



**Matthew Wackell, 17**

Matthew knows that he is fortunate to have a home, a family and other things we all tend to take for granted. His empathy and willingness to help those who haven't been as fortunate is what makes him worthy of the 2017 Young Hero Award.

And while Matthew hasn't started his own organization, he is unstoppable when supporting other organizations with his volunteerism by consistently lending his time and talent to them.

He volunteers for Shrewsbury's St. Ann's Human Services in the food pantry and thrift store. For the last two summers he has given up his free time to volunteer for Young Neighbors in Action Newark, New Jersey and Habitat for Humanity Bridgeport, CT.

Matthew's other summer volunteerism includes the enrichment program for elementary school students in Shrewsbury for the past four years.

A student at Shrewsbury High School, he is a member of Globally Making a Difference (GMAD). This high school club focuses on loving the Ugandan children of Soroti Vision School. GMAD's mission is to end poverty through love and education. Matthew also participates in GMAD's fund raisers held to support this mission. He is also a member of Shrewsbury High School's Special Peer Connections. This group has typical students and students with disabilities meet together and participate in activities. Matthew has also received the Shrewsbury High School Community Service Learning Service Award in recognition of 100+ hours of volunteering during 2015-2016 school year and 2016-2017 school

years.

Matthew is also an altar server at St. Mary's Parish in Shrewsbury altar server since fifth grade and has also participated as a volunteer Retreat Leader in 2016 and 2017.

Congratulations Matthew!