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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Manitowoc Teenager Serving Homeless Community to be Recognized as WI Assembly ‘Hometown Hero’

MADISON – The Wisconsin State Assembly will recognize Lia Haile from Manitowoc, Wisconsin as a “Hometown Hero” at the upcoming Assembly session on May 2nd.

Haile, a seventh-grader at Wilson Middle School in Manitowoc, was nominated by her State Representative, Paul Tittl, for her creation of the Hopeful Hearts Club, which provides gift bags and holiday and birthday celebrations for children staying at Manitowoc’s Hope House homeless shelter. The nomination is timely, as the Assembly will vote on a package of bills aimed at ending and preventing homelessness in Wisconsin that day.

Haile created the Hopeful Hearts Club after dropping off donations at the shelter as part of a Girl Scouts project. Since its creation, the club has hosted more than 50 celebrations for children who had a birthday while staying at Hope House with the support of local businesses.

In the 5 years since the club’s creation, Haile has been recognized as one of six children in U.S. Cellular’s “The Future of Good” program, named the 2016 Tom Drill/City of Manitowoc Volunteer of the Year, featured in “People” Magazine, and was a guest on the “Rachael Ray Show”. With all of Haile’s awards and recognitions, she hopes to continue raising awareness of homelessness in the Manitowoc community and inspire others to volunteer.

The Wisconsin State Assembly sees giving back to the community as one of the most valuable characteristics one can have. The Assembly Hometown Heroes program seeks to identify and recognize individuals from around the state who give of themselves to make a difference in our communities and in the lives of those around them. Hometown Hero Award winners are invited and introduced as a special guest at an Assembly floor session and given the opportunity to speak.

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