

Needham Youth Services

March 2017 RAY of Hope Recipient

Rachel Zaff



Left to right Needham Business Representative, Jane Migdol from Berkshire Hathaway Home Services, March RAY of Hope Rachel Zaff, Needham Youth Services Director, Jon Mattleman

March 2017 Recipient – Rachel Zaff

Rachel is a senior at Needham High School. She was nominated for her volunteer work at Kindred Living at Needham Heights by Elyse Golibroda, the Program Director. "I really enjoy my work at Kindred Living. It is right around the corner from my house and a place that I pass almost every day. I have been volunteering there in different ways for many years." She explains. Last year, Rachel began leading Shabbat services for residents every other Friday afternoon. "I bring my guitar and we sing. I have enjoyed getting to know the residents as well as the volunteer coordinators at Kindred Living, and feel that I have a lot to learn from them. I really understand how much we have in common when we sing together." Rachel states.

At Needham High, Rachel has been a member of the "National Honors Society" her junior and senior year and is a peer tutor. "One of my favorite things that I do weekly is tutor a sophomore student through the National Honor Society. My tutee is so nice and hardworking and I feel like we've really bonded throughout our time together." expresses Rachel. She has also been part of Needham High School's UNICEF Club for all four years of high school, and now as a senior, she is the Director of Programming and Fundraising of the club. She raises money through bake sales and placing donation jars at small businesses around town to make a positive impact on the lives of kids around the world.

Some of Rachel's other activities include playing tennis on the NHS Varsity Tennis team. This year she is a captain of the team. She also performs with the high school's a cappella group, Fermata Nowhere. Additionally, she auditioned for and was accepted to the NAFME All-National Honor Choir this past November, where she performed in Texas with 350 of the top high school singers from all across the United States. She is honored to be selected for this award and plans to continue her leadership and community service experiences when she goes to college next fall.

Watch the ceremony honoring Rachel at: <https://youtu.be/JwV1ghsZFDE>

For more information please visit www.needhamma.gov/youth/ray