

## Hollins High Heroes Awarded

By Camila Hall

While superheroes on the big screen are portrayed with crazy abilities and powers, being a hero all comes down to one simple idea. A hero helps others out of the good of their own heart. While they may not have shapeshifting or flying powers, there are people all around us that are willing to devote themselves for the sake of doing good. Students Voshawn Baker, Makeya Morrison, and Tony Ness here at Hollins High School are prime examples of how heroes don't need insane abilities to create change.

The Rotary Club's first ever Hero Award Luncheon was hosted at Banquet Masters in Clearwater, Florida by Barbara Mackellar on May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021. This first-time event honored outstanding people here in Pinellas County that made a difference during the pandemic.

The extraordinary three HHS students were all recognized by their teacher Mrs. Hankin for their participation in the school's Interact Club. Tony Ness, one of the three students, has shown selfless commitment as a math tutor for students. Even though he's had to manage the club, tutoring, and his own education, he doesn't volunteer to help for money.

"By being in the Interact club we can spread a good message to stop violence in public schools and I can spend time with people I care about." Like a true hero, he has promoted both education and peace along with his other two classmates.

Voshawn Baker and Makeya Morrison were both nominated for presenting at the National Conference Against Violence. Their efforts in promoting peace for the younger generation didn't go unnoticed by the Rotary Club.

"The Interact Club made a strong impact by helping people stop and think about things they don't even realize." By doing something as daunting as giving a presentation at an official conference, these students showed great determination and a genuine care for the problem they were bringing awareness to. "There are people who see things but are too shy to say something. The Interact Club helps those people who don't have a voice."

There were seven different criteria that nominees of the Hero Award each met. Promoting peace and education were two of the criteria that these three students excelled in.

"Every one of these criteria is important," Mackellar said before presenting the nominees.

As teenagers in this day and age who are surrounded with negative media, there are many people that stray down the wrong path in life. Tony, Voshawn, and Makeya each showed perseverance in their own ways and made a lasting impact on their classmates and peers. By continuing to promote peace and education, public schools will only get better and safer for everyone involved.