

## 2018 District 3 YWPA Award

Isabella Sorgi is our 2018 Zonta District 3's YWPA winner, sponsored by the Peconic Bay Zonta Club.

At the time of her application, Isabella was 18 years old, living in Hampton Bays, NY, a senior in Bishop McGann-Mercy Diocesan High School in Riverhead, NY.

Isabella is bilingual in English and Finnish, and has dual citizenship here in the United States and in Finland.

She has been a reporter and then editor-in-chief of her high school's award winning paper; team captain and starting pitcher on varsity softball team, earning both the MVP and Coaches' awards; Vice President of her school chapter's National Honor Society; inducted into the National Mathematics and Science Honor Societies. She ranked 2nd in her high school graduating class, scoring 1500 on her SAT (when many students average 1060), and is a mentor and a leader among her peers.

Often visiting her family home in Imatra along the Finland-Russia border, Isabella has completed several internships in Finland. These have allowed her to explore her global interests, including volunteering in a Finnish non-profit organization named Lahden Ensi-ja Turvakoti ry. This organization addressed the refugee crisis and associated resettlement of Somali refugees into Finland. Isabella worked with and interviewed refugee mothers that had been granted asylum in Finland, gaining understanding of their desperate economic and political conditions. Isabella also interned with a major Finnish political organization, Kakkoisuomen Kokoomus, working as an assistant to the Executive Director.

One of Isabella's advanced placement teachers stated, "This is a young woman whose devotion to public affairs is clearly self-evident."

Isabella expects her career to be in international business and political science, focusing on immigration reform and those at most risk, women, mothers and children.

