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Welcome

Tonight, we recognize teens for strengthening their community through demonstration of exemplary character and living the Y's core values of caring, honesty, respect, and responsibility. Each award recipient has found a way to be a positive role model for their peers as they overcame unique challenges in their own lives.

These Teen Character Awards are a chance for us to pay forward our gratitude for the hard work and dedication of our local teens, encouraging them to continue to lead their lives with positive character values.

As our community's largest youth-serving charity, we nurture the potential of every child and teen. We encourage, support, and motivate them to live up to their potential. With these future change makers in our community, we are convinced we are in good hands.

Join me in celebrating these impactful teens. For a better you. For a better us. For a better community.

***Fred Hauser, Interim Chief Executive Officer
YMCA of the Northwoods***



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Program

-Welcome-

Fred Hauser, Interim Chief Executive Officer, YMCA of the Northwoods

-Introduction-

Masters of Ceremony:

Geoff Weller, Chief Meteorologist, WJFW-Newswatch 12

Dan Hagen, News Anchor/Assistant News Director, WJFW-Newswatch 12

-Invocation and Blessing-

Colton Mellinger, Executive Director, Headwaters Christian Youth

-Dinner-

-Keynote Speaker-

Paul LaPree, Vice President of Business Development, Miron Construction

-Presentation of Awards-

Jaclene Tetzlaff, President, Rhinelander Rotary Club

-Y Teen Character Scholarship-

Matt Steingraber, Scholarship Founder, Forest County Potawatomi Division
Administrator

-Closing Comments-

Fred Hauser, Interim Chief Executive Officer, YMCA of the Northwoods

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About the Awards

This special evening marks the 21st Annual Teen Character Awards which celebrates the hard work and commitment of teens in our communities who make a lasting impact on others.

The YMCA Teen Character awards started in 2003 honoring twenty teens. Since then, over four hundred fifty teens have been honored with this award. The opportunity to share their stories and impact is unique.

These award winners are a living example of strong moral character, leadership, and service, who are dedicated to strengthening families, schools, and communities. Each one of these teens is a testament to the character traits of caring, honesty, respect, and responsibility. In a time when our communities are faced with immense challenges, it is vital that we reach out to each other and share these amazing stories.

Tonight, we demonstrate character in action and applaud all our winners for their accomplishments. We encourage them to continue to lead their lives with the positive character values they have displayed. Through their actions, we are reminded that each of us can make a difference, even when no one is watching. One person's actions are contagious and can inspire a family, a school, or a community.

YMCA CORE VALUES:

CARING is evidenced by helping and loving others.

HONESTY is evidenced by truthfulness and integrity.

RESPECT is evidenced by valuing the worth of others and self.

RESPONSIBILITY is evidenced by accountability to others and self.

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Keynote Speaker:

Paul LaPree

Following graduating from St. Cloud State in Minnesota, Paul began his career in television working as a reporter for the Minnesota North Stars professional hockey team. After suffering through some personal tragedy, Paul needed a fresh start and moved to Wausau in 1988 (yes, I am that old) to work at WAOW TV-9 as a sports anchor. After five years, Paul was contacted by the owners of Eastbay and was asked to be their Director of Team Sales. Under his leadership, sales quadrupled in less than 3 years.



In 1993, Paul had the opportunity to take ownership of L&S Printing and for the next 16 years, ran a very successful business. In 2009, during the economic crisis, Paul was faced with a very difficult decision and was forced to close his business. He took that opportunity to merge his company with his largest competitor, Sun Printing, and in the process, secure jobs for each of his employees. For the next two years, Paul continued working at Sun to make sure the transition went smoothly. After two years, Paul wanted a new challenge and was approached by Miron Construction.

Today, Paul is Vice President of Business Development for Miron and has secured over \$100 million in projects. Paul has served on the Aspirus Hospital and Samoset Council Boy Scouts Board of Directors and has served as Chairman of the Aspirus Foundation. Currently, Paul is the Chairman of the Greater Wausau Chamber of Commerce and serves and a founding board member of the Greater Wausau Prosperity Partnership.

Paul is the father of two adult children, Michael who is getting his master's degree in counseling and his daughter Lauren who lives in Chicago and works for the FBI.

