



The High School View

The High School View is staffed and prepared entirely by students from the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School, and published on their behalf by The Martha's Vineyard Times, with the generous assistance of the sponsors whose names appear below.

Samuel Hines: Fundraising phenom

BY HARDY EVILLE

MVRHS sophomore Samuel Hines, who recently moved to the Island, was named a 2022 Student of the Year by the Greater Los Angeles Leukemia and Lymphoma Society for his fundraising efforts as leader of Team Unstoppable, and has moved on to the national Student of the Year competition.

The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society (LLS) Students of the Year Competition brings together teams of students from around the nation to compete by fundraising the most money for the LLS. These funds are used to support the research of blood cancer treatments, fund education, and information, and help families

impacted by blood cancer.

His commitment to fundraising began in earnest after seeing a video of a young boy with leukemia. "I was shown a video of a little kid that had been diagnosed with leukemia at 7. I saw how his entire life was pretty much taken from him. It was really touching and heart-wrenching for me, and that's when I decided to put as much effort as possible" toward the fundraising competition.

The team's fundraising result of \$317,724 and regional win have him in the running for the national competition, for which winners will be announced in June. He is the first African American and youngest student to win Student of the Year in California. "My sister was on the win-

ning Students of the Year team last year for the greater Los Angeles region, and she nominated me to be a candidate [this year]," Samuel said. "[The fundraiser] was life-changing for her, and she thought it would be great for me to get involved."

Competitors organize teams and work over a seven-week period to raise as much money as they can. Samuel and his team fundraised by reaching out to people they knew for donations and to companies for sponsorships. They also used a platform called Charitybuzz to set up auctions of experiences with influential people that they reached out to. Once a team raises \$150,000, they're nominated for the National Student of the Year Award.

Samuel has been coming to Martha's Vineyard in the summer for years, but is now getting used to life on-Island in the off-season.

"Coming from L.A., which is loud and noisy, to a smaller space is definitely a big change for me. It's way quieter and colder," he said. "But I feel like the people here are really welcoming."

Samuel has also assimilated into the school community by joining clubs like the Minnesingers and Vocal Ensemble.

"I'm also doing the modern theater class with [theater teacher] Brooke Hardman-Ditchfield, which is really amazing. We're doing a lot of work with artists in old Hollywood, and playwrights that have changed the course of theater, such as [Konstantin]



Samuel Hines gives an acceptance speech in Los Angeles after receiving the Student of the Year honor.

COURTESY SAMUEL HINES

Stanislavski. It's really a good experience for me," he said. "I hope to be a part of [the school play] next year. I came a bit too late this year to do it."

Samuel is looking forward to continuing fundraising

for causes that inspire him.

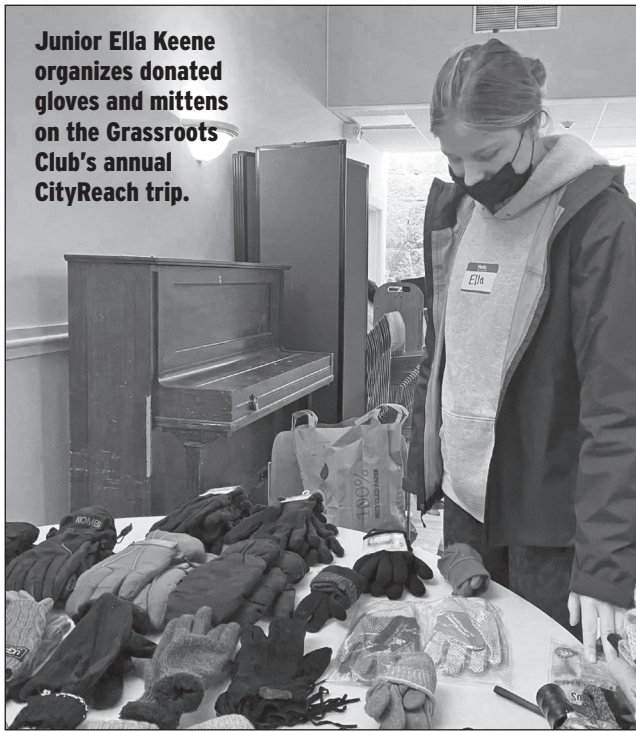
"Now that I've had this experience, I definitely do want to do some more, whether it's for more blood cancer patients or something in the arts," he said. **HSV**

Grassroots Club volunteers in Boston

BY JULIA SAYRE AND ANDREA MORSE

After months of preparation, the Grassroots Club of Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS) traveled to Boston on March 25 and 26 to participate in Common Cathedral's CityReach program. Students spent Friday night learning about homelessness, slept overnight on the floor of Old West Church on Cambridge Street in Boston, and then helped run a clothing distribution event for members of Boston's unhoused population on Saturday morning.

CityReach was established in 1996 as an overnight urban outreach program for students. Participants from around the commonwealth travel to Boston to learn about homelessness from the CityReach staff, the majority of whom are currently or have



Junior Ella Keene organizes donated gloves and mittens on the Grassroots Club's annual CityReach trip.

ANDREA MORSE

previously been homeless.

Typically, students sleep on the floor of Common Cathedral next to Boston Common in sleeping bags, but

this year participants were divided between multiple churches due to COVID-19 protocols. "It enables young people to have a night where

they experience discomfort," said Grassroots Club advisor Leigh Fairchild-Coppoletti. "Although it's not the discomfort of being outside in the elements or feeling unsafe, it's still an integral part of the program."

On Friday night, CityReach participants prepared bagged lunches to distribute to homeless people on Saturday. Then on Saturday morning, participants set up different stations for clothing, blankets, toiletries, hats, and mittens. Once the distribution day commenced, the homeless people were able to visit each station and "shop" for themselves.

Grassroots Club member junior Cali Giglio believes the donations are not the most important aspect of the trip. "It's not necessarily about food, money, or clothing. It's about building relationships, and seeing a new

perspective," she said.

The CityReach staff guides "intentional walks" around Boston to share their experience of living on the streets and explain the challenges of living without housing.

Cali found many aspects of the trip eye-opening, including personal anecdotes from the CityReach staff. "There was a time where I thought, 'I can't wait to go home,' and then I was, like, 'Wait, the [CityReach staff] don't have a home to go to," she said. "The trip made me feel more grateful for the life I have."

When speaking with homeless people, junior Clyde Smith heard about experiences that were unfamiliar to him. "I learned things that would be shocking for us that are pretty regular for many homeless people," he said. "Two people I spoke with both said they had been mugged in the past few days."

Ms. Fairchild-Coppoletti has come away with a clear message each time she has

chaperoned the trip. "It makes such a difference when people just say hello and acknowledge one another and show some basic respect for other people's dignity," she said.

Senior Stephany De Oliveira feels similarly. "The CityReach trip made me realize that a little really does go a long way. Even the tiniest amount of clothes and food will make someone's day so much better," she said. "Just providing them with the basic human essentials and making them feel seen and heard goes a long way."

For Ms. Fairchild-Coppoletti, the CityReach trip reminds her how important it is for students to learn in alternative environments. "It reinforces for me how important it is for young people to do something that is separate from school and academic programming," she said. "It's a great reminder that sometimes the most valuable learning experiences happen outside of a classroom." **HSV**

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