Barron Prize Announces 2023 Winners

Boulder, CO, *September 19, 2023* – The **Gloria Barron Prize for Young Heroes**, an award that celebrates inspiring, public-spirited young people, is thrilled to announce its 2023 winners.

Established in 2001 by author T. A. Barron, the Barron Prize annually honors 25 outstanding young leaders ages 8 to 18 who have made a significant positive difference to people and the environment. Fifteen top winners each receive $10,000 to support their service work or higher education.

Over the past two decades, the Barron Prize has honored 575 young heroes from across the U.S. and Canada. They have helped the hungry and the homeless, invented life-saving technologies, protected our oceans and endangered species, and addressed climate change, among myriad other initiatives. They have raised more than $28 million for their causes and have inspired countless people by their example.

The 2023 winners are:

Alexander Knoll, age 18, of Idaho, who created the Ability App, a crowdsourced web app that serves people with disabilities by providing a road map of accessible public spaces and businesses.

Armando Parrish, age 18, of Texas, who founded Project Lorenzo, a nonprofit that works to end homelessness by providing technology certification courses and job assistance to homeless individuals living in shelters.

Atreya Manaswi, age 17, of Florida, who created a highly effective, eco-friendly, and inexpensive way to protect honeybee hives from virulent pests.

Grace Sun, age, 17, of California, who founded Melodies for Remedies, a nonprofit that uses the performing arts to bring healing and joy to senior citizens, including those living with Alzheimer's disease.

Jonah Larson, age 15, of Wisconsin, who founded Jonah's Hands to use his passion for crocheting to raise $75,000 for school improvements in the Ethiopian village where he was born.

Mateo Lange, age 14, of Michigan, who created a community recycling program in his small town that has raised over $250,000 for more than 50 local youth organizations.

Matias Habib, age 18, of Illinois, who developed an eco-friendly pesticide to combat the Japanese Beetle, an invasive species that devastates U.S. agriculture each year.

Nathan Elias, age 17, of Texas, who developed InvasiveAI, an app that uses artificial intelligence and machine learning to identify invasive species and predict their spread.

Rafi Ahmad, age 17, of Illinois, who founded Operation Viridis, a nonprofit climate justice initiative that addresses environmental racism in his hometown of Chicago through the planting of trees in disadvantaged neighborhoods.

Rahul Vijayan, age 16, of Texas, who created Farm to Tray to provide schools with hydroponic gardening systems that allow students to grow fresh produce for their school lunch programs.

Rania Zuri, age 18, of West Virginia, who founded the LiTEArary Society to end book deserts and support early childhood literacy for disadvantaged children ages 3 to 5. Her nonprofit has donated over $200,000 worth of new books to more than 21,000 children.

Rishab Jain, age 18, of Oregon, who developed a new open-source biomedical tool called ICOR which aims to enable the rapid production of vaccines and address the rising cost of pharmaceuticals.

Rory Hu, age 13, of California, who conducted yearlong research that yielded a viable way to prevent Colony Collapse Disorder, a problem plaguing beekeepers and threatening the ecosystem.

Shrusti Amula, age 16, of Maryland, who founded the Rise N Shine Foundation to reduce food waste in her community. Her nonprofit feeds those in need and combats climate change through food recovery and composting programs at local schools and organizations.

Te'Lario Watkins, age 15, of Ohio, an avid gardener who created The Garden Club Project to help end hunger in his community and to encourage kids to eat healthier. He has donated more than 300 pounds of produce to food-insecure families.

www.barronprize.org