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2023 Nominees



Ryana Alloway

Crandon High School – Junior

Nominator: Catherine Kreul

Ryana is a very caring and self-motivated student and has worked hard to get where she is. Hard work and determination have allowed Ryana to rise-up and become a model student with a great work ethic and amazing sense of humor. She is an active member of her community and unselfishly volunteers her time and resources to others. She is a member of the Anishinaabe Leadership Club, a student organization that advocates for Anishinaabe students in her community. She also took part in designing and distributing the school buttons for Native American Heritage Month at Crandon High School. Her enthusiasm and work ethic have led to significant positive impact for those in her community. Continue to shine bright Ryana!



Lukas Bishop

Rhineland High School – Junior

Nominator: Grace Nash

Lukas participates in football, Alpine skiing and is involved in many community activities while also working a part time job at Home Depot. His positive attitude and coachability are most seen in his Alpine ski team where he goes out of his way to support the team in whatever struggles they are facing on and off the hill. He supports the younger athletes in a caring and respectful way and ensures that everyone is included in the activities. Lukas does an amazing job balancing all his activities. Whether it is staying late at work, positively participating in ski drills, or helping others, Lukas always gives the task at hand his all.



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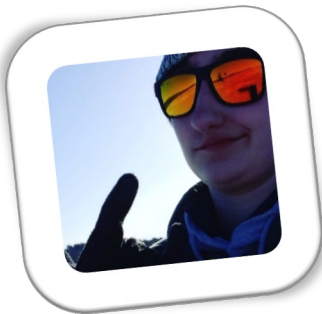


Kelsey Bissonette

Crandon High School - Junior

Nominator: Mary LeMaster

Kelsey is a real go-getter and the definition of a well-rounded student. She organized a blood drive for high school students. She is a greeter at her church. She assists with Elementary PTO events to create a great environment for younger students. Additionally, she does a lot of “quiet volunteering” behind the scenes cleaning up the highways or walking dogs for the animal shelter. She is an excellent student, a member of the National Honor Society, Global Scholars, Spanish National Honor Society, and the Student Senate. Kelsey has also excelled in athletics where she plays Volleyball, Basketball, and was a 1st-team All-Conference Softball Pitcher. No surprise, she also gives back to the younger youth in athletics teaching little league softball pitching to the next generation. Doing all this she still finds time to hold a part-time job at Yeti’s during the summer.



Claire Casselton

Rhineland High School – Junior

Nominator: Jenny Heck

Claire is always there to cheer on her swim teammates. She is a positive representation of the team and young leaders in our community. Though she is a quiet and kind leader she has high expectations of herself and the other swimmers on her team. Claire is a hard worker. When she isn’t working to keep swimmers safe as a lifeguard at the YMCA or teaching swim lessons, she is teaching boy scout troops swim techniques so they can earn their badges. She also partners with her parents to volunteer at various organizations in our community. Thank you, Claire for being a positive role model in our community, keep up the great work!

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Gavin Connor

Laona High School – Junior

Nominator: Jason Bertrand

The kind of kid you want others to emulate, Gavin is known for being caring while standing up for others. As a junior, he has stepped up in his school and shows the type of leadership one would expect to see from a senior. He is not afraid to stand up for his peers and create the type of school environment that everyone should be proud of. As a peer Health Educator, he helps train middle school students on many topics including mental health awareness and life skills. He also works with elementary school students to teach them social-emotional learning skills. Gavin is on the varsity basketball and baseball team and is very active in his youth group and FBLA club. Gavin leads with integrity and his community and classmates appreciate everything he does.



Taylor Dahlquist

James Williams Middle School – Grade 8

Nominator: Jake Zutavern

Taylor, an 8th grader at James Williams Middle School, is a very giving and loving individual. Students that struggle academically and socially gravitate towards her because of her willingness to put others first. She gives her all in the classroom, does not shy away from expressing concerns or questions she may have and always tries to find ways to be better. Those who surround Taylor gain confidence academically and socially. Taylor is involved in many activities such as wrestling, softball, WEB leader, and works two part time jobs.

