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### **YMCA Provides a “Village” for Youth Volunteer of the Year**

**Monroe, WA** – Krisstyn Mae Stanton was selected as the Monroe YMCA's Youth Volunteer of the Year for the 2014-2015 school year for the work she does as a volunteer at the Monroe facility. Stanton, age 12, is in seventh grade at Park Place Middle School.

Stanton is modest about her efforts. "If they have a towel overload, I help them fold towels, or if the staff need help like in arts and crafts or helping out, it's just the little stuff." The daughter of Wayne and Colleen Stanton has been attending the YMCA afterschool program since she was in kindergarten and began helping out when she reached third grade. Stanton also straightens up after classes in the gym, greets members and visitors, and helps open doors for people with disabilities.

Teen Staff at the Monroe Y, nominated KrissyMae, as she is known for the honor. "She is always looking for a way to help," said Morgan Huber, Teen Director for the Monroe Y. In last year's fundraising campaign she volunteered to speak to group about the importance of the Y in her life. "I was impressed with her willingness to step up to tell others why the Y made a difference for her," Huber said.

"I like meeting new people a lot, and everyone there is just so nice," observed Stanton. "They greet me every time they come in, ask me how my mom's doing."

Colleen Stanton relied on the YMCA for childcare during KrissyMae's early years. "I am a single mother," she noted. "We say it takes a village to raise your children. For us, that's the YMCA."

"As a single parent, you can't afford to take your kids to all these exotic places in Washington State that she was able to do through the YMCA," Stanton's mother observed. "She did everything from rock climbing to Pike Place Market. It gives her the friendship, the core values of the YMCA, being friendly, caring for neighbors and helping out. She's a very caring child."

When asked if she would continue volunteering at the YMCA this school year, Stanton's answer was unequivocal. "Oh yeah," she said. "Definitely." Her mother agreed. "We are YMCA-ers for life."