

# **The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

Department of Fire Services

## **Lifesavers- Young Heroes Proving the Student Awareness of Fire Education Program Works**

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### **21<sup>st</sup> Year of the Student Awareness of Fire Education (S.A.F.E.) Program (2015-2016)**

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**(18 Young Heroes in FY 16)**

#### **Ashburnham**

##### **◆ Emily Coates**

On Wednesday, August 26, 2015, 7-year-old Emily Coates was in her grandfather's car with her grandfather and two younger siblings when her grandfather experienced a medical emergency. Emily remained calm, called her mother and told her what was happening. Emily's mom called 9-1-1. While awaiting the arrival of the first responders, Emily got her two younger siblings out of the vehicle which included removing one child from a car seat. Chief Paul Rekos, Sr. and Fire Fighter Clay Landry of the Ashburnham Fire Department are proud of Emily for reporting the emergency, remaining calm and keeping herself and her siblings safe.

#### **Ashfield**

##### **◆ Mason Neveu**

On Wednesday, March 24, 2016, 10-year-old Mason Neveu was at home sick from school with a cold when his mother received a phone call from a friend (Fire Chief Susan Labrie) requesting assistance in helping to find a lost 4-year-old child (Colton Roberts) who had wandered off from his home with his puppy. Mason's mother quickly gathered the family together and within a few short minutes they were at their neighbors home where they met up with Police and Fire Department officials. Mason and his mother started their search in the woods behind their neighbor's house. As they got deeper into the woods it was starting to get dark outside and the temperature was getting colder. Mason knew that they had to find Colton and urged his mother to keep going. The two began to call out and Mason, who is deaf in one ear, heard Colton's reply back in the distance. Mason told his mother and she was wondering how Mason could hear Colton's reply when she herself could not. Mason ran ahead, over a hill and much to his mother's surprise within a few minutes he returned with Colton and the puppy. Mason's mother applauds her son's calm persistence and perseverance in finding Colton. Goshen Fire Chief Susan Labrie and Ashfield Fire Chief Delmar Haskins believe Mason's heroic and unselfish actions helped save the young boy.

#### **Belmont**

##### **◆ Holly Kong**

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On Monday, January 11, 2016, 8-year-old Holly Kong went to visit her friend. Holly discovered that her friend was not home and much to her surprise she could smell smoke and hear the smoke alarms sounding inside of the house. Holly went home and immediately told her mother, Qin Liu. At first, Holly's mom did not believe her. Holly was so persistent Qui Liu thought to check things out just in case. When they arrived at the friend's house Holly's mom confirmed her story. Holly's mom knew the owner of the home and called her. The home owner told her of a spare key, which they used to enter the home and Holly and her mom found food burning on the stove. Chief David Frizzell and Firefighter Ross Vona acknowledge that both Holly and her mom's actions prevented a larger fire. Holly's received fire education in the Belmont S.A.F.E. Program.

### **Boxford**

#### **◆ Zachary Forrest-Woodman**

On Monday, July 6, 2015, 10-year-old Zachary Forrest-Woodman was at home when he noticed his garage was on fire. He quickly notified his parents who called 9-1-1. The fire department arrived to extinguish the fire before it got out of control. Lieutenant Soltys of the Boxford Fire Department believes that Zachary put his knowledge to work and his early notification prevented a larger fire that would have caused significantly more damage to his home. Zachary participated in the Boxford S.A.F.E. program.

### **Brockton**

#### **◆ Synlina Rosa**

On Tuesday, August 18, 2015, 11-year-old Synlina Rosa was in her bedroom when she awoke and smelled a faint odor of smoke. She left her bedroom to investigate and met with her great grandmother who was watching television in the living. Her great grandmother also smelled the smoke. Synlina quickly gathered her younger brother and sister and led them to safety outside. She also alerted other people in the building of the emergency and after all occupants made it to safety Synlina used her grandmother's phone to call 9-1-1 and her mother. Selina's life-saving actions saved many people that day. She received fire education in the Brockton S.A.F.E. Program.

### **Brockton**

#### **◆ Dominic Ginnitty**

On Friday, September 18, 2015, 8-year-old Dominic Ginnitty was at home when his mother experienced a medical emergency. Dominic assisted his mother and when her condition worsened he went to the neighbor's house to call 9-1-1. Upon his return home with his neighbor he comforted his two younger

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siblings while waiting for the fire department to arrive. He received fire education through the Brockton S.A.F.E. Program.

### **Brookline**

#### **◆ Benjamin Doctoroff**

On Tuesday, May 17, 2016, 10-year-old Ben Doctoroff was at home when his younger brother experienced a life threatening medical emergency when he choked on some food. Ben called 9-1-1 and then ran two blocks down the street to tell a crossing guard about the emergency. Ben returned home to meet emergency responders from the Brookline Police and Fire Departments who provided life saving care and ultimately transported his brother to the hospital. The boy made a full recovery and went on to celebrate his first birthday three days later. Because of his quick actions, Chief Robert Ward believes Ben saved his brother's life.

### **Danvers**

#### **◆ Sophia Walters**

On Wednesday, April 20, 2016, 10-year-old Sophia Walters was at home when her Aunt experienced a medical emergency. Sophia recognized that her aunt was in need of medical care and she went to the neighbor's house to ask for help and to call 9-1-1. Upon her return home with her neighbor she stayed by her aunts side and comforted her younger sister while waiting for the fire department to arrive. Sophia received fire education through the S.A.F.E. program and knew learned how to handle an emergency.

