

PRESS RELEASE: Zonta Club of Northampton Chooses YWPA Winner

Contact: Judith Luddy, Secretary
36 Pelham Road, Amherst
413-537-7615

Anna Dyjach , daughter of Judith and John Dyjach of South Hadley, has been chosen as the 2024 Young Woman in Public Affairs (YWPA) by the Zonta Club of Northampton Area. Attending Hadley public schools since kindergarten, Anna was an honor student at Hopkins Academy before transferring to Deerfield Academy as a sophomore. She graduates from Deerfield on May 26, and will attend Mt. Holyoke College in the fall.

At Hopkins, Anna Dyjach was president of her class for three years, and an officer in the Diversity Club and Key Club. A Girl Scout since kindergarten, she has also been team captain for basketball and softball. Among her many volunteer service activities, Anna especially cites participating in the Zoom program {"Learn to Be," where she enjoyed helping an underperforming 2nd grader to read well above grade level in just a school year. Through Deerfield she travelled to Tanzania, to work in a girl's orphanage where she saw first-hand both stark reality and the indomitable spirit of young girls in dire circumstances. "It changed my life to see how grateful the girls were for how little they have...although it was a service trip, these girls gave more to me than I did to them," she said.

The Northampton Zonta Club has enthusiastically sent Anna Dyjach's application on to Zonta International, where all the YWPA club winners around the world are considered for a further award.

Interestingly enough, another Zonta YWPA awardee from 2022 happens to be a rising senior at Mt. Holyoke College: Tehani Chandrasena Perira of Sri Lanka.

Zonta International is a worldwide alliance of more than 26,000 members of 1,100 local clubs in 64 countries. Founded in 1919 in Buffalo, NY, Zonta International members work locally and globally to "Build a better world for women and girls." With participation in the Council of Europe, and NGO (Non Governmental Organization) status with the United Nations, Zonta has participated in many far-reaching projects benefiting women and girls, contributing more than \$35.9M since 1971.

The Zonta Club of Northampton Area meets on the third Thursday of each month, sometimes virtually on Zoom and more often in person. We invite you to read all about Zonta International at zonta.org, and then visit our club website, , for more information about our 90 years of service to the Valley. We welcome visitors and prospective members who share our mission to work globally and locally to make a better world for women and girls.