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City of Milford

PressRelease

Outstanding Youth Honored at the Westfield Connecticut Post Fireworks Spectacular.

2010 Mayor's Youth Awards Recognized Community Service; Winners and Finalists Honored in Individual & Group Categories; Mayor James L. Richetelli, Jr. Applauds the Devotion of Youth to Serving the Community.

Milford, CT, July 6, 2010: Mayor James L. Richetelli, Jr., in conjunction with Milford Youth and Family Services, recently named the winners of the annual Mayor's Youth Award for exceptional service to the community.

Each year, the Mayor and the Milford Youth and Family Services acknowledge young people who have performed outstanding service to improve Milford or to assist its residents. "Once again this year, there were many deserving youth nominated for this award," Mayor Richetelli said.

Nominees were considered for individual awards in three categories - elementary, middle, and high school. In addition, there was a group category to honor community services performed by - but not limited to - church youth groups, Boy Scouts/Girl Scouts, school and community groups.

The nomination and selection process was coordinated by the Human Services Department, whose Executive Director, Lisa Diamond Graham, joined Mayor Richetelli in the award presentation. The awards were presented on July 3, 2010 as part of the Westfield Connecticut Post Fireworks Spectacular.

This year's winner in the elementary school category was Gracie McCarl, a nine-year-old from Mathewson School, who was nominated by the Reverend Anne Marie Meyerhoffer, Pastor of the United Presbyterian Church. Gracie has participated in the Beth El Center Walk and the Good Shepherd annual book sale fundraiser. Among other charitable activities, Gracie has donated her hair to Locks of Love.

From the middle school finalists, winner Nicole Cooper was selected to receive the Mayor's Youth Award. East Shore Middle School teacher Nina

Sancher, who nominated Nicole, cited Nicole's service in the school's Best Buddies Program, her service in Girl Scouts of America, her volunteer activities at the West River Health Care Center, and a variety of additional community service activities.

The 2010 individual winner in the high school category was Lauralton High School student Michelle Vitelli, who was nominated by her father, William Vitelli. Michelle has worked as a counselor at Camp Happiness. Michelle teaches 2nd grade religious instruction at Saint Mary Church, volunteers at the annual Fire Muster and Saint Mary Women's Guild auction, and is an integral part of the high school Students Against Drunk Driving chapter.

In the group category, the winner of the Mayor's Youth Award was the Saint Gabriel School Student Ambassador Program, nominated by group leader Christine Lathuras. This group of sixth to eighth grade students participated in the following activities: Raking leaves for the elderly; volunteering at the Boys & Girls Club of Milford; the Homefront/Americares program to rehab the home of a needy family; the New York Cares Coat Drive, collecting more than 350 coats; and Earth Day.

Please see the attached lists for the 2010 Mayor's Youth Award finalists:

Mayor's Youth Award 2010 Finalists

Elementary School

Gracie McCarl

Nicholas Owens

Middle School

Joey Cabeleira

Nicole Cooper

Mary Ann Lonergan

Serena Mulligan

Jake Sullivan

High School

Julia Attruia

Erica Criscione

Matthew Gaynor

Ellen Giordano

Linny Henry

Joseph Mele

Anna Phelan

Michael Prezioso

Jennifer Sharp

Lauren Vetter

Michelle Vitelli

Paul Wigglesworth

Mayor's Youth Award 2010 Finalists

Groups

General Federation of Women's Clubs–Milford Girl's Volunteer Organization

Kellie Courville

Alyssa Davanzo

Samantha Enders

Nicole Fernous

Jacqueline Fernous

Abbey Guerino

Natalie Hurst

Marina Kydes

Teresa Montanari

Caitlin Mundy

Haley Palmer

Marisa Perce

Allie Piselli

Alison Rainey

Megan Rainey

Mary Reidy

Jillian Varandas

Jennifer Weissauer

Saint Gabriel Student Ambassadors

Amethyst Barzee

Aubrey Bepko

Ben Canevari

Dalton Champagne

Kate Greene

Melissa Hanania

Brooke Hiatt

Josselin Lathuras

Christen Maccone

John Maccone

Jamie Mallari

Samantha Mallari

Joe Morris

Quinn Petroske

Brendon Russell

Gabe Sparks

Joseph Valus

Meghan Warren

Liz Witkins

James Wolfe

Jonathan Law Key Club – no individual names submitted