

Elementary Individual Community Involvement: Nick Nelson

After seeing a news story in the spring of 2009 about the possible closure of Spokane's Shriners' Hospital this young man, then 7 years old, decided that he needed to do something to help. After talking with his mom he approached his first grade teacher about holding a piggy bank drive amongst the rest of his first grade classmates. Somehow that didn't seem like enough. He then approached his principal and received permission for the entire group of 1st grade classrooms to participate and recruited the help of 88 first graders to hold a fundraiser for the hospital. Two weeks later our award winner and his family had a tour of Shriners' where he presented the hospital administrator a check for \$1500. It's because of his hard work, and dedication that we are honored to present the Community Involvement Individual Elementary award to Nick Nelson.

Elementary Group Community Involvement: Girl Scout Troop 2472

This group of 6th-grade girls decided to create 60 layettes for Spokane Valley Partners' "Baby O Baby" program. Founded in 2003 to assist low-income pregnant women, this program is funded solely by donations. Each layette contained baby clothes, bibs, bottles, diapers, diaper bag, toys, baby hygiene items, quilt, baby blankets, pacifiers and toys. In order to assemble the layettes, the group of girls had to purchase or solicit the items. One young lady made cider using apples from the family orchard. Another took a page out of the Boy Scout food drive and distributed bags with a list of requested items door to door in her neighborhood. With support from Fred Meyer, the girls also spent five hours in the entryway of the Sullivan store asking for donations. According to Connie Nelson, "It was nothing short of amazing! We anticipate distributing 150 layettes in 2010." This year's Community Involvement Elementary group award goes to Girl Scout Troop 2472.

Elementary Individual Courage: Kevin Tsuchida

After having his wish granted as a "Make a Wish" child this young man at 8 years old proclaimed, "I got my wish granted, I want others to get theirs." He started by dedicating two of his birthdays by asking for donations to "Make A Wish", instead of presents. This amounted to over \$700.00. He then volunteered for a radio-thon benefiting the "Make A Wish" Foundation Northwest, and has scooped ice cream twice for the organization. Since he has epilepsy, this award winner has been a great advocate for Seizure Disorders and Epilepsy. He was nominated 2 times to go to Washington D.C. to speak to and ask for funding for research to try and find a cure. Currently the only cure for epilepsy is death. This year we are honored to present the Individual Elementary award for Courage to Kevin Tsuchida

Elementary Group Creativity: The Cooper Drummers

This group of drummers believes that everyone, pulling together, can make the community a better place. Through their wonderful rhythms, this group embraces and celebrates diversity. All 87 drummers of this group meets every Wednesday after school to practice and plan performances. In celebration of Martin Luther King Day, the drummers performed West African drum and dance at four elementary schools and one high school. This feat was accomplished all in one day! Through their dedication and love of drumming, they continue to infuse enthusiasm throughout their school and community. In celebration of the way drumming is taught in Africa, they learn the rhythms not from written music, but from memory. The award for the Elementary group in Creativity goes to, The Cooper Drummers.

Elementary Group Diversity: Mr. Casteal's sixth-grade class, Cooper Elementary

During their school's Martin Luther King Jr. assembly this class hosted a play which dealt with the issues of race, discrimination, and social justice. The play was presented twice during the day, and attended by all 500 students at Cooper Elementary, as well as parents and community members. This play, "The Audition", involved dancing, acting, and at the end...group participation

through dancing. In between acts, narrators came before the group and defined words like discrimination, and gave background information on people like Martin Luther King Jr. and Rosa Parks. It took a lot of courage for these students to stand before their peers and share with strong, and committed voices that basing decisions on the color of one's skin, or excluding based on race, is discriminatory. These kids "get it" and this world is a better place because of their beliefs and commitments. This year's Elementary group award for Diversity goes to: Mr. Casteal's 6th grade class at Cooper Elementary.

