



Haddonfield Civic Association
PO Box 323 | Haddonfield, NJ 08033
HaddonfieldCivic.com

Bradshaw Literary Award 2024 Prompt

It is crucially important for Citizens to engage and act for the betterment of the community. Haddonfield has been blessed for much of its history with people who dedicated time, talent, and energy to making our town an admirable place to call home.

Considering all those you have met in schools, organizations, church, family, and neighborhood, is there someone you would consider a model for others to follow?

A person who embodies passion for civic engagement and has worked to the benefit of our town maybe even inspired others to engage as well. Has this example of service to the community inspired you to get involved?

Brady Norton 2024 Bradshaw Literary Award Recipient

In fifth grade my dad was diagnosed with stage IV cancer and for the past seven years the impact of his diagnosis has informed much of my childhood and young adult life. It has been a difficult time for my family, but my dad's illness has taught me valuable lessons on the ways in which an entire community can care for others. I have learned that serving one's community requires more than a vague question of "what can I do to help?", rather it requires "showing up" and actively using one's gifts and time for those in need.

Shortly after my dad received his diagnosis, word spread like wildfire throughout our community. It was very overwhelming. In our very lowest times, we have been lifted up by our Haddonfield community and on more than one occasion our small town has

carried my family through some of our darkest days. It hasn't been just one person who has carried us - not one singular volunteer who has had an impact on our lives, it has been the totality of our community who has quietly kept us going.

We have been cared for by our school principals - Mr. Bissinger, Ms. Matozzo, and Mrs. McHale who advocated for my siblings and me throughout our school years and teachers like Maggie Gammie and Laura Dambrowski who nurtured us when we were going through rough patches. It's the Tully's who took me out for a new lacrosse stick on the day I realized I lost mine because my mom was at the hospital with my dad. It's the coaches who have lovingly but patiently pushed us to reach our fullest potential despite the challenges we were experiencing at home. It's Jack O'Malley who has been an incredible supporter of our family and model of what selflessly helping others looks like. It is the countless elementary school students who sold "no one fights alone" bracelets in honor of my dad. It is the groups of moms and dads who arranged carpools, and dinners, and tee shirt sales in honor of my dad, and yard clean ups, and laundry services during our hardest days. They were the "show up" supporters that have shown me, through their example, how to care for those in need and emulate what meaningful community service looks like.

The word community means "a feeling of fellowship with others, as a result of sharing common attitudes, interests, and goals". So many wonderful people in Haddonfield have a shared attitude of helping others. We have been cared for by people we knew and many who we did not, by leaders and by people working quietly behind the scenes. Our experience has inspired me to dedicate myself to a career of helping others because I have been on the receiving end of that generosity and understand the impact it can have, and I have realized the importance of being a part of a greater whole if successful and meaningful impacts are to be made for others.



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To find out more about the HCA, contact:

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