



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Three Treasure Valley High School Students to be Recognized at YMCA Scholarship for Civic Engagement Ceremony May 10**

The **Treasure Valley Family YMCA** will recognize three local high school students at the **YMCA Scholarship for Civic Engagement Ceremony** at 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 10, at the **YMCA Corporate Office** 1177 W. State St., Boise (northeast corner of State and 12<sup>th</sup>).

Award recipients **Alysha Van Zante, Madeline Duskey and Dustin Wood**, along with the four semi-finalists, **Taylor Jacopian, Sarah Morton, Courtney Schroeder, and Sabrina Turner** will be recognized.

Earlier this month, the YMCA's volunteer Scholarship Selection Committee interviewed seven outstanding applicants and awarded higher education scholarships to three incredible Treasure Valley students. These students demonstrate outstanding civic engagement behavior, motivation, action and leadership in their own community and to others in need.

A \$5,000 scholarship will be awarded to **Alysha Van Zante**, a senior at Boise High School. The majority of Alysha's volunteer time is focused at St. Luke's and the VA Medical Center Research Lab where she combines her commitment to improve the world around her with her interest in pursuing a career in the medical field. She is very passionate about protecting the environment and is a voting member of the Foothills Conservation Advisory Committee. Alysha is a student representative on the Teacher Grant Committee of Boise Education Foundation where she gives her student perspective. She also volunteers to improve her community through the Idaho Food Bank, the Humane Society, Key Club, and the National Honor Society. Alysha plans to attend the University of Idaho this fall.

A \$3,000 scholarship will be awarded to **Madeline Duskey**, a senior at Capital High School. Maddie has volunteered in many areas, but One Stone, by far, is the most impactful / rewarding service experience she has had the opportunity to be a part of. She also volunteers to improve her community through the American Lung Association to promote being tobacco free, Magical Moments: Big Brothers Big Sisters, and Idaho Fish and Game. Maddie will be attending the University of Montana this fall.

A \$2,000 scholarship will be awarded to **Dustin Wood**, a senior at Vallivue High School. He single-handedly brought Start Strong to his high school. This is a national program that helps youth understand and combat abusive relationships. Dustin has grown up with service projects through church and Scouts and has had additional leadership opportunities: Group Leader for the PEAK program (Peers Encourage Abstinent Kids), Varsity Tennis Team Captain, President of Young Men's Youth Organization at Church, Patrol Leader of Boise Scout Troup, Eagle Scout, and Youth Advisor / Sports Commissioner for Idaho Youth Games. Dustin plans to attend Brigham Young University in the fall.

Since the scholarship's inception in 1999, the **YMCA Scholarship for Civic Engagement** has supported 74 local high school seniors through scholarship awards totaling \$116,600. The Civic Engagement Fund is held at the Idaho Community Foundation and was started with initial funding from the Henry M. Jackson Foundation and Edward and Dorothy Stimpson. Distributions from the fund are used each year to award the scholarships.

For over 10 years, YMCA volunteers and staff have enjoyed working with Ada and Canyon County schools, counselors, students and other civic-minded organizations, such as Serve Idaho and the Presidential Freedom Scholarship Fund, to award individual students across the Treasure Valley for helping others and for their independent commitment to do so. At the YMCA, we know that it is fundamental for youth to know they are valued and are able to play a vital role in our community. In an era when too many adults are disconnected from their own community, it is essential for us to foster and develop in youth the importance of being a part of public service.

For images, interviews or more information, contact Dee Childers at the Treasure Valley Family YMCA, 208.344.5502, Ext. 209 or [dee.childers@ymcatvidaho.org](mailto:dee.childers@ymcatvidaho.org).

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#### **THE TREASURE VALLEY FAMILY YMCA:**

The Treasure Valley Family YMCA is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization. At the Y, strengthening community is our cause. Every day, we work side-by-side with our neighbors to make sure that everyone, regardless of age, income or background, has the opportunity to learn, grow and thrive. The Treasure Valley Family YMCA is guided by four core values: caring, honesty, respect and responsibility. With over 54,000 members across the Treasure Valley, we also serve over 37,000 children every year with our services and programs. In 2010, we provided over \$5 million in financial assistance and scholarships so that no one was turned away from a YMCA program or service due to inability to pay. We're for youth development, healthy living and social responsibility. [ymcatvidaho.org](http://ymcatvidaho.org)

#### **The Y**

The Y is one of the nation's leading nonprofits strengthening communities through youth development, healthy living and social responsibility. Across the U.S., 2,687 Ys engage 21 million men, women and children – regardless of age, income or background – to nurture the potential of children and teens, improve the nation's health and well-being, and provide opportunities to give back and support neighbors. Anchored in more than 10,000 communities, the Y has the long-standing relationships and physical presence not just to promise, but to deliver, lasting personal and social change. [ymca.net](http://ymca.net)