Elementary Individual Leadership: Ethan Mendoza-Peña

Having to overcome obstacles in one's life is a major challenge for most. For this young man it was necessary. Having a rough transition by being moved from his home in Yakima to new home in Spokane, this young man has used his skills as a "natural teacher" to overcome this transition. Every Tuesday and Thursday morning he works with six first grade students, helping them to learn how to read. His love of reading is obvious, and watching this young man read so eagerly encourages his peers to read more often. He explicitly teaches other children not only about problem-solving difficult reading challenges, but also how to constructively work out conflicts with friends. Perhaps because his early school years were so difficult, he has a special affinity for those students choosing to make poor choices, and has taught these students better options for dealing with frustration and anger. This year's Elementary individual award in Leadership goes to: Ethan Mendoza-Pena

Elementary Group Award for Leadership: S.A.V.E., Finch Elementary

This group of students in grades 4th - 6th has demonstrated strong leadership and initiative toward developing ways to keep their school safe. They focus their work on promoting awareness around the hurt caused by bullying and harassment, and have become leaders for solving conflict peacefully by partnering with school officials to reinforce their school's current Anti-Bullying curriculum. Their work in this area includes a weekly message during their schools morning announcements which gives strategies for conflict resolution. They've also developed classroom skits/presentations to conduct in the primary grades to help students make good choices toward solving problems, and are currently drafting an article for their school newspaper that would serve as a 'student voice' on the topic of conflict resolution. Because of their hard work and determination we are honored to present the Elementary group award for Leadership to the S.A.V.E group from Finch Elementary.

Elementary Personal Achievement: Brittany Mendoza-Peña

This 10 year old, constantly strives to achieve perfection in everything she does from classical ballet to imaginary rock star performances. Her daily devotion and intense work ethic are evident in her abilities as a performer. After long, physical days of demanding ballet, jazz, lyrical, tap, contemporary, musical theater; hip hop, step, pop & lock, break dance and gymnastic classes, she remains a cheerful and good natured child. Her hard work in both dance and school has earned her numerous awards and scholarships in which she can continue to strive to be the best. This young lady works daily to be the best that she can be, and without hesitation is quick to give back any chance that she gets. It's because of her talent, and passion that we present the Individual Elementary Personal Achievement award to: Brittany Mendoza-Pena

Elementary Spirit of Jim Chase Award: The Dragonflies

If you are trolling the airwaves around three o'clock on Sunday afternoons, you will likely catch the happy hum of this group on Spokane's community radio station, KYRS. Each week this group works together to create the format of their Sunday radio show, and then perform live on air. Their show includes thoughtful interviews with local or regional authors, performing artists, excerpts from favorite stories, or original poetry. Lots of singing and joke-telling are usually part of the mix, as well. Whatever the content of the program, their combined wit and wisdom informs

and entertains. Each production is one-of-a-kind. Because of their initiative and creativity this year we would like to award the Spirit of Jim Chase award to: The Dragonflies.

Middle School Award in Community Involvement: Joseph Hatzinikolis

As an 8th grade student at Cheney Middle School, this young man has stood out on numerous occasions for his intelligence, strong work ethic, and positive interactions with his peers. His joyful attitude when it comes to serving others stands out above and beyond what is expected. Recently he was one of few students that volunteered their time with the mobile food bank in Cheney. After spending many hours of hauling heavy boxes of food to community members' vehicles, he still had a smile on his face. He also spends time volunteering at the local elderly care center. He spends one afternoon a week visiting and playing games with the elderly residents, and has been doing so for the past nine months. In his words, he does so simply because he likes to. His supervisor at the care center described him as a delightful young man who is caring, helpful, and adored by the residents. This young man serves as a role model to his peers, because he knows if more teens would selflessly give of their time and energy the way he does, the benefits would be deeply felt throughout the community. This year's individual Middle School award in Community Involvement goes to: Joseph Hatzinikolis.

Middle School Courage Individual Award: Jordan Sumpter

To become a "beautiful dancer" an individual needs a strong work ethic and determination to overcome obstacles. That's exactly what this young lady has done. She was born with juvenile arthritis. Overcoming surgeries and doctor visits to repair damage to her wrist and knees she's become an inspiration and role model to her peers. Dance was the impossible dream when she was first diagnosed as a toddler, but today stands proudly as an accomplished and talented dancer. This spring she will be representing the performing company, Dance Excellence, at an international dance festival in Disneyland. It's because of her determination to overcome obstacles in her pursuit to become a "beautiful dancer" that we are honored to present the Individual Middle School Courage award to: Jordan Sumpter.

Middle School Creativity Individual Award: Tarakyn Turner

WDFY is the Washington Drug Free Youth program that is a voluntary program in which students sign a pledge to remain drug free. This young lady is a very active member in her school's WDFY chapter. She's participated in the National Drunk and Drugged Driving Awareness Month by having a table in the school's cafeteria that students could visit and participate in drawings, take free resources, and learn about the facts and statistics related to the topic. She helped draw a huge car with dots on it representing how many people die each year related to drunk and drugged driving accidents. However, to date one of her best accomplishments was having her drawing chosen to represent WDFY's logo, "Drug free is the way to be" on their shirts. Her design was voted by the students as the best. This year's Individual Middle School Creativity award goes to Tarakyn Turner.

