

## **Annelise Shannon (Youth) 1<sup>st</sup> Place**

### **Title: How Can Pizza Help Save The Community?**

How can pizza help save the community? It's not like pizza has a cape or wings. But it doesn't have to! All it has to do is feed the community!

A year ago I had an interview with Rosario Farruggio, the manager of Joe's Pizza and Pasta (now called A Modo Mio). I asked him how the coronavirus was making it harder, and he said "I'm always thinking about how to stay in business. Not knowing is the hardest part, because I can't plan." Due to the coronavirus, they had to lay off all of their servers!

Mr. Farruggio thought about the kids at school who were getting free lunch but realized that they don't have enough money for dinner! "I don't know what to do. I don't know how to help," he thought. So Joe's Place decided to help. They decided to make pizza and pasta and give it to people that don't have enough money to buy food. In the first week about 150 families received free dinner. They called ahead and ordered just like anyone else, but they said they were on the free lunch program. When they get there they would get their free pizza or pasta.

The first few weeks people all over the community liked that idea and were calling to give Joe's money to buy the ingredients. In just a few months, they collected about \$7,000 in donations!

If you ask me the family that owns Joe's Place Pizza & Pasta (and now A Modo Mio) rocks a 10!!! Heroes are everywhere, if you just look around the corner to find a new hero emerging from nowhere to help people have a greater, brighter life.