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Isabelle (Izzy) Gilman

Rhineland High School – Junior

Nominator: Shawn Belanger

Isabelle is a student volunteer in kindergarten at Pelican Elementary. She is kind, caring, and goes out of her way to make all students feel valued in the classroom. Sometimes her schedule does not allow her to attend and she always communicates this in advance and specifies why she will not be present. Izzy is willing to jump in and help wherever needed and shows the ability to help with little guidance or direction. Her skills allow learning to move forward with the students she supports. In addition to working a part-

time job at Walmart, Izzy also babysits, and is a longtime member of the Hodag Water Ski Show. She also shares her skiing skills with Graceful Wakes, a non-profit organization that teaches waterskiing to people with cognitive or physical disabilities. Congratulations, Isabelle!



Charlie Heck

Rhineland High School – Senior

Nominator: June Heck

Charlie is a devoted leader and a great example to youth. He is the captain of the state-qualifying soccer team, the state-champion swimming team, and the tennis team. He is an AP Scholar and a member of the state-qualifying Quiz Bowl Team. Charlie is a member of the National Honor Society, FBLA, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and is on the student council. Charlie is a great student that still finds time to give back to the community. He was a bell ringer for the Salvation Army, packs boxes for

kids in Africa with Headwaters Christian Youth and collected can goods with FBLA. While being a part of all of this he also holds down a part-time job with Heck Capital.



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James Heck

Rhineland High School – Junior

Nominator: June Heck

James is a dedicated hard worker. He is a student leader that is known for giving back through volunteering at the food pantry, visiting the nursing home, and serving the Lion's Club Christmas Dinner. He is very respectful to everyone he meets. James is a three-sport athlete (football, basketball, and baseball). James is a member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes as well as the Hodag Leadership Council for football. He serves Mass at his church as a lector and

Mass server. James works at Culvers and the Rhineland Country Club. He is also a member of the National Honor Society, Student Council, and FBLA. James' positive and respectful actions are noticed by teachers, employers, and coaches and he is a fantastic role model for youth, his teammates, and his community.



Ryley Hull

James Williams Middle School – 8th grade

Nominator: Jake Zutavern

Ryley stands out from other boys in his class through his consideration of others. In discussing difficult topics such as emotions or mental health, he is honest yet sensitive towards the viewpoints of others. Even in the face of challenges he is still able to complete his schoolwork successfully. Ryley has a level of maturation that allows him to see situations from perspectives others cannot. He is an influencer of others in his class. In Ryley's presence, other

students raise their commitment and level of maturation. Ryley is a role model in his commitment to both academics and athletics. His leadership starts upon his arrival at school in the morning for a weightlifting session and continues throughout the day as he interacts with others. Ryley also participates in football and wrestling and is an ambassador with WEB leaders. Keep it up, Ryley!

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Leah Jamison

Rhineland High School – Junior

Nominator: Eric Burke and Kersti Lamers

Leah is committed to her studies and a leader who is not afraid to stand up for what she believes in, even when faced with peer pressure. She is involved in many activities including Key Club, National Honor Society, and HOSA (Future Health Professionals Club). Leah is also a three-sport athlete in cross country, basketball and is captain of the soccer team. Leah is compassionate and willing to help; she demonstrates those traits by volunteering for Ruby's

Pantry, score keeping and working concessions at high school events, and volunteering at the Hodag Country Festival every year.



Christian Jolin

Three Lakes High School - Sophomore

Nominator: Jen Metzger

Christian constantly puts the interests of others in front of his own. He demonstrates an exceptional level of caring for others and consistently recognizes the needs of those around him without being asked. Christian is actively involved with his church community, serving as a leader for extreme faith camp and as a high school missionary who travels with a

group that helps communities in other states. He leads by example with humility and kindness. Christian is also a successful member of the Three Lakes High School Soccer and Basketball teams.

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Ellie Lurvey

Three Lakes High School - Senior

Nominator: Marc Busko

Ellie is an exemplary leader. She was elected by her peers as Student Council President. She is also a captain of the Northwoods School of Dance Competition Team, where she competes year-round. Ellie is highly successful in her academic classes and truly stands out by going out of her way to effectively help others who may be struggling with the courses. She approaches her daily tasks with a work ethic that results in work and

accomplishments that consistently exceed expectations. Ellie makes a positive impact on those around her in everything she does.



