



Olivia Ohlson

Outstanding Youth in Philanthropy Award | 2025 Annual Philanthropy Awards

Olivia Ohlson is a nationally recognized youth changemaker and community advocate from Evanston, Illinois, whose service work has impacted thousands across Chicagoland and beyond. Deeply rooted in her belief that youth can lead powerful change, Olivia has led numerous service and philanthropic efforts since elementary school.

She is the founder of OSOE Projects, an umbrella for her service initiatives including Hygiene Kits for Evanston's Underserved, Diversify Golf, and Olivia's Pink Lemonade and Pink Ribbon Cookie Stands. Through her Hygiene Kits project, Olivia has raised over \$30,000 in monetary donations and secured over \$70,000 in in-kind donations, assembling and distributing over 6,000 kits to organizations serving those in need. Her efforts have earned support from organizations like GoFundMe, Crest Toothpaste, and Love Like Lija Foundation.

Olivia also founded Diversify Golf to introduce golf to girls and youth of color. She has led summer workshops and pop-up events through partnerships with Fleetwood-Jourdain Community Center, Girls Play Sports, and others, receiving a grant from Advocates for Action to further this work.

A long-standing volunteer with the Honeycomb Project, Olivia has participated in dozens of family-led community events—from organizing holiday parties for shelters to packing care kits for cancer patients and veterans. Her early involvement with Honeycomb sparked her lifelong commitment to hands-on community Action.

Since 2017, her Pink Lemonade and Cookie Stand has raised over \$14,000 for breast cancer patients at NorthShore's Kellogg Cancer Center. Her efforts have been recognized on Good Morning America, ABC Chicago, and in dozens of local and national media outlets.

Olivia's leadership includes service as a Youth Advisory Board Member and Executive Team Member with Girls Play Sports, Giving Tuesday Spark Leader, and as a grant reviewer for the Evanston Community Foundation. She has presented her work nationally, including speaking engagements with Wintrust Bank, Project Smiles, Rotary Youth Leadership Awards, and multiple podcasts and panels.

Her dedication has earned numerous honors: the NAACP Youth Trailblazer Award, ESPN's Honorary ESPY, Daily Point of Light Award, and recognition from state legislators, local nonprofits, and the Points of Light Foundation.

Whether packing blessing bags, teaching golf, or inspiring through public speaking, Olivia remains grounded in her mission: to serve others, amplify underrepresented voices, and lead with purpose. She is a proud Honeycomb Project volunteer and believes wholeheartedly in the power of service to transform communities—and lives.

