27th Year of the Student Awareness of Fire Education (S.A.F.E.) Program (2022-2023)   389 *Young heroes and counting!!!*
(4 Young Heroes in FY 23)

Belmont
♦ Lucia Bakule
On Friday, August 12, 2022, 11-year-old Lucia Bakule was with her 9-year-old sister when her younger sustained an injury while passing through her back door which was made of glass. Her sister was cut by the glass and bleeding. Lucia provided immediate first aid care, called 9-1-1, and stayed by her sister's side until the fire department arrived on scene and provided further care and transport to the hospital. Lucia learned first aid while taking a class offered at the Senior Center. Chief David DeStefano and the Belmont SAFE Team commend Lucia for her brave actions that prevented further bleeding and stabilized her sister's condition until help arrived.

Bridgewater
♦ Aiden Liles
On Sunday, March 19th, 2023, 12-year-old Aiden Liles was home with his family when he was directed by his parents to call 911 because his brother was experiencing a medical emergency. Aiden was calm, and clear in his communication to the dispatcher. You could hear the chaotic scene in the background, and his parents were obviously overwhelmed with what was happening. When directed by the dispatcher to acquire more information he did a good job asking the right questions to get the right information. Chief Michael McDermott and Firefighter William Lieb expressed that Aiden clearly went above and beyond what is expected of a 12-year-old.

Turners Falls
♦ Jayden Webber
On Sunday, April 16th, 2023, 11-year-old Jayden Webber was at his home when he realized that his house was filling with smoke. According to Captain Hartnett, Jayden remembered to "Get Out and Stay Out" and not go back in for his cat, and to also go to the "family meeting place". Both Chief Todd Brunelle and Captain Luke Hartnett are proud of the fact that Jayden learned each of these lifesaving lessons through the Turners Falls Student SAFE Program and was able to use them in a real emergency.

Everett
♦ Angela Landaverde-Portillo
On Saturday, May 13th, 2023, 10-year-old Angela Landaverde-Portillo (Land-a-verde Port-e-yo) was home watching tv when a family member noticed a fire on the back porch of a neighbor's home. Angela quickly made sure everyone got out of her home and called 911 to alert the proper authorities to the emergency. Angela remained calm throughout this ordeal and even made sure that her dog was safe. Chief Scott Dalrymple (Dal-rim-pull) and Deputy Chief William Hurley (Her-lee) expressed that Angela's actions led to the quick extinguishment of the fire. "Had it not been for Angela, this fire would have caused much more damage to the home and possibly the surrounding businesses. Her heroic actions saved property and possibly lives. Angela is a true hero."

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