



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

Bradshaw Literary Award 2023 Prompt

In what ways does Haddonfield prepare you to mature into civic minded, engaged citizens ready to use your time, talents, and passion for the betterment of the community?

Joseph Keegan 2023 Bradshaw Literary Award Recipient

How my Time, Talent, and Passion made me Civic

As Clay Shirky once stated, "Civic participants don't aim to make life better merely for members of the group. They want to improve the lives of people who never participate". With a community like Haddonfield, I've formed into a well-rounded individual. I've been taught to care for others and "love thy neighbor as thyself". With my time, talents, and passions, I'm able to claim myself as a civic-minded individual who has the desire to better the community.

Time is incredibly valuable. Time is also limited. With time that isn't spent on schoolwork, family, or friends, I enjoy giving back to the community that has helped me become the person I am today. Recently, I bought necessities, then I donated them to a shelter in Camden, and it is something important to me. On MLK day every year, I join a few organizations to help the community. This year, I made cards for hospitalized kids, so they knew they had a friend in me. Last year, I made treats for a local animal shelter. Time is precious, but there is time for any goal.

Along with time, talent is essential. Talent comes in varied forms and when you have a passion, with effort, anyone can have talent. I found a talent for Mental health: support services. I've struggled immensely with mental health struggles, and I knew I didn't want anyone else to struggle. So, I made posters with supportive messages on them and placed them around the high school. I took to social media and created a social media account titled "Forever4U" that focuses on the awareness of mental health. Shortly After, I started a text chain, that anyone in the community can join, and I sent out bi-weekly supportive messages to my peers. Creating this program has brought immense joy, and I'm proud to say that I'll be continuing to run this media while on my next journey after High school.

There is a certain drive that comes with certain people. The word to describe that quality is Passionate. Having a passion that I found at a young age is a privilege. I still hold this passion. but I have new layers to it. I do not want to perform to impress myself. I want to fulfill my passions and dreams to help others. If someone can see me in a production and laugh with me, that is a dream come true. If someone can come to a show I am in and see a character they resonate with, then that is a dream come true as well. While Theatre is a passion of mine, it is also a necessity for the community.

My time, talent, and passion help me strive for the betterment of myself and the community. Coming from Haddonfield, I'm aware of what needs to be done to create a safe and inclusive environment. My hometown will always be the first layer of my journey because it helped me become a person with positivity, dreams, and determination.



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To find out more about the HCA, contact:

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