

# Passion to feed the hungry fuels Outstanding Youth David Kibbey

## St. Michael student leads effort to enhance charity

Most 13-year-olds struggle to get out of their bed for school let alone on the weekend.

However, David Kibbey, a seventh grader at St. Michael Catholic School in Livonia, can't wait to get up every Saturday at 5:30 a.m. to help feed the hungry.

This is one of the reasons Kibbey was selected as the recipient of the 2019 Livonia Outstanding Youth Award - an annual honor coordinated by the Livonia Chamber of Commerce and the Livonia Observer newspaper that recognizes outstanding community contributions by a Livonia student.

Kibbey began volunteering for P.B.J. Outreach five years ago with his older brother, Hayden, for a Boy Scout service project. P.B.J., which stands for Peanut Butter and Jelly, is a 17-year-old Detroit-based charity where Kibbey and other volunteers prepare food to distribute to at least 250 people in need each Saturday.

It's not enough for him to just join on Saturdays. David has taken it upon himself to make the P.B.J. Outreach effort even better. He organizes food drives at school to collect fresh fruits and vegetables and recruits additional young volunteers.

"I got hooked and kept going back. I made friends with the directors of P.B.J. and it became an-every-weekend-type thing," said David, who also is a member of Quiz Bowl, National Junior Honor Society, Student Leaders and a participant in Aquinas Academic Olympics.

"When you leave, you actually feel like you have actually done something, and that you've helped somebody," shares Kibbey. "There are a lot of kids who need to see the other side because they don't understand what it's really like."

Linda Sabak, a middle school English and Literature teacher at St. Michael's, said Kibbey shows great leadership and compassion for those in need.



David Kibbey strives to do more in his community and is encouraged by the people in his life.

"We are so proud of David," Sabak said. "(He) is a great representative of our student body here at St. Michael's School."

David credits his late-grandfather, Greg Marrs of Northville, for inspiring and encouraging both Kibbey brothers to make community service a big part of their lives.

"I started doing this after my granddad passed away," Kibbey said. "He was very big in community, really liked to help out and was generous. And I really want to carry on his legacy. I know my brother does too."