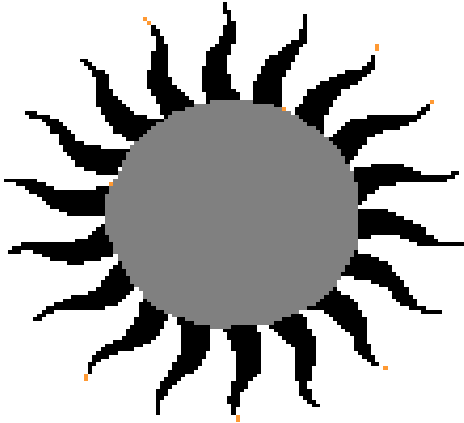


RAY OF HOPE PROGRAM – AND MONTHLY RECIPIENT



Left to right: Dr. Kapoor, Natalie Vergara and Alexandra Hogan

April Recipient – Natalie Vergara

Natalie is a senior at Needham High School. This year Natalie has been extremely busy doing an independent study on barn management and equine studies at Sage Farm in Dover. Art plays an important role in her life. She uses her art as a way to explore the world around her and to communicate her ideas and thoughts to other people. One of Natalie's art pieces was selected by the College Board and The Educational Testing Service for a traveling art exhibit throughout the United States. This year Natalie has received a "Gold Key" Art Award for the Boston Globe Scholastic Art Awards this year as well as honorable mention from the National Foundation for the Advancement of the Arts' YoungARTS Competition. Her Needham High School activities include the Environmental Club, the "Rag" Committee (Literary Magazine) and the Anti-Defamation League. Natalie has volunteered at the Dedham branch of the Animal Rescue League of Boston, Charles River ARC (Association for Retarded Citizens) as a Recreational Aide, and with Project VAN (Volunteers Around Needham) helping at different Needham organizations. In additions, this fall Natalie participated in the New England Aquarium North Atlantic Right Whale Sponsorship Program by creating and selling artwork to donate money to the Right Whale Research Program to help defray costs of field research and data analysis. In her leisure time her hobbies include visiting galleries and museums, camping, snowboarding, falconry studies, gardening, and taking care of my cats, fish, turtles, frog, hamster and birds.

Needham Youth Commission Representative – Alexandra Hogan

Alexandra is a Mental Health Counselor who initially joined the Needham Youth Commission in 2005 as an intern from the Boston College graduate program in Counseling Psychology. She could not be happier to return to a community that has taught her the value of both promoting youth achievement as well as embracing the insight they provide in return.

Needham Business Association Representative – Dr. Nandita Kapoor, D.M.D.

Dr. Kapoor has been practicing dentistry for over nine years. Her primary goals are to educate patients and improve patient care through the best-practices and technology. Her practice, Needham Dental, is located at 302 Chestnut St. Dr. Kapoor is a member of the Needham Business Association and is proud to be sponsoring a RAY of Hope recipient.

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