



*The 74th Annual  
Outstanding Young  
Virginians  
Awards Ceremony*

**November 19, 2016  
Hilton Garden Inn  
Richmond, Virginia**



**2016 Virginia Jaycees**  
**Executive Committee**

<b>President</b>	<i>Diego Soto</i>
<b>Management Vice President</b>	<i>Michael Raymer</i>
<b>Community Development Vice President</b>	<i>Kristin Miller</i>
<b>Membership Vice President</b>	<i>Sarah Gentry</i>
<b>Chairman of the Board</b>	<i>Amy Tenhouse</i>



**W**elcome to the 74<sup>th</sup> annual Outstanding Young Virginians ceremony. Tonight we will be honoring four individuals who are “Translating Vision Into Action” through their personal and professional accomplishments. They strive to change the world around them by creating positive and sustainable change in our communities.

Each of our Outstanding Young Virginian honorees exemplify the ideals expressed in the Jaycee Creed and have demonstrated their commitment to personal growth, leadership development and community involvement. Their actions demonstrate that service to humanity is the best work of life!

This year, we honor three Outstanding Young Virginians and one Outstanding Future Leader. We received several outstanding nominations this year and it is certainly inspiring to see the impact these individuals are having in their communities.

Thank you for joining us this year for the Outstanding Young Virginian celebration. Please enjoy your evening and join me in congratulating these impressive honorees.



*Diego Soto*  
82nd President

# ~Event Program~

***Welcome & Introductions***      *Amy Tenhouse*  
*Chairman of the Board*

***Invocation***                      *Joe Mirabile*  
*US JCI Senator #73610*

~Dinner~

***Opening Remarks***              *Diego Soto, 82nd President,*  
*Virginia Jaycees*

~Outstanding Young Virginian Celebration~

***Master of Ceremonies***        *Anne Johnson*  
*US Jaycees Ambassador*  
*US JCI Senator #49625*  
*Virginia Jaycees Life Member*

***Keynote Speaker***              *Tara Wheeler*  
*Miss Virginia '08*  
*Charlottesville Newsplex Evening Anchor*

***Outstanding Future Leader***  
***Outstanding Young Virginians***

~Jaycee Presentations~

*Life Memberships*

*Ambassadorships*

*Return the Favor*

*JCI Senatorships*

*Quarterly Awards*

*Jaycee Creed*

~Adjournment ~

# History of the Outstanding Young Virginian Program

The Virginia Jaycees have been dedicated to publicly recognizing Outstanding Young Virginians since 1942. Modeled on the United States Junior Chamber of Commerce's Ten Outstanding Young Americans program, this program gives the state organization the opportunity to recognize young Virginians who best exemplify through their activities the ideals expressed in the Jaycee Creed.

The Outstanding Young Virginian Program began as the Distinguished Service Award in 1942 with the first recipient being Martin B. Williams of Richmond. In 1954, the Jaycees introduced the Outstanding Young Farmer award. This program recognizes young farmers for achievements in agri-business as well as contributions made through the involvement in community, agriculture, and other organizations.

In 1971, the award was changed to the Outstanding Young Men and that year a special presentation was made to honor all POW/MIA's in Southeast Asia. In 1984 with the introduction of women into the Jaycees, the award was changed to the Outstanding Young Virginians.

The Virginia Jaycees in 1992 established the Outstanding Young Emergency Medical Technician award to honor unselfish, life-saving contributions of pre-hospital providers. This award not only recognizes the contributions of the recipients, but also to honor the world's first rescue squad, established in Roanoke, Virginia by Julian S. Wise.

Progress toward a better world has been the central purpose in selecting the Outstanding Young Virginians. Essential to this purpose has been the theme of the Outstanding Young Virginians program, "the hope of mankind lies in the hands of youth and action." The young men and women selected over the past 74 years have represented the cultural, economic, and personal progress of their time. Each honoree has shown commitment to mankind and reminds each of us that no problem is too difficult when handled with grace, ingenuity, courage, and determination.



