

## Young Citizen of the Year Nominee: Aakrisht Mehra

Nominator: Jennifer Lidster



I am honored to share the accomplishments of Aakrisht Mehra with you. Aakrisht is a current 8th grader at Fallon Middle School, but his work began in the spring of 2020 when he was 12 years old and in 7th grade. Aakrisht was inspired to create an organization for the elderly after watching his grandparents struggle with boredom, loneliness, and isolation during the COVID pandemic. Through this experience and observation, he created Elderly Care Everywhere

(<https://elderlycareeverywhere.com/>) to help the elderly in our community connect with one another and with our youth. The organization uses online platforms like Zoom and offers the elderly the opportunity to talk, play games, plan events,

celebrate birthdays, share music, stories, and adventures with themselves and with our youth, and it reminds them they are not alone. The goal is to put a smile on their face, keep them safe, and connect them with the outside world. Aakrisht has done extensive research on the effects isolation and loneliness have on the elderly and even when COVID ends, his goal is to keep this organization active, so every senior citizen has the opportunity to connect with someone regardless of their circumstances. Aakrisht is young, and when I realized he created the Elderly Care Everywhere website, took the time to research the effects of the pandemic on the elderly, and call over 60 nursing homes in a matter of days to get his organization off the ground, I was more than impressed. He is a very kind and caring young man and this world is lucky to have him. This award belongs to him and I am happy to share more of his story with anyone who may be interested. Thank you for your time.