

## NEWS RELEASE

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**Information Contact:** Renee Bade, (208) 332-3578 ext. 4061

### **Idaho Youth Earn National Volunteer Award**

Idaho youth, Anne Nygard of Boise and Ivy Harness of Nampa, have been awarded the 2018 Prudential Spirit of Community Award. The award program, in its 23rd year, honors young people in each state for outstanding acts of volunteerism.

Nygard and Harness will each be awarded \$1,000, an engraved medallion and an all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C. for four days of national recognition events. The events recognize the top two honorees from every state.

Nygard, 17, has collected more than 300 pairs of gently used running shoes for refugee students in Boise. She then hosted events to distribute the shoes and teach the recipients about running. Nygard traces her concern for refugees to an event she attended when she was 9. "To this day, I remember the tears of many of these people from Congo and Vietnam as they told their stories," she said. "Those who come here have fled horrors that we hope to never experience in our lives. I believe the least we can do is to be kind to them." Nygard was also nominated this year as an Idaho's Brightest Star for her volunteerism.

Harness, 12, has been an active volunteer in her community over the past four years and has engaged in a wide variety of service activities with her 4-H group. She has also helped organize canned food and sock drives for homeless shelters and participated in an effort to get wigs to cancer patients in need. She has even taken her guinea pigs to entertain residents at a retirement center. "Through community service, I gained self-confidence," Harness said. "It makes me feel like maybe I can make a difference, like I can impact the world even if only one step at a time."

Two other Idaho youth were recognized as distinguished finalists. Randy-B Funk, 15, of Meridian, has been holding community supply drives for people in need since he was 12. Kayla Watson, 16, of Boise, started a club that paired young refugees from a local elementary school with high school tutors, providing the kids with role models and academic support during the stressful transition to an American school.

To find volunteer opportunities near you, visit [Serveldaho.gov](http://Serveldaho.gov).

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