

2017 Junior Youth of the Year – Zaira Freda

Zaira Freda, is a grade nine student who attends St. Paul's Junior High School. At the age of 14, she is considered to be an outstanding individual with strong leadership, a solid academic standing and a positive personality. Zaira is described by her teachers as an intelligent, strong leader who is very personable, enthusiastic, and a true humanitarian.

Zaira always demonstrates a strong work ethic. Her ability to devote her time to multiply activities, including many volunteer causes and still maintain one of the highest academic standings is an accomplishment managed by few her age. Zaira has been a huge part of her school's leadership and many social justice initiatives during her three years at St. Paul's. She is a very engaging public speaker who hosts her school video announcements every morning and has emceed school events, bringing a gymnasium full of teenagers to absolute silence. She was nominated Athlete of the Year with the St. John's Sea Stars Synchronized Swim Team in 2013 and this past November was selected as a WE Day ambassador for Free The Children's WE Day event in Halifax, NS. This is an honour bestowed on the most passionate, articulate and caring youth in our country.

When it comes to her school and her community, Zaira is heavily involved on both a provincial and national level. Her accomplishments are too numerous to list completely, however some areas where she has given of her time and talents include fundraisers for Habitat for Humanity & The Gathering Place, Ronald McDonald House, Fort MacMurray Fire, Jorga's Journey Sleep Tight project, Fluvarium Camp Counsellor and her church choir. She has been involved with Bell Let's Talk, Canada Day Celebrations with City of St. John's, has spoken with the City's Mayor regarding recycling issues, and is currently organizing a Spring Concert for the residents of Kent's Pond-Tiffany Village. At her school she has been involved with Who Wants to Save a Life Program, Breakfast Club, Recycling Team, and Show Choir. Zaira helped with the launch of her school app, spirit week and school dances. She is also a mentor to new students.

Zaira's ability to make good things happen, her leadership abilities, academic achievement, and genuine desire to volunteer and help others are rare qualities amongst her peer group.

ST. JOHN'S