# Master of Ceremony



## **Anne Johnson**

*US Jaycees Ambassador*

*US JCI Senator*

*Virginia Jaycees Life Member*

Anne joined the Vienna Jaycees in Northern Virginia in September 1984 immediately after the Supreme Court decision to admit women to the organization. She went on to hold many offices in her 200-member chapter – including President – and win numerous awards on the chapter, district, regional, state and national levels. She served the Virginia Jaycees as a district director, program manager, a member of the Training Task Force, and Regional and State Advisor.

Anne became very active in the Virginia JCI Senate after receiving her Senatorship in 1992. She went on to hold many offices including president; and has served the United States JCI Senate as program manager, Region 3 National Vice President, and Region 3 Advisor.

Besides her involvement in the Jaycees, Anne has been very active in other areas of her community including the PTA and local youth sports programs when her two sons were growing up; her church; and her college sorority, Kappa Kappa Gamma.

Anne believes that old saying that you get out of life what you put into it. Except in the case of the Jaycees where she believes she has received way more than she ever put in. Ask her what she has gotten from her Jaycee experiences and she will tell you about the people she's met, the friendships she's made, the endless things she's learned, the places she's traveled, and the fun she's had. What an incredible return on investment!



# Keynote Speaker

## **Tara Wheeler**

Miss Virginia '08  
Charlottesville Newsplex  
Evening Anchor

Tara Wheeler recently returned to Charlottesville's Newsplex after spending three years anchoring the morning news in Roanoke. You can catch her anchoring the 5, 6 and 11 p.m. newscasts on CBS19, as well as sharing the stories that matter most to moms and dads in her "Positive Parenting" monthly series.

A graduate of Penn State University with a degree in journalism, Tara was also the starting goalie for the Penn State women's ice hockey team. Half of her education was paid for through the Air Force ROTC program. She served in the Air Force reserves until 2006. The other half of her education was paid for by the Miss America Organization.

Tara was crowned Miss Virginia 2008, and was a Quality of Life finalist at the 2009 Miss America pageant. She believes that "Beauty is as Beauty Does" and used her title to raise more than \$50,000 for pediatric cancer research when she partnered with the St. Baldrick's Foundation and shaved her head BALD in solidarity with the children fighting the disease.

In her free time, Tara enjoys playing ice hockey, volunteering in the community, and also teaches dance fitness at ACAC. A new mom, Tara and her husband, Jared, welcomed their first child, a boy, on April Fools Day 2015.



# Honorees

## *Virginia Jaycees Outstanding Future Leader*



### **Unity Bowling**

Homeschooled/John Tyler  
Community College  
Chester, Virginia

Unity Bowling's daily routine consists of travelling within four areas, within an hour of home, for academic studies, community service in and around the Richmond area, two part time jobs and her artistic outlet of dance and creative arts.

Unity is an avid reader from the age of nine when she mentored a kindergartener through reading out loud to her to unlock her love of books. From there, Unity created and maintained a bilingual children's library in the Dominican Republic and became an advocate for literacy. She has received numerous accolades from Read to Them, Read Aloud Virginia, and was Volunteer of the Year for Reach Out and Read. Unity worked with elementary school SCAs on book drives to eradicate illiteracy; this taught the children community service and showcased Unity's leadership skills.

Unity will graduate with her Associates degree with a science concentration in May 2017, a month before she technically graduates from high school in June. She will continue higher education towards a PhD in Chemistry.





# Honorees

## *Virginia Jaycees Outstanding Young Virginian*

### **William Tyler Caldwell**

Vinton, Virginia

Tyler Caldwell is a graduate from the very first Growth Through Opportunities “GTO” program. While in the program, he gave presentations to the Roanoke bar association and other businesses to provide awareness of the GTO program to support future employment opportunities for its members. Tyler is this year’s recipient of the Dan Piper



award by the National Down Syndrome Society, a national award given to a person who is making advancements for those with Down Syndrome.

