



FOR INFORMATION, CONTACT:

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FOR RELEASE:

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Cooper LeMaster Receives Community Service Award from Washington Township and Judy Blair

Cooper LeMaster was one of two Centerville High School seniors honored Monday by Washington Township Trustees with the Township's annual Community Service Award. The award includes a \$1,000 scholarship with half of the scholarship funded by Washington Township and half funded by Judy Blair, in memory of her husband, Terry Blair, a former Washington Township trustee and a member of the Ohio General Assembly.

Cooper has been an avid participant in Centerville High School's Octagon Club, Culinary Arts Program, National Honor Society, and BOLD (Building Our Lives Drug and Alcohol Free). He currently serves as president of Octagon Club and the Culinary Arts Program. Cooper has logged over seventy-five hours of community service by volunteering serving as an Elk Connector, where he helps incoming freshmen transition from middle school to high school, organizing a clothing drive for Hannah's Treasure Chest through the Octagon Club, and volunteering as a study buddy, where he helps tutor middle school students. As his nominating high school advisor, Mr. Greg Bell, said of him, "Cooper is an outstanding young man who really cares about people and his community."

"I started volunteering at a young age," Cooper remarks. "In elementary school, we had a service-based club that I was part of and that instilled in me the importance of community service." Cooper continued to volunteer in middle school as a member of the Junior Optimists and this drive continued through high school as he volunteers his time with the Centerville-Washington Park District and the Centerville Noon Optimist Club Haunted Trail and Christmas Tree Lot.

In addition to the multiple high school service clubs he participates in, Cooper is active in the Centerville High School Culinary Arts Program and frequently volunteers time after school to help host banquets. In 2022, he won at the state level for restaurant management and has participated at the national level of the Prostart Invitational his junior and senior year.

Cooper's most memorable volunteer activity was when he organized a dog food and supply drive his junior year for local pets in need. He has a heart for entrepreneurship and plans to attend Miami University and major in Marketing. Cooper mentions that it feels great to give back and credits his desire to serve others to his parents, who have always been fully supportive and encouraging of his involvement in the community.

Cooper's advice to others is to simply, "get involved in the community wherever you see an opportunity for improvement."

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COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

**Washington Township
Add one of one**

Washington Township Trustees established the Community Service Award to recognize student volunteers and, in the process, draw attention to the importance of public service. Advisors for Centerville High School's four service organizations – Key Club, Octagon Club, Interact Club and National Honor Society – select two students who, through sustained effort, best exemplify service to the local, national or international community. Cooper's award will be funded through Washington Township and Judy Blair, in memory of her husband Terry Blair, a former Washington Township trustee and a member of the Ohio General Assembly. "Our young people are using service to lay a foundation of civic engagement and leadership and we want to celebrate that through our Community Service Awards," says Trustee President Dale Berry.

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