Middle School Creativity Group Award: Forst Bitten

In 2009 this group decided to start a band to provide entertainment for their school's community events. Throughout the year they shared their talents at academic assemblies, Veterans Day, Martin Luther King Jr's Day, and community fundraisers. The momentum they started as 6th graders has now carried over with them to middle school. With a love of music and a dedication to help out others, this group has decided to return to their former elementary school and mentor students to develop their love of music. With admirable maturity and an all-inclusive approach, this group has created a fun experience that continues to uplift the community. This year we award the Middle School creativity group award to Frost Bitten.

Middle School Leadership Individual Award: Joseph Hall

Middle school is often a very difficult time for some students academically, but not for this award winner. As a 6th grader the importance of his education was very apparent. By establishing good study habits, and challenging himself daily he was able to overcome earlier difficulties. His strong commitment to academics earned him the right to be on Honor Society all three years at Horizon Middle School. Often, he would spend a great amount of time creating elaborate projects in addition to his regular assigned coursework. One of his latest creations of a transformer received public recognition as well as many hits on "You Tube". Through a classroom project he decided to earn community service learning hours by helping other students with their academics needs. This task became very rewarding, so much that even after fulfilling his required hours he continues to donate his time mentoring his peers. His high level of commitment and leadership qualities has not only made a positive impact on his peers, but also on his educators. We would like to present the Individual Middle School Leadership Chase Youth Award to Joseph Hall.

Middle School Leadership Group Award: Girl Scout Troop 2328

After attending Twilight Camp last year, this group of girls, including several in their own troop, were lacking in some of the basic outdoor skills that are so important to Girl Scouts. They set about addressing this deficit by making a plan to hold an Outdoor Skills Workshop. All six girls worked hard, dividing up the responsibilities in order to carry out this large event. The girls felt it was important to have strong female role models to teach some of the skills and were able to have a local female police officer and a woman trained in Wilderness Survival skills teach workshops. Utilizing all of their talents and resources they were able to gain supplies, volunteers, and participants to this much needed workshop. For their hard work and dedication this project earned them the Silver Award, the second highest award in Girl Scouting, and in addition tonight we would like to honor them with the Chase Youth Award for Leadership in the Middle School Group division. Girl Scout Troop 2328.

Middle School Personal Achievement Award: Sara Grozdanich

This next award winner is a leader among her peers and respected by all those around her. Her positive outlook toward life is apparent through her personal motto, "Nothing can really limit me." She's a soccer player on an elite team; a runner who turned out for the cross country team last fall, an honor roll student with straight A's, and is first alto sax in the jazz band. What is most impressive about this young lady is that she is able to do all this with Type 1 diabetes. With a positive outlook on life, she's not willing to allow being diagnosed with juvenile diabetes stop her from enjoying what she loves to do most. In addition to her impressive activity schedule she also finds time to raise awareness for her cause. She's an ambassador for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation in Spokane, a youth representative for the "Youth Walk to Cure Diabetes", been involved in fundraisers that have raised over \$170,000 for diabetes research, and was the spokesperson for the "Penny Drive for Diabetes" at her school. Her passion for community service is rare in someone her age and that is why she's seen as a positive role model amongst her peers. This year we are honored to present the Individual Middle School Personal Achievement award to Sara Grozdanich.

Middle School Spirit of Jim Chase: Greenacres Middle School Spirit Service and Builders

This group chose to lead a school-wide campaign to bring in Dimes for Diabetes to support their classmates, and because of their efforts \$1,000 was raised for research. In November, they joined forces with members from Greenacres Middle School during the Central Valley Middle School "Fill the Bus for the Valley Food Bank drive". They were able to help bring in 3,500 pounds of food, 49 turkeys, and \$535 in cash donations to help families celebrate Thanksgiving. In December, they organized the Adopt-A-Family Fundraiser, which is an effort that helped seven families in their own school have a special holiday. In addition they donated blankets to seriously ill children, and raised \$1424 in the Spokane Guild School Penny drive, which was the most by any middle school. Their hard work has made a huge impact on many families in Spokane, and

this year we are honored to present the Middle School "Spirit of Jim Chase" award to the Greenacres Middle School Spirit Service and Builders club.

