

One Great Community Salutes

Chamber Champions The All-America City Team

Let it be contagious! You don't hear that very often. However, this particular group of young and inspiring people are keeping the spirit alive and doing great things in and for our Community. Let it be contagious!

The All-America City team members were named to be the Chamber Champions for the One Great Community Salutes program by the Wayne County Area Chamber of Commerce. This program typically selects one individual that is a person who would be described as going the extra mile and through their service helps to make our community a wonderful place to live, learn and do business. The All-America City team has done that and more. Their success at the competition in Tampa, Florida last spring won them the designation of All-America City for Richmond, IN once again. Beyond that, they have inspired a whole city by bringing a new found faith, hope and pride to us at a time when everyone needs a boost. Together they have without question contributed to making our community a special place to be.

It is clear that the youth of any community are capable of so much more than they are typically given the opportunity to share. The experience with this group proves that to be true. In a recent interview with a few of the team members they were asked how these events had affected them personally and if they planned to do things differently in the future because of it. Hannah Weikert said, "You start to see that Civic responsibility and how you can change so much just by speaking for someone else. I always knew I wanted to be an attorney but now definitely with more of a focus on Civic Rights". Rachel Ulrich was moved in a similar fashion stating, "I found myself putting more emphasis on Community related things." In recent years she stated that she thought she would need to work on a Global level to make a difference; however, Rachel stated that "through doing this it occurred to me that you can do this stuff on a local level."

If those ideas aren't inspiring enough, Jeffrey Caldwell states, "I've been thinking about possibly becoming the President". His thoughts about what he learned from the experience could be considered "simple". Things like, as Jeffery put it, "making sure we present ourselves well" as being very important. But in these "simple" ideas are things that make a big difference. We can find that we have much to learn from our Youth in our daily lives and that we too need to present ourselves well; as it does reflect on our entire community. Let it be contagious!

This group of young people, although special to us are not unique in their talents and dreams. There are kids all throughout all of our communities that have so much to offer. Let's learn from them and the example they have set. They came together with one vision, worked together towards one goal and with a lot of effort and patience were successful in achieving their dream! Without question they are true Chamber Champions!

Let it be contagious!

All-America City Team Members: Collin Bell, Aisha Bowen, Elaine Brady, Jeffrey Caldwell, Jennie Campbell, Dakota Collins, Alex Crist, Shauna Flanagan, Kita Frick-Shiple, Sharae Jackson, Shandice Joiner, Alaina Keene, Allison Miller, KaLeigh Miller-Priest, George Myers, Sophie Ottoni-Wilhelm, Alexi Scott, Matt Sheridan, Eboni Stevens, Andrew Stevens, Haely Studebaker, Rachel Ulrich, Hanna Weikart, Joslyn White, Erika Jo Williams