



News Release

(630) 221-7029

PLT Organizations

360 Youth Services
Advocate Health
Alliance Against Intoxicated Motorists
Breaking Free
Building Parent Connections
Carol Stream Police Department
College of DuPage
District 87 Schools
Downers Grove Township
DuPage County Health Department
DuPage County Juvenile Probation
DuPage Metropolitan
Enforcement Group
DuPage Regional Office of Education
Glen Ellyn Police Department
Hanover Police Department
Heritage Health
Hinsdale Fire Department
Illinois State Police
Latino Treatment Center
Linden Oaks Behavioral Health
Lions Clubs International
Lisle Township
NAMI DuPage
National Guard
Northeast DuPage Family and
Youth Services
Northwestern Medicine
On Balance Parenting
Parents and Teens Together
Robert Crown Center
Rosecrance
Samaritan Interfaith
Streamwood Behavioral Health
Teen Parent Connection
Village of Carol Stream
Warrenville Youth and Family Services
WeGo Together for Kids
YWCA

December 2, 2020
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DuPage Recognizes Prevention Work with Annual Changemaker Award

DuPage County— The DuPage County Health Department and the Prevention Leadership Team (PLT) announced that Justine Rozenich, Ashley Liem, Glen Ellyn Police Department, and the Glenbard Parent Series (GPS) are recognized as the 2020 Changemakers for their dedication to youth substance use prevention.

The Changemaker Award recognizes individuals, communities, and organizations who are leading the way in prevention efforts and going above and beyond to protect youth in DuPage County.

“This has been a challenging year for all of us. We are more grateful than ever for our Changemakers and for the people who are going above and beyond to protect the health and wellbeing of our youth and communities,” said Karen Ayala, Executive Director of DuPage County Health Department.

There are four categories of the Changemaker Award: Teen, Adult, Organization, and Community.

Justine Rozenich is the 2020 Teen Changemaker. Justine is a Senior at St. Ignatius and is dedicated to public health and making a difference. She has been an active member of the DuPage County Youth Coalition, Reality, which is committed to youth substance use prevention and mental wellness. Over the summer she volunteered to serve as an intern for Reality and took it upon herself to organize a two-day virtual "Health Symposium During COVID-19" for high school students.

Ashley Liem is the 2020 Adult Changemaker. Ashley is a Program Coordinator at Northeast DuPage Family and Youth Services (NEDFYS). She has impacted over 300 youth and families in her role at NEDFYS and has spearheaded the development and implementation of many new prevention activities for youth in Addison. Ashley created drop-in teen events at the

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Addison Public Library and launched many new programs at the Henry Hyde Resource Center in Addison as well as initiated several youth community service projects.

The Glenbard Parent Series (GPS) has been awarded the 2020 Organizational Changemaker Award. GPS is an educational consortium dedicated to presenting distinguished, relevant, high-profile authors, clinicians, and educators who share practical research-based knowledge, wisdom, and personal experience to enhance students' (of all ages) positive youth development, social and emotional learning, and well-being. Gilda Ross, Student and Community Projects Coordinator for District 87, and Dr. David Larson, Superintendent of District 87, are behind the success of the GPS. Presentations through GPS are offered for free and have had a powerful impact on parents, teens, and educators throughout DuPage and beyond. For more information on GPS, visit www.glenbardgps.org/.

The 2020 Community Changemaker is Glen Ellyn and the Glen Ellyn Police Department. Chief Philip Norton of the Glen Ellyn Police Department is dedicated to the prevention and the health and wellbeing of youth. Community members who drive past the Glen Ellyn Police Department on Park Boulevard will see a drugged driving prevention banner to remind everyone of the dangers of drugged driving. He is also supportive of the Reality Youth Coalition and was happy to assist them with the successful passage of the Tobacco 21 policy in Glen Ellyn. The Glen Ellyn Police Department also dedicates Community Education Officers, like Joe Nemchock, to community presentations to parents, kids, and teens, and school staff on various prevention topics.

“We are so proud and fortunate to have these individuals and organizations in DuPage working so hard to protect youth”, said Jordan Esser, Project Coordinator of the DuPage County Prevention Leadership Team. “Coming off of an extremely difficult year that has impacted everyone makes us appreciate the hard work and dedication of these Changemakers even more.”

If you know an individual, organization, or community that is committed to youth substance use prevention and would like to nominate them for the Changemaker Award, you can contact Jordan Esser at the DuPage County Prevention Leadership Team at Jordan.esser@dupagehealth.org. ###

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