Aerowynn Marchant

Phelps High School - Sophomore

Nominator: Rachel Smith

Aerowynn is exceptionally driven and encourages those around her to excel. Her teachers indicate she routinely takes her own class time to assist others. She's an accomplished academic performer- already taking college level courses as a sophomore in high school. Aerowynn is always helping others and is currently enrolled in the CNA program at Nicolet. She is very

involved at Phelps High School where she participates in volleyball, basketball, softball, band, and yearbook- all while working a part-time job.

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Miles McCanles

Northland Pines High School- Senior

Nominator: Jennifer LaPorte

Miles is a very caring individual. He is a mentor for middle school students, takes great pride in his academics, and is also involved in multiple sports. He is very honest and demonstrates this through his integrity in the classroom and through competition. He shows respect through his involvement in the National Honor Society, student council, and through tutoring other students.

He is very responsible and is always pushing himself to be better in every activity he involves himself in. He surrounds himself with good friends and is a respected student by his teachers.



Montgomery Oelke

Tomahawk High School – Sophomore

Nominator: Melissa Nieman

Not only does Montgomery participate in football and baseball, but he has also been a Junior Firefighter on the Tomahawk Fire Department for 2 years. His commitment to the department is shown in his regular attendance at trainings, meetings, and most of the calls. He understands that being part of the fire department means that he may be assisting a community member on possibly their worst day, and he does not take this

responsibility lightly. He shares his love of public service with his classmates at Tomahawk High School. Recently he and three other classmates took first place in the Fire and Emergency Service Public Safety Challenge at Nicolet College. Participating in all of this has taught Montgomery life skills like teamwork, leadership, responsibility and commitment, and he does not hesitate to display these skills throughout his life.

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Izabella (Izzy) Otteson

Rhineland High School – Senior

Nominator: Melissa Hasselberger

Always willing to help, Izzy is known for helping her peers during lab time and being a teacher's assistant. She is able to offer positive yet constructive feedback to her peers as they work through their cooking projects in the lab.

She has also spent time creating fun and interactive lessons with her teacher. She is the president of FCCLA (Family, Career and Community Leaders of America). In this role she has serviced the community in many ways, including organizing dinners for NATH. When she's not in a cooking lab, Izzy mentors kindergarteners at Central elementary school and works part time at Friendly Village. Izzy is known for being honest, respectful, and caring. She reflects this in her actions and choices every day.



Lily Palubicki

Crandon High School – Sophomore

Nominator: Ashlee Peters

Lily is very polite and kind to everyone she meets including her peers, adults, and community youth. She volunteers to help coach the girl's 4th-grade basketball team. As a coach, she shows a great deal of patience with all the young girls and their different skill levels. She works one-on-one with them and helps them build confidence, self-esteem and friendship skills. She is very positive and is a great role model. She is a

Global Scholar. When she isn't volunteering for youth activities, she is a member of the cross country, basketball, and softball teams. She also has a part-time job at Eats & Treats.



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Taylor Riopel

Rhineland High School – Senior
Nominator: Matt Nichols

Taylor's positive attitude is contagious, and her joyful demeanor positively affects anyone she meets. She has touched the lives of many through her leadership of the high school tennis team. Whether she's coaching elementary school students, running drills with her team, or providing leadership as the boys' tennis team manager, she does so with a smile on her face. Taylor is a trustworthy leader and will never ask someone to do something that she is not willing to do herself. She extends her leadership skills into the community through FBLA/DECA where she has organized and participated in various community service events and fundraisers. Keep shining bright in your community Taylor!



Layne Roeser

Rhineland High School – Senior
Nominator: Matt Nichols

Layne is an assertive leader. He was named captain of the tennis team as a junior and of the hockey team as a senior. He leads by example in warm-ups, drills, and games. Layne interacts and checks in with younger team members, including special needs students. Layne constantly gives praise and encouragement to those around him, especially on hard days. He demonstrates great sportsmanship win or lose. He has a great sense of humor and is always willing to make others laugh. Layne is part of the mountain biking club, runs his own snow removal business, and also works in landscaping during the summertime.

