



2023-24 MIAA Community Service Challenge

First Half – August through December 2023



Franklin, MA- The Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) is excited to announce Emily Lucien of Melrose High School as the winner of the first half of the 2023-2024 MIAA Community Service Challenge! Members of the MIAA Student Advisory Committee reviewed 160 incredible submissions before selecting the winner.

Emily is a senior at Melrose High School and has been organizing the Breast Friends Walk for the last three years. This year the event had 50 sponsors, almost 550 people participated and raised just over \$50,000 dollars. Emily explained, "A large 'why' behind organizing this event is that my own mother passed away from breast cancer in 2019, and while she fought this disease my family experienced an immense amount of support and strength from our community, which made such a terrible time in our lives a little bit easier."

Melrose Principal, Jason Merrill, reflected on the Breast Cancer Friends Walk and stated, "Emily is an incredible individual; an outstanding athlete and accomplished student. She exemplifies leadership and has made a lasting impact on our school community. She took a tragic event in her life and turned it into something really special. Her service has made a financial impact on others who are battling this

disease and even more importantly provided hope and compassion. Her family, friends, teammates, classmates, and school are all very proud of her."

Melrose Athletic Director, Stephen Fogarty, expressed gratitude for Emily's leadership. He explained, "Emily has challenged herself in the classroom and the playing fields. Her athletic accomplishments are almost as great as her academic success. She is a hard-working, well-rounded student athlete that contributes to various leadership positions in clubs and school groups. Emily will be missed next school year, but we will value the time we have with her this spring."

[Click here](#) to review the full submission by Emily Lucien and Melrose High School

The MIAA is grateful for the continued partnership with [Team Up 4 Community](#) (TU4C) that began in March 2021. The partnership encourages schools to submit their projects online providing sports teams the opportunity to showcase community service projects, demonstrating their commitment and impact on the community.

A total of 160 community service projects were submitted between August and December 2023. This included 8,830 student-athletes participating in some type of community service project. In total, \$139,134 was raised for charitable causes with 39,331 hours of time donated by MIAA student-athletes.

A presentation of this award will take place at Melrose High School in the coming weeks.

Please be reminded to continue to submit your projects on the website. **The second half of this challenge will run from January 1, 2024 – May 15, 2024!** Winners will be selected shortly after May 15th!

Thank you to all MIAA member schools and student-athletes who participated in this years' service challenge. To view all projects submitted, [click here](#).

