**Barron Prize Announces 2020 Winners as it
Celebrates its 20th Anniversary!**

Boulder, CO, *September 14, 2020* – The **Gloria Barron Prize for Young Heroes**, an award that celebrates inspiring, public-spirited young people, announces its 2020 winners as it celebrates its 20th anniversary!

Over the past two decades, the Barron Prize has honored nearly 500 young heroes from across the U.S. and Canada. They have helped the hungry and the homeless, invented life-saving technologies, protected our oceans and endangered species, and addressed climate change, among myriad other initiatives. They have raised more than $24 million for their causes and have inspired countless people by their example.

Established by author T. A. Barron, the Barron Prize annually honors 25 outstanding young leaders ages 8 to 18 who have made a significant positive difference to people and the environment. Fifteen top winners each receive $10,000 to support their service work or higher education.

The 2020 winners are:

Aniyah Ayres, age 14, of Pennsylvania, who created Aniyah's Mission to help Philadelphians in need and to show young people that their voices and actions matter.

Annie Zhu, age 17, of Texas, who co-founded Fresh Hub to reduce food waste and provide nutritious food to people living in Houston's food deserts. She also created Readiness Across Mathematics to support underserved youth in learning math.

Bill Tong, age 18, of Maryland, who founded the Bioma Project, an environmental education nonprofit that brings native fish aquariums into classrooms.

Chander Payne, age 17, of Maryland, founder of Urban Beet, which creates urban farms in order to provide fresh food to underserved people and help cool city neighborhoods.

Dana Perella, age 9, of Colorado, who started Cookies4Cures. She bakes and sells cookies and has raised more than $100,000 to fund research into rare pediatric diseases.

Isabella Paoletti-Tejeda, age 18, of California, who created Read a Story, Change a Life, a literacy intervention program that has helped more than 2,500 at-risk youth learn to read and write.

Isha Clarke, age 17, of California, co-founder of Youth vs. Apocalypse, a diverse group of young climate justice activists.

Kavi Dolasia, age 18, of California, co-founder of Reaching Out with Robotics, a student-run program that works to increase technology literacy for underserved youth.

Kavi Gandhi, age 17, of Pennsylvania, who leads the Yash Gandhi Foundation and has raised more than $460,000 to help find a cure for I-Cell, a rare, genetic childhood disease.

Lillian Petersen, age 17, of New Mexico, who created an early warning system using satellite imagery to predict crop yields in every African country several months before the harvest.

Madhvi Chittoor, age 9, of Colorado, who founded Madhvi4EcoEthics to reduce plastic and Styrofoam pollution and inspire others to do the same.

Matine Khalighi, age 18, of Colorado, co-founder of Helping the Homeless Colorado, recently rebranded as EEqual, a national nonprofit that supports the education of students experiencing homelessness.

Sammie Vance, age 11, of Indiana, founder of Sammie's Buddy Bench Project, which recycles plastic caps into designated benches where schoolchildren can sit when looking for a friend.

Topher Jones, age 12, of Idaho, who created the Lonesome Larry Project and has raised nearly $11,000 to protect sockeye salmon and other threatened fish by selling custom-designed socks.

Viraj Mehta, age 17, of Arizona, who develops technologies for the prevention, early detection, and treatment of cancers.