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Unity House Executive Director Presides at 2008 Auburn Kiwanis Youth Service Awards



Unity House Exec. Dir. Joyce Williams (far right) with 2008 KIWANIS Service Awards winners

AUBURN – Unity House of Cayuga County Inc. Executive Director and Auburn Kiwanis member and Kiwanis Youth Service Awards Chairperson Joyce Williams, together with Auburn Kiwanis President Karen Lockwood, presented three Auburn youth and an Auburn adult with Kiwanis 2008 Youth Service and Service to Youth recognition awards at the organization’s annual dinner held March 20, 2008 at the Springside Inn in Auburn.

The Kiwanis Outstanding Service Award for Youth recognizes each year outstanding achievement in the area of service to others by Auburn youth. In honoring such efforts, Auburn Kiwanis intends to praise the individuals as well as emphasize the value of service to others as an important and beneficial choice for the city and area’s young people.

“We at Kiwanis strongly believe that, along with honoring the work of specific individuals, we can make a statement about the benefits of the giving of oneself, which Kiwanis feels is as important as individual achievement,” Williams said, referring to the awards’ purpose.

To be eligible for the youth service awards, candidates must be between 12 and 19 years old, reside in Cayuga County, and be nominated by someone other than himself or herself who can articulate in writing the nature and form of service provided by the nominee. In general, Kiwanis defines service as any ongoing activity or service that perceptively aids, assists, enhances, or enriches the life or lives of others.

“The aids we are giving out tonight are a long-standing tradition of the Auburn Kiwanis Club,” said Lockwood. “We have one first place winner this year, who will receive \$500 in scholarship to be applied to education or training, and two runners-up who will receive \$250 each for that same purpose. We also will honor an Auburn adult with our annual Service to Youth Recognition award, which recognizes some one from a local human service organization or volunteer group who provides exemplary service to young people. The award carries a prize of \$250 that is contributed to the nonprofit organization or charity of the winner’s choice.”

This year the Auburn Kiwanis Club’s first place Youth Service Award winner was Katie Hoff, an Auburn High School High School student nominated by school counselor Gregory walker. In naming her the 2008 winner, Kiwanis cited her many service accomplishments including acting as the Vice-President of Students Against destructive Decisions (S.A.D.D.) and treasurer of the high school’s Environmental Club, and volunteering at Matthews House, Westminster Manor, and the United Way.

The two runners-up honored at this year's annual Kiwanis dinner were Emily Mahoney, praised for her work as an Auburn YMCA-Pal school-based mentor, and Andrew Pappert, who Kiwanis lauded for his many hours volunteering at the Salvation Army Soup Kitchen.

Maureen Famiglietti, a registered nurse and coordinator of AIDS patients at University Hospital in Syracuse, N.Y., won this year's Kiwanis Service to Youth Recognition Award for her seven years of mentoring a local adolescent and her siblings after their parents died. Famiglietti's prize money will be donated to the Auburn YMCA in her name.