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Madalynn (Maddie) Roeser

Rhineland High School – Senior

Nominator: Eric Burke

Madalynn has been the President of the Rhineland High School Key Club for the past two years where she has been dedicated to making her community a better place. Her hard work has led her to various organizations in the community such as Red Cross and Rhineland Area Food Pantry. She has organized five blood drives in the last two years for the Red Cross as well as leading all other Key Club events. When she isn't creating, planning or running a Key Club event she is working with Student Council or playing volleyball, hockey or softball. Keep up the great work Maddie!



Austin Samanske

Northland Pines High School – Senior

Nominator: Peter Aerts

Austin moved into the Northland Pines District in the middle of the school year last year as a junior. In baseball, he immediately worked hard which quickly earned the respect of his teammates, including becoming a team captain. His treatment of others – including underclassmen, first-to-arrive-last-to-leave approach, and positive demeanor inspire the team. He celebrates the successes of others while also building them back up when they are struggling. The approach Austin takes in building up his teammates in baseball extends to the whole school. He brings positive energy to everyone in the building. His teachers speak about his great attitude and the respect he shows towards them. Umpires have shared how impressed they are with the catcher's (Austin's) leadership on the field. Austin has also volunteered with the youth baseball program. He has done a great job helping at our youth camp and open gyms. Austin is also involved in football, basketball, and is one of the main leaders and organizers of SALT (Student Athlete Leadership Team) at our school. Way to make a positive impact, Austin!

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Emily Schiek

Nativity Catholic School - Seventh Grade

Nominator: Caurie Peterson

Emily understands how community works together. The give and take of teaching and learning. She not only puts her full effort into her work as an honor roll student, but she also takes the time to thank her teachers and support other students with homework and activities. Emily is a positive role model and the youth around her are drawn to her. She is constantly stopping in the hallways to say hi, give hugs and acknowledge those who look up to her. Emily participates in plays and musicals and is attending classes through UW- Madison over the summer months. She consistently puts her whole heart into what she is doing.



Dylan Shefveland

Rhineland High School – Freshman

Nominator: Matt Nichols

“Actions speak louder than words”, and Dylan exemplifies this very well. He is always willing to help his peers in the classroom. He is keenly aware of the interest and abilities of those around him and is willing to meet them where they are. He knows how to approach everyone to maximize the help he can give them. He is responsible, inclusive, and very trustworthy. Dylan participates in hockey, football, and plans on playing tennis this spring. Keep up the great work Dylan.

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Kali Skubal

James Williams Middle School – 8th Grade

Nominator: Jake Zutavern

With her calm demeanor and dedication to excellence, Kali is a selfless leader. She raises the motivation and ability of others around her while facing challenges of her own. She models her patience and positivity consistently and others gravitate to her for this. Kali participates in volleyball, Nordic Ski Team, and is a student ambassador in WEB leader. Those who interact with Kali rise not only in their success but their confidence. Kali is truly a rock of positivity.



Kadin Wilson

Crandon High School – Senior

Nominator: Ashlee Peters

Kadin is very punctual. He is the first to help if a student or teacher needs assistance. He has very good manners. Kadin has taken his dedication as a student to another level. Kadin has taken multiple First Responder and Fire Fighter classes through Nicolet College. He plans to transfer these credits to become a certified EMT and Fire Fighter at Fox Valley Technical College. His mind has been set to achieve this goal since he started volunteering for the fire department in 9th grade. He has a calm demeanor and good attention to detail to analyze any emergency scene. Kadin gives back to the community by volunteering at a variety of parades and fundraisers. He also teaches fire safety to the youth.

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Aubrianna Younker

Rhineland High School – Senior

Nominator: Eric Burke

Aubrianna spends her free time volunteering for many Key Club events. If you attended the YMCA's Not So Scary Halloween Trail, you just may have seen Aubrianna leading the Key Club's booth. She's also been involved in many of the other Key Club activities and was a big part of organizing their very successful trivia night. You may also find her bell ringing during the holidays or volunteering at the food pantry. She is described by others as being very organized, caring and giving. When Abrianna is not volunteering, she is involved in student council, NHS and soccer team.



