MLW session in August, YLM program participants get to know each other through daily workshops designed especially for them. This is how **Stephanie Hasbeck (YLM'09)** summarized the experience: "I think I can speak for everyone when I say that it changed our lives in one way or another. MLW taught us how to become better leaders and how to act in certain situations. We learned how to give positive feedback to speakers and how to motivate people while speaking. At MLW, I made life-long friends, who I'll plan to keep in touch for a long time."

According to **Ranjit S. "Ron" Dhindsa ('01)**, the President of the 55-year old extremely successful leadership training program MLW, "There is no greater feeling than enabling and inspiring young people to find their passions, gain confidence, build life skills, and work together to improve their schools and communities."

In the fall YLM sessions, the young leaders learn about the role of nonprofit organizations and civic engagement in our society through the example of passionate leaders, as well as hands-on activities. To understand the importance of charitable giving, they research nonprofit organizations in Montgomery County that provide services to young residents with a particular need. The generous donation of \$1,000 comes from the Roberta F. and Lawrence A. Shulman Youth Endowment. Setting the criteria and awarding the money is always a challenging task for the students.

"We have learned many things during this program, and I think that nonprofit organizations have been a topic I have learned the most about. I now understand that nonprofits are organizations founded by passionate people who saw a problem and did something about it. They may not receive money for their services, but instead they find their reward each time when they see the results of their work, they see that they have made a difference in this society," said **Kevin Puetate (YLM'09)**.

After graduation, class members embark on new adventures, some of them continuing high



2009 Youth Leadership Montgomery Graduates: Front row, left to right: Georgia Corran, Springbrook High School; Laura Brockdorff, Poolesville High School; Amy Abel, Sherwood High School; Paige Stemerman, Holton-Arms School; Monica Won, Winston Churchill High School; Galene Wong, Richard Montgomery High School. Back row: David Escobar, Poolesville High School; Elise Widerlitz, The Bullis School; Devon Holt, Walt Whitman High School; Nicole Bleecker, Walt Whitman High School; Sanjeev Muralidharan, Montgomery Blair High School; Bridget Greaney, St. Andrew's Episcopal School; Stephanie Hasbeck, Col. Zadok Magruder High School, and Guillaume Pierre-Louis, Thomas S. Wootton High School. Not pictured: Brian Lahore, Watkins Mill High School; Kevin Puetate, Watkins Mill High School; and Jordan Tessler, Walter Johnson High School.

school, some going on to college. They'll always remember what they learned about themselves and the leadership skills, but, most importantly, the other students in the program.

For program details, go to www.leadershipmontgomerymd.org.

Leadership Montgomery would like to recognize and thank all the individuals and organizations

that made this program a success:

Program Sponsor:
Petit Family Charitable Foundation
Philanthropic Donation and Scholarships:
Roberta F. & Lawrence A. Shulman Youth Endowment
Session and Graduation Host:
Social & Scientific Systems, Inc.

SALUTE TO THE SHULMAN, ROGERS, GANDAL, PORDY & ECKER, P.A., YOUTH COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AWARDS RECIPIENTS

• Award Sponsor:



Natalie Astor
Thomas S. Wootton High School



Unheh Ok
Thomas S. Wootton High School



Meghan Quinn
Stone Ridge of the Sacred Heart



Philip Smith
Sherwood High School



Jigisha Srivastav
Poolesville High School

The Youth Community Leadership Awards program recognizes and rewards outstanding high school seniors attending public, private or parochial schools in Montgomery County. Youth Award recipients are selected from applicants who have

completed a minimum of 260 hours of approved community service by the end of their junior year and who demonstrate exceptional leadership in their community

service activities. Each student is required to submit an award application, essay and recommendations. Five students are selected annually to receive a \$1,000 award at LM's annual Celebration of Leadership event.