

18 UNDER EIGHTEEN



ABOUT

EMMA WINKLER

Emma Winkler is a 16-year-old student who is selflessly committed to bettering the lives of others around her. After noticing a lack of excitement and community at her local senior living facility, Emma initiated, fundraised and planned a senior prom. Over 120 residents attended the event which featured a DJ, photobooths, raffles, and even vintage "dance cards" for promgoers to keep track of who they danced with. The event was such a success that a second senior formal was held in December 2023.

Emma also started a student organization at her school to give back to communities and families in need. Helping Hands utilizes teamwork to foster a collaborative and inclusive environment that encourages students to volunteer. Each month, the group picks a different cause or organization to support to ensure their work reaches the entire community.

Emma's community service efforts are diverse and span over multiple communities and causes. During the COVID-19 pandemic, she learned how to sew so she could make over 600 masks for healthcare professionals and also hosted neighborhood food drives for those in need. Each summer, she selflessly gives her vacation time to mentoring young children at FUN AND FREEDOM youth camp. Emma's main goal is to make the world a better, more positive place, and she is starting right here at home.