Teen Individual Community Involvement: Nhung Tran

This young lady is an athlete, scholar who maintains a 3.93 GPA while taking AP classes courses. In addition, she participates in varsity sports including soccer, basketball, and track. She serves as the senior class secretary, dance team manager, and editor-in-chief for the schools yearbook. Amazingly her greatest achievement is not her personal achievements, but her time and energy serving others in the community. Her community service accomplishments include: Lay-Ups for Literacy, Harvest Fest, Habitat for Humanity, Midnight Basketball Association, Tom's Turkey Drive, Coaches vs. Cancer Basketball Game; Guild School Penny Drive; Terri Kim Annual Benefit Drive for the Vanessa Behan Nursery; Burgers with a Heart; Peanut Butter Drive; Quilting Bee; Annual Rotary Bike Ride; and Make-A-Wish Foundation. Through her service and community involvement she has proven to be thoughtful, cooperative, and courteous. She is a natural leader who is reliable and quiet by nature but has learned that, "Actions speak louder than words!" The award for Individual Community Involvement goes to, Nhung Tran.

Teen Community Involvement: TEConnections

Over the past year this group has participated in serving the community by raising needed money and supplies for the Vanessa Behan Crises Nursery. They've continued their efforts to serve the community by providing underprivileged members of the community with computers in order to access needed services. Last year they set up a computer lab at the Salvation Army, and are currently preparing to provide four different community organizations, with computer labs to assist them in providing computer services to the community, all of it was done at no cost to the organizations. Additionally, they are working to provide equipment to update a computer lab at St. Mary's School in Africa. Their dedication to provide computers for all is why we are honored to present the Community Involvement award in the Teen group division to TEConnections

Teen Courage Award: Christina Nelson

This next award winner is a young lady who is a leader on her soccer, basketball, and track teams. She was voted "most inspirational" by her soccer team and Homecoming Queen by her senior class. She is a member of WDFY, National Honor Society and the Spanish Club. An East Valley High School counselor says, "Her optimism reaches into your heart, and she has learned to persevere in life. She teaches by example through her wisdom and kind heart, and is always giving to those around her." Life hasn't always been easy for this young lady, after losing her father at the age of two to pancreatic cancer, she learned prior to her senior year that her mother was also diagnosed with cancer. After several months of battling the debilitating disease, unfortunately her mother lost her battle as well. The passing of her mother made a huge impact, the grieving was undeniable, yet it seemed to push her forward. The loss of her mother seemed to fuel the personal fire, and in her mother's memory, she conducted a fundraiser at school. She sold pink bracelets that say "HOPE", and gave the profits to Cancer Patient Care. To help promote the fundraiser she gave a very personal and inspirational speech at her school. Continuing to be the bright star that she is, this award winner is always willing to give to others, never willing to allow anything keep her from her absolute best. Tonight we would like to present the Individual Teen award for Courage to Christina Nelson.

Teen Creativity Award: Kelsey Rakentine

After hearing about a special challenge presented to premature infants, this next award winner set out to do something about it. Spending a number of hours learning all she could about the needs of premature infants, she identified one need in particular for this group in which she could help the most. It was making special pillows that kept them safe. Through donations she was able to earn the money needed for supplies, and then she had to learn to sew. This project

quickly grew larger than anticipated, so she enlisted the help of friends and family to help cut out, sew and stuff the pillows. She even taught her grandmother how to sew! When all was said and done, she was able to produce the pillows for a smaller cost than those the hospital had been using, slightly reducing the incredible costs of caring for these fragile babies. Tonight we would like to honor this young lady with the Individual Teen Creativity Award. Kelsey Rakentine.

Teen Individual Diversity Award: Mary Dombrowski

This next award winner is deserving of a Chase Youth Award for her involvement with the prospering Lewis and Clark "Invisible Children" club, which helps children in Africa who are in danger of the children armies. She's been integral to the club's activities, including "the Rescue." She's proven to be quite a diplomat, as she's negotiated her school's administration to allow videos be shown during class, making a considerable effort to involve the entire student body. Her level of commitment is unmatched and has shown to be a leader that is intelligent, responsible, and dedicated. Moreover she is kind and respectful, yet passionate in her beliefs. The Individual Teen Diversity award goes to Mary Dombrowski.

