

# Wellesley Service League names Centennial Youth Award recipients

The Wellesley Service League announced that Forrest Gasdia and Thanh Pham are this year's recipients of the WSL's annual Centennial Youth Service Award. This award is given to honor a Wellesley resident who is a high school senior who has demonstrated outstanding dedication in volunteer endeavors. They received their awards from Wellesley Service League President Lauren Griffiths.

Forrest is a senior at Wellesley High School. He has been had extensive involvement with The Boy Scouts of America, recently achieving the rank of Eagle Scout. Forrest's interest in astronomy has lead him to various volunteer opportunities including doing radio support for the Wellesley Trails Grand Tour through Wellesley Wireless (Emergency Radio Group, REACT Affiliate). He also supported SKYWARN, a National Weather Service volunteer reporting group. He has volunteered as a radio operator on a rescue boat for the Head of the Charles, volunteers and plans "Star Nights" at the Wellesley Public Library, and volunteers



PHOTO BY CONSTANCE MAIN

**Forrest Gasdia, left and Thanh Pham, this year's recipients of the Wellesley Service League's Centennial Youth Award. They are shown here with Wellesley Service League President Lauren Griffiths, center.**

weekly at the Clay Center in Brookline. Forrest has remained active in several capacities at Saint Paul's Parish and served as president of the Wellesley High School Astronomy Club.

Pham is also a Wellesley High School senior. She has a passion for volunteer work and has a nat-

ural inclination to lead. She has been a youth leader at her temple, including writing brochures and ads to reach out to a larger Buddhist community and translated all of the English mail to Vietnamese. Thanh also participated in two service clubs at the high school (Animal Rights and

Impact), actively participated in the schools Amnesty International club, and she started her own non-profit organization which funded self-defense and self-esteem building classes for public schools so that students may be better prepared to protect themselves.