While many people say Tyler is the epitome of “I can”, he really is the epitome of “we can.” A visitor to Katie’s Place, a day support program for adults with special needs where Tyler is not only a participant but serves on the board, will see Tyler encouraging fellow participants in activities, networking around downtown, and helping staff get tasks completed. He loves giving tours of the facility and making everyone at ease when they stop for lunch or to just make a donation. Tyler serves on the event and fundraising committees for Challenger Little League and Area 8 Special Olympics. He helps with advertising events through social media and visiting local business to hang flyers, recruits volunteers, and suggests often overlooked tasks which he volunteers to complete such as being the greeter at events. In addition to these organizations, Tyler has logged over 500 volunteer hours at the VA. Tyler continues to show people that disabilities are abilities with heart.



# Honorees

## *Virginia Jaycees Outstanding Young Virginian*



**Amanda Hall**  
Richmond, Virginia

Dr. Lynn Pelco, Associate Vice Provost, Division of Community Engagement, Virginia Commonwealth University states that Amanda Hall is a consummate educator, environmental scientist, social justice advocate, youth mentor, community-based researcher, social entrepreneur, gardener extraordinaire, and citi-

zen leader in Richmond.

Dr. Pelco's description stems from Amanda's work to create a school-community food production garden and youth-run farm stand in inner city Richmond, Grow On Garden Markets (check it out on Facebook), organize a campus community screening and discussion forum for 500 people to view the documentary *Girl Rising*, partnering with the VCU Graduate School to create a new service learning option within its Preparing Future Faculty program, and engaging residence hall students to participate in a community based Teens for Jeans clothing drive and benefit fashion show supporting homeless youth. Amanda makes learning collaborative, fun, and socially impactful; engaging her VCU students and inner city middle school students in nature-related projects.

Amanda's accolades span from middle school students whom she has impacted to fellow VCU faculty and of course, her students.



# Honorees

## *Virginia Jaycees Outstanding Young Virginian*

### **Brooke Briggs**

Virginia Beach, Virginia

After selflessly serving the Virginia Beach area for many years, Brooke Briggs passed away on August 31, 2016. At the time of her passing, Brooke served as the Major Gifts Officer for Samaritan House, which provides temporary housing and resources to victims of domestic violence. She served as the 2016 Virginia Beach Jaycees president, and days before her death, helped to lead this year's East Coast Surfing Championship, a major professional and amateur event.



A frequent volunteer, Brooke was active with LifeNet, the JT Walk, Ultimate Frisbee, Walk to End Alzheimer's, and the Neptune Festival, to name a few. She was also a member of the Central Business District Young Professionals and the Tidewater Pi Beta Phi alum club. In 2014, Brooke was named a Top 40 under 40 by *Inside Business*.

In 2010, at age 30, Brooke became the 300th person to receive a heart transplant at Sentara Heart Hospital in Norfolk. Her desire to help others was only solidified by the experience of getting a new heart, and she dedicated herself to working with nonprofits.

“Brooke never used her heart transplant as an excuse,” Azizi Parker, a member of the Virginia Beach Jaycees said. “She was always limitless.”



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Virginia Jaycee  
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**Amy Tenhouse**

81st President  
Virginia Jaycees

**Jackie Julien**

80th President  
Virginia Jaycees

**Kathleen King**

74th President  
Virginia Jaycees

**Beth Fujishige**

71st President  
Virginia Jaycees



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**Ariel Jones**  
70th President  
Virginia Jaycees

**Tom King**  
67th President  
Virginia Jaycees

**Alan Richardson**  
60th President  
Virginia Jaycees



# Jaycee Creed

## WE BELIEVE:

*That faith in God gives meaning and purpose to human life;*

*That the brotherhood of man transcends the sovereignty of nations;*

*That economic justice can best be won by free men through free enterprise;*

*That governments should be of laws rather than of men;*

*That earth's great treasure lies in human personality;*

*And that service to humanity is the best work of life.*

