

# Owensboro High senior receives award for volunteering

- By Bobbie Hayse Messenger-Inquirer

- Mar 3, 2019



Mary Grace Hemingway

Receiving acknowledgment for a job well done is not why Mary Grace Hemingway volunteers.

For the past three years, Hemingway, 17, has been involved with Impact 100's NextGen grant program, and for her efforts, she has been honored with a Certificate of Excellence and the President's Volunteer Service Award from the 2019 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards, which are presented annually by Prudential Financial in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals.

The Owensboro High School junior doesn't like to brag on herself, and said she feels humbled to have received the recognition.

According to a letter Prudential sent to OHS Principal John DeLacy, Hemingway "stood out as an impressive example of what young people can do to improve their communities."

The letter went on to say that the President's Volunteer Service Award recognizes Americans of all ages "who have volunteered significant amounts of their time to serve their communities and their country."

"I'm very gracious. I feel very humbled," Hemingway said. "I think it's important to give back to the community. So far, I've been influenced by a lot of people in the community. It's nice to give back."

Impact 100 NextGen is for high school girls in grades eight through 12. It's designed to empower young women, create a sense of community and a philanthropic spirit of giving, according to its website.

The first year Hemingway was involved in the program, the group was able to raise money for Hospice to enable them to purchase teddy bears for children in crisis. This past year, the grant was given to Oasis, an Owensboro women's shelter, to go toward a children's playground.

But receiving certificates and awards for such work is not why Hemingway does what she does with Impact 100 NextGen, she said.

"It's a really great program and I'm really happy to be involved in it," she said.

Bobbie Hayse, [bhayse@messenger-inquirer.com](mailto:bhayse@messenger-inquirer.com), 270-691-7315.