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Broad Brook student Stephanie Cota awarded UTC/YMCA Youth Citizenship Award for outstanding volunteer service

Stephanie Cota of Broad Brook was awarded one of four United Technologies/ YMCA Wesley A. Kuhrt Youth Citizenship Awards for Community Service conferred statewide at the YMCA of Greater Hartford Annual Meeting. The awards are made in memory of a man known for his outstanding volunteer and professional leadership, the late Wesley A. Kuhrt, who was president of Sikorsky Aircraft and a former United Technologies Corporation vice president.

The UTC/YMCA Youth Citizenship Awards are presented annually to young YMCA program participants ages 15 to 20, who have strongly demonstrated an ongoing commitment to volunteer service. Through their experience at the YMCA, applicants and winners alike learn the YMCA core values of caring, honesty, respect and responsibility, helping them to become positive role models and leaders in their communities.

Cota was a four-year participant in a program at East Catholic High School supporting the Immaculate Conception Homeless Shelter. She provided leadership to 150 participants in this outreach in her junior and senior year. Her service to others took a personal turn when her cousin Abby was diagnosed with mitochondrial disease. Stephanie and her family founded a non-profit called Abby's Helping Hand. The charity raises awareness of the disease and funds to support children with this affliction.

Cota of Broad Brook is a freshman at Assumption College.