



ST. MARY'S
ACADEMY

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ST. MARY'S ACADEMY SENIOR RECOGNIZED WITH PRESIDENT'S VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD

Portland, Ore. – Camille Marshall, a senior at St. Mary's Academy, has been honored for exemplary community service with a President's Volunteer Service Award.

This special award recognizes Americans of all ages who have volunteered significant time to serve their communities and their country and is granted by the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program on behalf of the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation.

It was during her sophomore year at when she first walked through the doors at St. Stephen's Parish in Portland to help serve food to the local homeless community in a church-basement operation. She immediately felt the intrinsic rewards of serving this community in a way that went beyond providing a warm meal. There was a strong sense of community nurtured by the staff, volunteers and homeless population that met in this basement every Saturday.

Those strong ties led Camille to say yes to run the operation with a friend when the previous leader moved on. Camille says, "I had fallen in love with the beautiful chaos of making the meal and the intriguing guests that came in, sharing their stories over scrambled eggs. Quickly I recognized that this was a great opportunity to share hospitality with my Portland neighbors experiencing homelessness. What started off as random volunteering ended up being a three-year long commitment that I continue today."

Every Saturday Camille oversees dedicated volunteers that provide 80 to 200 meals, along with a place to come in from the cold, rest and talk. Above all, it's the conversations and stories exchanged over coffee that she has valued the most. "To some people, feeding the homeless may seem like an act of charity, but I believe that it is an opportunity for companionship with our friends who may be going through a tough time and need our support."

During her time at St. Mary's Academy, Camille contributed more than 300 hours of service with St. Stephen's Parish Clay Street Table Saturday Breakfast, Children's Cancer Association and other organizations in and outside of school. She is a tutor for her peers in science, participated in the inaugural Mexico-border immersion trip with St. Mary's Academy to learn more about issues around

immigration and border life, and is a dedicated Ambassador. Camille is heading to Whitman College this fall and has signed to play soccer.

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At St. Mary's Academy, We Believe.

Located in the heart of downtown Portland, OR, St. Mary's Academy is the state's oldest continually-operating school and its only all-girls secondary school. Founded in 1859 by the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary, St. Mary's Academy serves more than 725 young women in grades 9-12. Our young women achieve a 100% college acceptance rate and excel in and out of the classroom as recognized locally, regionally and nationally in academic fields, the arts, athletics, community services and extra- and co-curricular activities. www.stmaryspdx.org