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February 24, 2020

The Thomas "Tom" Manduca YMCA Citizen Award

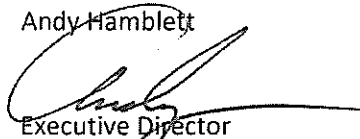
RE: Rowan Kristan

I am writing this letter on behalf of Rowan Kristan, a young man that I have had the pleasure of knowing for over 9 years. He has been on the Boothbay YMCA swim team since he was 8-years-old. As a former swim team parent, I have been able to observe him mentoring younger swimmers and helping them to set goals and gain confidence. His genuine enthusiasm and thoughtful connections with young swimmers have encouraged an increasingly positive team atmosphere. Rowan is an active mentor who promotes responsibility, kindness, and compassion with his attentive and consistent encouragement. He was greatly missed during his semester-long absence last year, when he attended The Alzar Leadership School in based out of Idaho and Patagonia, Chile. He has been an active and committed volunteer from basketball tournaments to road races and was even welcomed to join the Board of Trustees at our YMCA. We greatly appreciate his youthful perspective paired with diplomacy and tact.

Rowan cares about his community, exhibiting insight well beyond his years. When asked about the charity he would choose to help, he identified Paws for Peace, under the Embrace a Vet Organization. This organization pairs homeless dogs with veterans living with PTSD and traumatic brain injuries in Maine. He has been able to be a witness regarding the positive impact the companions have on one another. Rowan recognizes that this program can help remedy two problems simultaneously in our state.

Rowan comes to you highly recommended and highly respected. We will miss him greatly as his board term ends and he enters into college next fall. I cannot think of a young man more equal to the task of embracing the spirit of Tom Manduca YMCA Citizen Award.

Andy Hamblett



Executive Director  
Boothbay Region YMCA