

## West Broward High School Seniors Recognized for Volunteering at SilverLakes

BY DEBBY TEICH

The SilverLakes community, which has 5,140 homes, offers a variety of events for residents throughout the year, and it relies on volunteers to help make all of them a success. A group of five seniors from West Broward High School, who have been volunteering on a regular basis for the past four years, recently received special recognition from the Board of Directors for their efforts.

"Broward County Public Schools requires 40 hours of community service to graduate, and these five seniors have volunteered above and beyond that amount," said Cathy Balenovic, SilverLakes Community Affairs Director. "They volunteered because they wanted to, not because they had to."

Throughout the years, they have offloaded pumpkins for the Pumpkin Patch, hidden eggs for the Easter Egg Hunt, helped set up equipment for outdoor movie nights, manned the popcorn and snow cone machines, helped children with art activities, and much more.

All of the recipients are members of the National Honor Society and tutor underclassman. They are also involved in a variety of other clubs and activities, including JROTC, marching band, Young Politicians Club of America, Broward Center's Teen Ambassador Program, FRIENDS Horse Rescue, swim and dive team, and more. They include:

- Carla Corsetti, 17, plans to study Early Education.
- Pedro Hernandez, 18, plans to study Economics
- Christian Jimenez, 18, plans to study Economics
- Justin Moyer, 17, plans to study Finance
- Tomi Balenovic, 18, plans to study Veterinary Science



(l to r): Justin Moyer, Tomi Balenovic, Carla Corsetti, Pedro Hernandez and Christian Jimenez.

Although these five seniors have showed an extraordinary level of commitment, Balenovic says there are many others that also help out during events. This is the first year that she has given out the award. She now plans to give the award every year to students who volunteer consistently.

"My student volunteers are invaluable," said Balenovic. "I wouldn't be able to have successful events for our residents without their help. I hope by volunteering early, they will pay it forward and make volunteering, in whatever area they chose, a part of their adult lives."





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