

Fairport teen aiming to help less fortunate

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

FAIRPORT — Tricia Nadler is well aware that not everyone has the same opportunities to succeed as she does. So when she's done with college, the 17-year-old Fairport resident intends to help other young people who happen to be less fortunate.

Nadler was just recently accepted into Tufts University in Boston, where she plans on majoring in either international relations or sociology.

"I really like people. My major would have to deal with people," she said.

Nadler would like to deal with people who come from much different backgrounds than her own. Her goal is to work at Covenant House in New York City, a home for runaway teenagers.

Nadler's inspiration sprang from a first-hand experience at Covenant House three years ago. She recalled that her visit there was a real eye-opener.

"There were people near the house who were living on cardboard boxes. You'd look in their eyes, and they had no hope," she said. "It was such a shock, so different from Fairport."

"Then we got inside, and there were people who were willing to help (the teenagers), so there was hope in there," she added. "I get a monthly newsletter from the Covenant House that has articles about the people who have gone there and turned their lives around."

Nadler's youth group at Church of the Assumption in Fairport conducts various fundraisers to benefit Covenant House.

Regarding the plight of runaway children, she observed, "It sounds funny, but I'd like to see more love. If kids had more love, they wouldn't run away."

Although Nadler has her sights set on the future, her time now is packed with numerous activities. A senior at Fairport High School, she serves as co-president of the National Honor Society as well as president of the International Club. She also plays trumpet in the school's symphonic band and is on the Board of Education Steering Committee for the Gifted and Talented Program.

In addition, she serves as secretary of her youth group at Assumption, with which she's been involved since seventh grade. Nadler is also a lector and member of Assumption's folk group.

A member of Senior Troop 105, she's been involved in Girl Scouts for 12 years. An ardent traveler, she visited the Soviet Union last summer, has made two trips across Europe and is planning a visit to France this spring — although she admitted that "the farthest west I've ever been is Ohio."

To top it all off, she works one night a week in the church rectory and is a secretary during vacations at the office of her father, Lou, an attorney.

Despite the hectic pace, Nadler claims she rarely gets stressed out. "It's not worth it," she said.



Babette G. Augustin/Staff photographer
The walls of Tricia Nadler's bedroom are covered with hundreds of postcards from all over the world. While some cards are from places she has visited, others are from friends and relatives.

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