Teen Individual Leadership: Larry J. Hill III

In his journey to this point, this young man not only learned to excel with his developmental disability, but has also become an example for others and a genuine leader. He doesn't lead by force or coercion, but rather by drawing the best out of others and showing them the wonderful things of which they are capable. Transferring from Lewis and Clark High School to Community IMAGES he began to develop his skills in motivating others, assisting groups to reach consensus, and leading by example. These attributes were recognized by his fellow students, teachers and all those who came to know him. He served as president of the Big Foot chapter of People First, and state chairman of Self Advocacy in Motion. In this capacity he travelled the state speaking on behalf of students with disabilities and the need for educational and vocational programs. Recently, he was selected to travel to Olympia with ARC of Spokane and speak to state legislators on the need for high school transitional programs for students with disabilities. Today, at Project SEARCH, just as before in his other endeavors, he is recognized by the students and staff for his leadership abilities and for setting high standards in performance, and assisting others to reach them. He is perpetually positive and an absolute joy to be around. For his efforts we would like to present the Individual Teen Chase Youth Award for Leadership to Larry J. Hill, III.

Teen Group Leadership: University High School Teens Against Tobacco

What makes this next group outstanding is they all want to serve a purpose and are driven to make changes for local high schools. Being committed to reducing tobacco rates for youth, they've been working on the "Great American Smoke Out Campaign". Doing so by implementing activities not just for their school district but for all school districts in Spokane. They are getting all Quiznos in Spokane to serve a "Cold Turkey Sandwich on Nov. 19", and are hosting a combined "University & Central Valley High School stake out" at University High School. As a group they've been able to communicate effectively, and work collaboratively to achieve community support, and recruit event sponsors. Their actions are not only making an impact in their school, but soon will impact all schools. They are getting the word spread about tobacco prevention in high volume. We applaud their efforts and tonight would like to award the Teen group award in Leadership to, University High Schools Teens against Tobacco.

Teen Personal Achievement: Nick Hutchinson

Being a freshman in high school is already hard enough for a teen, but to be a freshman and have to function with ADHD is even more challenging. This next young man spent the past four years overcoming his disability by working closely with school staff to learn the necessary functions of a high school student. Through the four years of high school there were definite, "Bumps in the road", but each time he rose to the occasion so that he could keep himself pointed

in the right direction. After remembering a promise that a teacher made him as a freshmen, he proudly, and confidently announced to her that he was a senior taking welding classes at the Spokane Skills Center and that had every intention of collecting, "The Best Steak dinner" promise that was promised to him earlier. For his perseverance and determination to overcome obstacles we would like to present the Individual Teen Chase Youth Award in Personal Achievement to Nick Hutchinson.

Teen Spirit of Jim Chase: Girl Scout Troop 2546

This past year these young women had developed a wonderful project to meet a need in their community. Called "Fleece to the Rescue" the project was two-fold: providing needed fleece hats and blankets for people battling cancer and teaching new skills to Girl Scout Brownies, grades 2nd through 3rd. The project was sparked when one of the young ladies' grandmothers was diagnosed with leukemia during Thanksgiving 2006. It was difficult to see her grandma go through chemotherapy and saw the comfort that was shared by a soft hat and warm blanket given to her through the Walla Walla Cancer Care Center. They held eight events in which Girl Scout Brownies would come and earn the "Sew It Up" Try-It. Brownies would learn to sew while making hats and blankets to donate to their local cancer care center. Reaching out to Girl Scout troops in Spokane, Pullman, Lewiston, Walla Walla, Tri-Cities and Yakima they were able to make, "Fleece to the Rescue" a huge success. For their creativity and hard work we would like to present the Spirit of Jim Chase Award to Girl Scout Troop #2546.

Jim Chase "Asset Builder" (Adult): Clarence Busby

After 9/11 many of our local guard troops were called to active duty. Children of military not only have the normal stressors of life but also have the stressors of the military. These include: separation from parents, and frequent moves. This next award winner decided to do something to help these children. For more than four years he's helped to organize/develop and run a summer day camp for military children. The premise of the camp is to bring military children together to strengthen their resiliency skills. It's been a very unique opportunity to build on the strengths that they bring to camp and acquire new strengths. Activities include: ROPES training, building survival shelters, GPS mapping and many 4-H activities including: food preparation, sewing, and small animal care. The summer camps started out with 40 children and have since grown to over 80. The camp reaches children from the ages of 7 to 17. He's fostered community partnerships with 4-H, Fairchild Airman and Family Readiness Center, the Survival Wing at Fairchild Air Force Base, Operation Military Kids, and Operation Spokane Heroes. For his dedication to the youth, we would like to present the Jim Chase "Asset Builder" adult award to Clarence Busby.