

## **Red Cross 2020 Youth Hero: Sanya Pirani**

*13-year-old CEO of a children's nonprofit and youth ambassador for her community is working hard every day to make a difference.*



**[Minneapolis, MN]** (MONTH XX, 2020) – The Minnesota and Dakotas Region of the American Red Cross presents Heroes Awards to everyday people who perform extraordinary acts of compassion in their communities. The 2020 Youth Hero is Sanya Pirani, a student at Hidden Oaks Middle School in Prior Lake.

Sponsored by Medica Foundation, the American Red Cross Youth Hero Award is presented to an outstanding young person who displayed courage and compassion upon encountering an unusual, significant or unexpected incident. This could be a onetime incident or involvement in an on-going commitment to the community through an act/s of kindness, courage, or selflessness.

Sanya displays ongoing dedication to her community and the world through her nonprofit called Sanya's Hope for Children. Sanya founded Sanya's Hope for Children in 2017 with the mission to help children with the basic necessities of life, fund educational endeavors, and make an impact on vital community issues. Sanya has organized multitudes of successful projects and fundraisers to provide for both her local community and children worldwide.

"Education is the only way out of poverty" said Sanya. "I am on a mission to make sure every child has access to basic life necessities and a quality education."

Sanya's most successful project has been her School Bag Project where she and over 200 volunteers sewed and filled bags for local homeless youth to use as backpacks. Sanya and her team donated over 500 of their bags to local homeless shelters at the holidays. She used her passion for sewing to teach other youth in her community how to sew the bags from local scrap furniture fabric. This exemplifies Sanya's dedication to service in her community.

Presented by US Bank, the annual Heroes Awards celebrate Heroes in six categories including: Community Hero, Give Life Hero, First Responder Hero, Good Samaritan Hero, Military Hero and Youth Hero. This year, the Heroes will receive their awards virtually due to COVID-19. Click [here](#) to view this year's stories.

Nominations for 2021 Heroes are now being accepted at [redcross.org/mnheroes](https://redcross.org/mnheroes).

Special thanks to presenting sponsor US Bank, as well as our vignette sponsor Slumberland Furniture. In addition, the Red Cross is proud to announce award sponsors Abbott, CenterPoint Energy, Ceridian, Eide Bailey, and Medica Foundation, The American Red Cross Tiffany Circle, plus Marathon Petroleum as VIP reception sponsor.

**Photo Caption:** *Photo of Sanya Pirani Youth Hero Award Recipient. Photo courtesy of the American Red Cross.*

### **About the American Red Cross**

*The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides emotional support to victims of disasters; supplies about 40 percent of the nation's blood; teaches skills that save lives; provides international humanitarian aid; and supports military members and their families. The Red Cross is a not-for-profit organization that depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to perform its mission.*

*Our Minnesota and Dakotas Region serves 7.2 million people in Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota. The American Red Cross is part of the global Red Cross and Red Crescent humanitarian disaster relief network around the world. This network includes the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) societies. The network is united by a shared commitment to seven Fundamental Principles, including humanity, impartiality, neutrality, independence, voluntary service, unity and universality. For more information, please visit [redcross.org/mndaks](https://redcross.org/mndaks).*

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