Riley Zarm

Rhineland High School – Senior

Nominator: Roddy MacMillan

Riley shows great attention to detail and is a respectful young man. Riley is the lighting designer for all drama productions at his school. Through this work he has been awarded a Jerry Award for lighting design (Wisconsin High School Music Awards for Theater). Riley is a member of the Alpine Ski Team at RHS, and is working on obtaining his pilot's license, all while working part time at the airport in Rhineland.

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Teen Character Scholarship

The YMCA Teen Character Scholarship, made possible by the **Steingraber Family**, was created to reward students for exuding exemplary character in their lives and communities. For the past 20 years, the YMCA of the Northwoods has been honoring teens who demonstrate outstanding character and live the Y's core values of caring, honesty, respect, and responsibility.

This scholarship is a chance for the YMCA to help these students get a chance to prepare for a career in which they can continue to demonstrate positive character values. It is our opportunity to give back to students and support them on their continued journey towards futures filled with greatness.

Please join us in congratulating our 2023 Teen Character Scholarship Recipient:
McKenna Nash

McKenna Nash (2022 Nominee)



Growing up, my parents taught me many valuable lessons about character. From learning how to tie my shoes to managing my money, they always led by example. But the most important lesson they taught me was what character really means and how to embody it. To me, character is all about having a driven mentality, the desire to give back to the community, and kindness toward others regardless of their background. My parents were the prime example of this. They worked hard to have fun and supported our family and community in any way they could. My stepmom was on several boards around town that helped give back, and my parents were always forgiving and genuinely good people.

Despite having such positive role models in my dad and stepmom, I also had a clear example of what character was not. My mom couldn't hold a job and was living off of child support, but she still did her best to give back to the community. This contrast between my two households enabled me to see what character really is and better taught me how to embody it in my day-to-day life.

In order to embody this definition of character, I will maintain a driven attitude in all areas of my life. Whether it's with school, work, relationships, or extracurricular endeavors. I will work hard to achieve my goals and be able to enjoy the fruits of my labor later on. I will

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also continue to be kind to others, showing understanding and compassion towards those from different backgrounds. And although I may not be able to do much for my community right now, I will strive to set a good example for the younger generations who may not have a positive role model as I had.

One of the most important things that my parents taught me about character was the importance of hard work. They instilled in me the belief that if you want something in life, you have to work hard for it. They showed me that by putting in the effort, you can achieve your goals and reap the rewards later on. This lesson has stayed with me throughout my life and has been instrumental in my success.

In school, I always strived to work hard and do my best. I was determined to get good grades and excel in my studies, and my hard work paid off. I was able to graduate with a high GPA and get accepted into the university of my choice. But my parents also taught me that hard work isn't just about school or work; it's also about enjoying life. They showed me that by working hard, you can also have fun and enjoy the fruits of your labor. In addition to hard work, my parents also taught me the importance of giving back to the community. They were always involved in various community organizations and volunteered their time and resources to help others. My stepmom was particularly active in several local boards that helped give back to the community. I saw firsthand the impact that their efforts had on others and how much they enjoyed being able to make a difference.

Now that I'm an adult, I plan to follow in my parent's footsteps and give back to the community as much as I can. I volunteered this last winter break at home with the ski team. I helped coach and teach the younger generations to ski and improve their skills. I know that by giving back like that, I can help make a positive impact on others and make the world a better place.

Finally, my parents taught me the importance of kindness towards others. They always showed compassion and understanding towards those from different backgrounds and cultures. They taught me that it's important to treat others with respect and to be forgiving and understanding when people make mistakes. This lesson has been especially important in my relationships with others.

I've learned that by being kind and understanding, I can build strong and lasting relationships with others. I've also learned that by being forgiving, I can let go of past mistakes and move forward in a positive direction. These lessons have been instrumental in my personal and professional relationships and have helped me to become a better person overall.

In conclusion, the lessons that my parents taught me about character have had a profound impact on my life. Through their examples, they showed me the importance of hard work, giving back to the community, and kindness toward others. These values have stayed with me throughout my life and have helped shape me into the person I am today. As I move forward, I plan to continue embodying these values and striving to make a positive impact on my community and the world around me.