### **Douglas**

#### **◆ Brayden Wilcox**

On Wednesday, December 30, 2015, 10-year-old Brayden Wilcox was awakened by the basement CO alarm. Brayden woke his older brother Joshua and they exited the building together. They called 9-1-1 and waited for the fire department to arrive. The building was metered and CO was found to be present. Chief Kent Vinson of the Douglas Fire Department is proud that Brayden put to use the knowledge he learned in school from the Douglas S.A.F.E. Education Program.

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### **Hanover**

#### **◆ Inka Ryter**

On Monday, January 11, 2016, 12-year-old Inka Ryter's brother was suffering from a medical emergency. Inka assisted her brother and called her mother to inform her of what was happening at home. Inka's mother phoned 9-1-1 and when the EMS crew arrived with the Fire Department Inka guided them to the patient and informed them of all pertinent medical information. Chief Jeffrey Blanchard and Deputy Chief Justin Reed believe that Inka's actions were responsible for his brother's prompt treatment and speedy recovery.

### **Longmeadow**

#### **◆ Matthew Smith**

On Thursday, January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016, 14-year-old Matthew Smith was walking home from school when he heard a smoke alarm sounding and then saw smoke coming from a house. He went next door to the neighbor's house and immediately called 9-1-1. The fire department arrived and extinguished the house fire. Chief John Dearborn and Captain Gerald Macsata of the Longmeadow Fire Department applaud Matthew for his actions and credit him with saving his historic house from further damage.

### **Mansfield**

#### **◆ Ethan Walden**

On Wednesday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, 201, 6-year-old Ethan Walden was at home with his mother when she experienced a life threatening medical emergency. Ethan called 9-1-1 and calmly relayed important medical information to the dispatcher. He then followed the instructions of the dispatcher and assisted his mother with life-saving medical care prior to the fire departments arrival. Ethan's mother was transported to the Hospital where she made a full recovery. Ethan's quick action resulted in his mom getting the medical help she needed.

### **Middleton**

#### **◆ Brannon Charland**

On Tuesday, March 8, 2016, 8-year-old Brannon Charland, his sister Morgan and their step-father (Jason) were at home having breakfast while waiting for the school bus to arrive. During breakfast their step father experienced a medical emergency and Brannon called 9-1-1, spoke with the dispatcher and

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provided the correct information. Brannon and his sister also gave comfort by placing a pillow under his head and Morgan went as far as to get her first aid kit. When the fire department arrived on scene she asked if she could put a band aid on him. Chief Frank Twiss and Captain Thomas Martinuk of the Middleton Fire Department are proud that the knowledge Brannon received from his participation in Middleton S.A.F.E. Program helped him know what to do.

### **Norton**

#### **◆ Connor Mcettrick**

On Tuesday, October 13, 2011, 7-year-old Connor Mcettrick was playing outside of his home when he heard his neighbors smoke alarm sounding. Connor could smell smoke and knew that his neighbors were not home. He became concerned and told his mother to call 9-1-1. Connor's mom called 9-1-1 and the fire department was able to hold the fire to only one room. Chief Paul Schleicher and Firefighter James Patten of the Norton Fire Department credit Connor with saving the house from further damage. Connor received fire education in the Norton S.A.F.E. Program.

### **Shutesbury**

#### **◆ Jordan Goodhind**

On Sunday, November 22, 2015, 10-year-old Jordan Goodhind and her mother saw smoke coming from the dryer in their house. The smoke turned to flames and Jordan instructed the adults to get out of the house and go to the meeting place. She then asked her parents to call 9-1-1 and not to go back into the house. Chief Ingram of the Shutesbury Fire Department attributes her actions to the lessons that she learned from the Shutesbury S.A.F.E. Program.

### **Sturbridge**

#### **◆ Gabriel Rice**

On Friday, June 24, 2016, 10-year-old Gabriel Rice was lying awake in his bed and unable to sleep. He was concentrating on the sound of a smoke alarm sounding in the distance. He alerted his mother and due to her location in the house she could not hear the alarm. Gabriel was very persistent so his mother followed up by going outside to listen. Once outside both she and Gabriel could hear the smoke alarm clearly sounding in a neighboring house so they immediately called 9-1-1. No one was home at the time and thanks to the quick and persistent actions of Gabriel the fire department was able to hold the fire to

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one room and rescue animals that were inside. Chief David Zinther and FF Mary Lou Volpe of the Sturbridge Fire Department thank Gabriel for preventing loss of life and further damage to property.

### **Templeton**

#### **◆ Lilly Malcolm**

On Thursday, April 28, 2016, 10-year-old Lilly Malcolm was returning home from school when she found her grandfather lying on the porch. Lilly immediately called 9-1-1 and gave the dispatcher the necessary information. She remained calm until help arrived. Chief Raymond LaPorte of the Templeton fire department believes the lessons learned from the S.A.F.E. Program helped Lilly know the right thing to do to for her grandfather.

### **Uxbridge**

#### **◆ Hunter Fontaine**

On Sunday, April 24, 2016, 9-year-old Hunter Fontaine was in the back yard of his uncle's house when his uncle suddenly experienced a medical emergency and was unable to speak. Hunter immediately recognized that his uncle needed help, and used his uncle's cell phone to call 9-1-1. Hunter remained calm until help arrived. Chief William Kessler and Deputy Chief Steven Tancrell believe the lessons learned from the Uxbridge S.A.F.E. program helped Hunter to save his uncle's life.

### **Westford**

#### **◆ Benjamin Sherry**

On Monday, April 18, 2016, 14-year-old Benjamin Sherry was at home when he discovered a brush fire behind his neighbor's house. He quickly notified his mother and father and neighbor of the fire and told his neighbor to call 9-1-1. Ben assisted his dad in trying to put out the fire with a garden hose and when they realized that the fire was too big they decided to wait for the fire department. Ben participated in the Westford S.A.F.E. Program when he was younger.