



NPMHU Arthur S. Vallone SCHOLARSHIP

VALLONE SCHOLARS: REFLECTIONS OF A RESOLUTION



The NPMHU Scholarship Committee completed its task of evaluating many applications from well qualified NPMHU members and members of their immediate families. Fifteen applications were selected out of a total seventy-eight received by March 15th, 2021. After careful review and consideration, a new group of Vallone Scholars has been awarded a scholarship for the next 4 years.

The NPMHU National Scholarship was dedicated and named after Arthur S. Vallone after his untimely passing in 2005. Arthur S. Vallone served as the elected President of Local 309 headquartered in Buffalo, New York and represented approximately 1,500 Mail Handlers throughout upstate New York. Arthur S. Vallone also served 3 terms on the National Executive Board as the Northeast Region Vice President. Vallone's deep understanding of education and learning are just a handful of reasons why the National Postal Mail Handlers Union dedicated this legacy to Brother Arthur Vallone.

The Arthur S. Vallone Scholarship is now in its 21st year of existence. This award was designed to offer deserving Mail Handlers and members of their immediate families some relief from the financial burden of paying for higher education. With the COVID pandemic still lingering and fewer resources becoming available it can be quite the challenge for families to absorb the cost of higher education. As developing an education savings plan is often difficult for families, the NPMHU has dedicated such an award for deserving individuals.

Each NPMHU Region has been granted up to three scholarship awards in the amount of \$1,000 each, renewable by the recipient for up to four years or until the completion of the students undergraduate or trade school degree, whichever occurs first for a maximum of \$4,000 per recipient over four years.

The pandemic has taken a financial toll on Mail Handlers and their families. As we navigate through these unprecedented times, we recognize that Mail Handlers are providing an essential service under these extraordinary times. It is only fitting that we recognize the importance of the work being done. Whether you are heading to Community College, a traditional 4-year institution or trade school, the National Postal Mail Handlers Union want you to know that we are here for you and can assist in helping you to achieve your goals, this was Brother Vallone's legacy.

The Resolution to rename the NPMHU National Scholarship Program after Brother Vallone is a special document, one of its kind that hangs in the halls of the NPMNU National Office in Washington, DC. One resolution caught my eye as I was readding it for reference to this article. The Resolution states: *WHEREAS, Arthur S. Vallone repeatedly demonstrated his commitment to the membership of the NPMHU, by volunteering to serve on countless details and special projects to enhance the strength and effectiveness of the NPMHU, and to better the lives of all 50,000 Mail Handlers across the country.* It is this ideal that an individual gives

of him/herself to better the collective good of the organization. It is selfishness such as this that have been one of the predominant traits of Vallone Scholars of present and past.

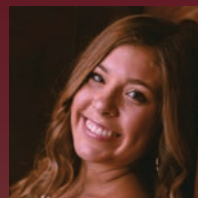
Many of the required essays from this group of Vallone Scholars were excellent; one however embraced the spirit and breadth of Brother Vallone. Siya Yadav wrote, "When I became more comfortable with school, I wanted to help struggling students like me. So, I became a tutor. It didn't take long for me to realize how important my 45-minutes were for students: I watched students blossom into more confident learners. Tutoring also helped me become a better leader, listener, and communicator, allowing me to grow as both a student and friend. It was nice to come full circle and be the mentor I never had.

"I was also able to impact my community while being president of the student government. Here I organized food and holiday gift drives, sponsoring several families to provide them with Thanksgiving meals as well as presents for the holidays. Reading the children's wish lists warms my heart and makes me recognize my privilege. Small contributions can be so meaningful."

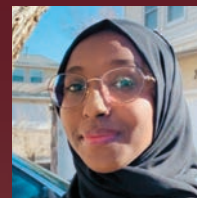
Sia Yadav's drive to help others and raise them up through peer support was exactly why Brother Vallone was such an effective trainer and volunteered for countless details and trainings.

A second Vallone Scholar, Merrill Joseph, also recently awarded with the scholarship spoke about her fathers' job as a Mail Handler and union member. Her essay exhibited the spirit of Brother Vallone showing the drive to understand others needs along with a desire to understand how unions work and why they are important for the members they represent. She wrote, "Despite the challenges faced, my father has expressed his gratitude for this Union's quickness to negotiate with management to obtain improved contracts and fight for employees rights. Since learning about the formation of unions during the labor movement in history class, I have believed in the significance of unionizing in order to protect worker's rights. With the ongoing crisis the Postal Services are facing currently, unions are important now more than ever".

Please take some time to recognize our new group of Vallone Scholar and recognize their accomplishments as they embark on the next chapter of their young lives.



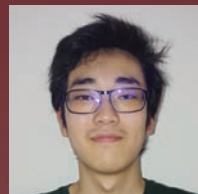
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MIA
ABEJA**



**Local 321
AHMED
MINNATALLAH**



**Local 323
JACOB
RYDEN**



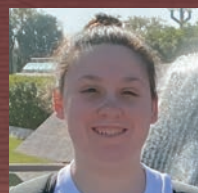
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ENOCH
CHUNG**



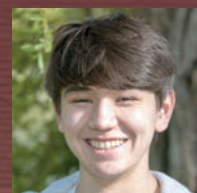
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DENISE
KAUR**



**Local 308
SIYA
YADAV**



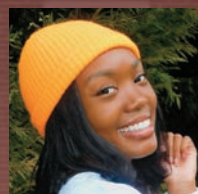
**Local 300
ANGELICA
CIMIRRO**



**Local 309
GABRIEL
LICHTE**



**Local 309
BRYAN
ROBERTSON**



**Local 310
ZURI
JOHNSON**



**Local 318
MERRIL ANN
JOSEPH**



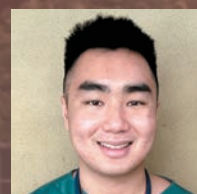
**Local 311
DANE
WIEST**



**Local 303
STELLA
HONG**



**Local 316
WILLIAM
HUMARANG**



**Local 302
ADRIAN
YEP**