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Sponsor Highlight

Rhinelanders Rotary

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www.rotary.org



Rotary is a global network of 1.2 million neighbors, friends, leaders, and problem-solvers who come together to make positive, lasting change in communities at home and abroad. Solving real problems takes real commitment and vision. For more than 110 years, Rotary members have used their passion, energy, and intelligence to take action on sustainable projects. From literacy and peace to water and health, we are always working to better our world, and we stay committed to the end. Our 35,000+ clubs work together to: Promote Peace, Fight Disease, Provide Clean, Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene, Save Mothers and Children, Support Education, and Grow Local Economies.

Rotary Motto: Service Above Self

Rotary Values: Service, Fellowship, Diversity, Integrity, and Leadership

Interact Club: Interact clubs bring together young people ages twelve to eighteen to develop leadership skills while discovering the power of Service Above Self. Find out how serious leadership can be seriously fun.

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We measure success by the strength of every single client relationship. The Heck Capital vision is to treat our clients exactly how we would expect to be treated if we were the client - with respect, integrity, professionalism, confidentiality, and incredible service. Our commitment to every client, from the local individual and family to prominent national institutions, is to align their goals with Heck Capital's strategies; together striving to achieve unprecedented success. Heck Capital's commitment is to build lasting legacies, and to develop a strong, productive relationship.

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Dan Hagen, News Anchor/Assistant News Director

Dan came aboard Newswatch 12 in February 2019. He grew up in Appleton, Wisconsin, and spent many weekends at his family's cottage in Arbor Vitae. Dan graduated from St. Olaf College in 2017 with a major in mathematics. He is a member of a mathematics national honor society Pi Mu Epsilon. During Dan's sophomore year at St. Olaf, he started a radio show at the college station. During his senior year, Dan had an internship at KYMN 95.1 in Northfield, Minnesota, where he wrote and read news stories. After graduating, he joined a major healthcare company in the Twin Cities metro area to work as an analyst. He enjoyed his coworkers and paycheck, but a year and a half into his job he decided to pursue his passion for journalism and returned to the Northwoods. Nature and outdoor recreation have always been big parts of his life, most prominently working for the Forest Service and cross-country skiing. During the summers between college terms, Dan worked in the Kootenai National Forest. He spent most of his weekends backpacking and still enjoys camping, especially in the Boundary Waters. Dan was on the ski team in college and has done five Kortess and five Birkies to date. You'll often find Dan either at the Minocqua Winter Park or WinMan Trails working on his V2 technique. Dan is also passionate about music. He knows perhaps too much about the Beatles and was even in a Beatles cover band in college. He plays guitar, piano, ukulele and started writing music a couple years ago. Dan released his first solo album "Stranded" in February 2019. Dan is an owner for the Green Bay Packers and a lifelong, diehard fan. He is a congenital anosmiac--meaning that he has never had a sense of smell. Dan climbed Mount Kilimanjaro in 2016.

Geoff Weller, News Director/Chief Meteorologist

Geoff joined the Newswatch12 team in November 2015 as a weekend meteorologist and reporter. Geoff didn't travel far to end up in the Northwoods. A native of Grayslake, Illinois, Geoff spent his summers at the family lake house near Stevens Point. A graduate of the University of Oklahoma, Geoff supplemented his broadcast meteorology education at Mississippi State University. Directly out of college, Geoff took a career detour. He entered the business world working in several large cities all over the country, including stops in Chicago, Miami, Orlando, Dallas, Phoenix, Cleveland, Atlanta and Las Vegas. While his experiences in the business world proved successful, they took him away from his true passion. In late 2013 Geoff decided the time was right to follow his dreams. He quit his job, re-enrolled in school, and picked up a full-time weather internship at WGBA-TV (NBC26) in Green Bay to complement his previous years-long internships in Oklahoma City. Geoff loves the outdoors. While he is technically always working (observing the weather is a 24/7 job!), you can also find him skiing, biking, and boating that is, when he isn't up in the air sharpening his skills as a licensed pilot and Certified Flight Instructor. Geoff could not be happier to be working in north central Wisconsin.

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