

Western New York Real Heroes Award Categories

Animal Rescue Hero: This award is presented to an individual or group who has exhibited heroic efforts in saving the life of another animal or human. The nominee either acted quickly and beyond what an ordinary bystander would be expected to do, or is committed to making a positive, significant impact in the lives of animals.

Blood Donor Hero: This award is presented to an individual or group who has helped save lives through a personal commitment to donating blood or acts as an advocate for blood donations in the community.

Community Impact Hero: This award is presented to an individual or group who displayed leadership and commitment to making a positive, noticeable and significant impact by building safer, more resilient communities or identifying a community need and creating a program or service to meet that need. The eligible nominee may have conducted their service locally, nationally and/or internationally to assist the individuals in need.

Lifeline Hero: This award is presented to an individual who has exhibited heroic efforts amidst a natural disaster or emergency such as a home fire, flash flood, or other life-threatening circumstance. This hero will have acted quickly and beyond what an ordinary bystander would be expected to do, and their actions will have contributed to the saving of another life.

First Responder Hero: This award is presented to a professional, reserve or volunteer firefighter, police officer, law enforcement professional or EMT/EMS/ambulance corps. The nominee could have been on- or off-duty during the incident and does not have to be associated with the use of skills directly related to their profession. The nominee either exhibited heroism in their response to an emergency or is involved in an ongoing commitment to the community in response to an identified need.

Military Hero: This award is presented to a U.S. service member (active, reserve, and guard), veteran, or someone who actively supports the military and/or veteran community whether individually or with an organization. The nominee may have exhibited heroism in response to an emergency situation (either on- or off- duty), used their military experience to address a community need, or has demonstrated an ongoing commitment to the military or veteran community.

Youth Hero: This award is presented to an individual or group of people 17 years old or under at the time of the incident or act. The eligible nominee has performed an act(s) of kindness, courage, or unselfishness involving an unusual, significant or unexpected incident requiring action in a crisis or time of need.