

Milton teen recognized for her volunteering ... and her generous heart

JULIE SLACK

jslack@

miltoncanadianchampion.com

Maria Henein is just 15, but her volunteer list could very well outdo that of many adults.

Her generous heart and helpful nature garnered her the support and gratitude of many Milton residents who nominated the Jean Vanier Secondary School student for an Ontario Junior Citizen Award, co-ordinated through the Ontario Community Newspapers Association.

Each year, she helps her church (St. George and St. Abanoub Church, Milton) fundraise for special seasonal dinners and children's festivals. She also volunteers her time and

talent to organize and help supervise the activities.

She also volunteered her skills to help her church with its website design and a mobile app to assist in bringing its message to all parishioners. Her faith is dear to her, and she credits her success in life to that.

"This award, this is all God's grace," she said. "I praise God for it."

She has participated in the Canadian Cancer Society's Relay for Life since Grade 9. She also raises money for children from local low-income families through the annual Tim

Hortons Run/Walk Camps. She is currently growing her hair out to donate it for wigs for cancer patients.

She loves all sports, and she coaches younger children, both in basketball and soccer.

'This award, this is all God's grace.'

- Maria Henein, student

which saw her plan, organize and implement clubs and outdoor recess games at Guardian Angels School.

Maria moved to Canada from Egypt with her family when she was six years old. Though she adjusted

quickly to Canadian culture, her family still had ties to Egypt, which impacted her over the last 10 years. It's especially difficult for her to have her father absent for long periods of time while she was growing up. He must complete his residency to become recognized as a doctor in Canada, forcing him to Newfoundland just recently.

Her father is her inspiration in her quest to become a doctor—something she works hard for in school. She's determined to get accepted at McMaster University in Hamilton.

When she's not studying and volunteering, she is an avid pianist and also plays



Julie Slack/Metroland

Maria Henein, a Grade 10 student at Jean Vanier Secondary School, was nominated for the Ontario Junior Citizen Awards for her many volunteer efforts in Milton.

oud (a stringed instrument).

Maria said she was absolutely thrilled to be nomi-

nated for the award and proudly accepted a certificate of recognition late last month.

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