

# **The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

Department of Fire Services

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

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### **23<sup>rd</sup> Year of the Student Awareness of Fire Education (S.A.F.E.) Program (2017-2018)**

**363 *Young heroes and counting!!!***

### **(9 Young Heroes in FY 18)**

#### **Fall River**

##### **◆ Guyanne Veillard**

On the morning of Saturday, April 7, 2018, 14-year-old Guyanne Veillard was asleep when a fire started in her home. Guyanne awoke, smelled smoke, went to investigate and noticed clothes that were placed in a basket too close to a space heater in the hallway had caught on fire. She gathered her brother and sister into a bedroom and closed the door. She opened the bedroom window and threw pillows and blankets to the ground below and then assisted her brother and sister to escape out of the window. Once they were free she then lowered herself out of the window to safety. Fire Chief John Lynch of the Fall River Fire Department are proud of Guyanne for being brave and heroic and for doing what she was taught in the S.A.F.E. Program.

#### **Monson**

##### **◆ Owen Strum and Daniel Fennyery**

On Sunday, May 13, 2018, 13-year-olds Owen Strum and Daniel Fennyery called 9-1-1 after hearing smoke alarms sounding and seeing smoke come from a neighbor's home. Owen and Daniel alerted another next door neighbor who happened to have the access code to the home. The Monson police chief who lived nearby arrived on scene first and after gaining access to the garage he used his fire extinguisher to put out the fire. Fire Chief Laurent McDonald and Firefighter David Martin credit Owen and Daniel for saving the house from further damage and for doing what he was taught in the S.A.F.E. Program.

#### **Norwood**

##### **◆ Carlos Manzanares**

On Tuesday, March 20, 2018, 10-year-old Carlos Manzanares was asleep in his bedroom when he suddenly awoke to a loud noise coming from the second floor. The smoke alarms were sounding in his building. Carlos told his parents that the whole family needed to get out the building and go to the meeting place. Carlos learned this while at school from the SAFE Program. Once outside, a neighbor called 9-1-1 and due to a language barrier Carlos translated what the neighbor wanted to say into English so that the dispatcher could understand. When the Fire Department arrived on scene, Carlos once again assisted with translation. Fire Chief Anthony Greeley and Fire Fighter Paul Ronco of the

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Norwood Fire Department recognize that Carlos was brave and heroic for doing what he was taught in the S.A.F.E. Program.

### **Spencer**

#### **◆ Madelyn Bjork**

On the morning of Saturday, December 23, 2017, 5-year-old Madelyn Bjork was at home when a fire started in the kitchen. Madelyn's mother was in the kitchen and noticed that the toaster was on fire and flames were starting to travel up to the cabinets above. Madelyn, who was close by, yelled "Fire" and "Everybody Out", then proceeded to lead her two younger brothers out of the house. One of her brothers tried to break free of her grasp to get their dog, but Madelyn would not let go of him until they were safely outside. Fire Chief Robert Parsons of the Spencer Fire Department credits Madelyn for being brave and heroic and for doing what she was taught in the S.A.F.E. Program.

### **Ware**

#### **◆ Victoria Vecchione**

On Thursday, July 20, 2017, 14-year-old Victoria Vecchione was at home asleep when a fire started in her kitchen. Victoria awoke to find smoke in her home. She immediately got her dogs, closed the doors as she was exiting, and once outside, called 9-1-1. She told the dispatcher of the fire and stayed safely away from her home until the fire department arrived. Deputy Fire Chief Edward Wloch of the Ware Fire Department credits Victoria with saving her house from further damage from fire.

### **West Newbury**

#### **◆ Ethan Houllahan and Kory Scheffen**

On Saturday, October 7, 2017, 16-year-old Ethan Houllahan and 16-year-old Kory Scheffen were traveling in their car when they came upon a motor vehicle accident. The driver was unconscious and the car was starting to smoke. Both youths quickly went into action and with the help of a passerby they removed the driver from the car, started CPR and continued with care until the fire department arrived. Assistant Chief Benjamin Jennell of the West Newbury Fire Department credits Ethan and Kory for their gallant attempt at saving the life of the driver.

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### **West Springfield**

#### **◆ Julia Anamisis**

On Tuesday, January 23, 2018, 10-year-old Julia Anamisis was at home when a fire started in the kitchen. Julia was in the basement when she heard the smoke alarms sounding. She investigated and found that her kitchen was filled with smoke and saw fire in the oven. Julia immediately went outside and got her father's attention. Both she and her brother stayed outside in a safe meeting place until the arrival of the fire department. Fire Chief William Flaherty of the West Springfield Fire Department is proud of Julia for being brave and for saving her house from further damage.