

ANNA HUBER

COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS

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goypi.org

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blackbelt, but I had been doing martial arts for 7 years prior to this. Training for my blackbelt was probably the hardest I have ever had to work. This is why achieving it was such a momentous time in my life. All of my hard work, perseverance, and determination truly payed off. I look forward to continuing with martial arts and training towards my second degree blackbelt.

WHY DO YOU VOLUNTEER?

I volunteer because I truly believe it makes the world a better place. Helping others and expecting nothing in return does not only better the world, but I find that it makes me feel like I am doing something that makes a difference. Volunteering is important to me because I feel like everybody should contribute

to positively impact the world. This past summer, I had the opportunity to volunteer for children's summer camps with the Ridge Meadows Child Development Centre. I learned just as much from the children I volunteered with as I hope they learned from me. I have also been fortunate to volunteer at my school with Thomas Haney Culinary Arts, Best Buddies, Student Council, and Eco-Action. Volunteering makes me feel good about myself and I hope it makes a difference for other people, too.

TELL US ABOUT BEING A FINALIST IN THE YOUTH AND PHILANTHROPY INITIATIVE—WHAT IS IT ALL ABOUT?

At the beginning of May in 2019 I was assigned a project in school called YPI (the Youth and Philanthropy Initiative). For this project, I would pick a local charity of my choice, research about the charity, and interview someone from the charity. I chose the Arcus Association for Community Living. AACL works to increase the quality of life for young adults who are developmentally challenged, have severe physical disabilities, or high medical needs. I created a presentation about AACL centred around the question, "What would this charity do with \$5000?". I then presented this information to my English class. The top presentation from each English class was selected to go to our school's "finals". I got picked from my English class! At the finals there were 7 presentations including mine. I presented in front of all of the grade nines at my school, the grade nine English teachers, and a panel of judges from the district. After watching all

of the groups present, the judges picked one group to win the \$5000. And the winner was... the Arcus Association for Community Living! The Youth and Philanthropy Initiative is all about raising awareness and becoming more connected with charities in our community. Only one charity was able to win \$5000, but because of YPI, I learned about many other amazing charities in our community. I am so glad that I was able to make a contribution to the Arcus Association for Community Living. This charity does so much to better our community, and I know that the \$5000 helped in many ways.

YOU HAVE A 1ST DEGREE BLACKBELT AND ARE NOW AN INSTRUCTOR! WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE THING ABOUT INSTRUCTING?

My favourite thing about instructing is that I am able to make an impact in the lives of the people that I instruct. Martial arts is such an important part of my life, so if I can make it a positive part of other people's lives, even just a fraction of what it is for me, I feel accomplished. I love the sense of community and the friendliness inside the walls of Bateson's Martial Arts, my martial arts school. To me, instructing is all about making martial arts a part of people's lives and involving them in that sense of community. I am still new at instructing and I have a lot to learn, but it continually challenges me to improve, grow, and better the lives of the people I instruct.

WHERE DO YOU SEE YOURSELF IN 10 OR 20 YEARS? ARE THERE ANY PLACES YOU WANT TO GO OR GOALS YOU WANT TO ACCOMPLISH?

Life already seems to be going by so fast, and thinking about the future just makes it speed up even more. Thinking about the future can be scary, so I like to set goals so I have a bit of a path to follow. Although, I try not to set an exact outline of what I want to happen, because I believe that some of the best things that happen in life are unplanned. So, while I do like to plan, I also like to keep my options open. I know that after high school I would like to attend university. As of right now, I am hoping to study environmental sciences, but I am interested and involved in so many areas that I am not entirely sure of my career path yet. I have thought about being an environmentalist, a teacher, a therapist, a paediatrician, an author, and that is only a small number of the choices I have considered. I do not have an exact view of where I imagine myself

in 10 or 20 years, but I do know a few things. I want to travel and experience the world, I want to continue to live an active lifestyle and to be involved with martial arts and other sports. I want to continue volunteering and being a contributing member of our community, and eventually, I want to have children of my own. I have some goals to guide me along the way, but for the most part, I am ready for whatever life throws at me. As for the short term, my goals include achieving my second degree blackbelt, maintaining straight-A's, growing as a martial arts instructor, exploring new volunteer opportunities in the community, and so on. Also, I have been accepted to participate in a National Geographic Student Expedition this coming summer. I am looking forward to experiencing marine and environmental biology and conservation firsthand in Baja and the Sea of Cortez, Mexico. I am excited for the many experiences my future holds. As long as I just keep being the best version of myself, I think I am headed in a pretty great direction.

IF YOU COULD GIVE ONE PIECE OF ADVICE TO YOUTH IN OUR COMMUNITY, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

The one piece of advice I would like to give to youth in our community is to always do your best and give your 100% in everything you do. Fully commit to what you are doing and go into the experience with an open mind. Do not be afraid of making mistakes as they are learning experiences. If you always put the best version of yourself forward, you are setting yourself on a path of learning, growth, and success.

