

March of Dimes Youth Volunteer Wins Award



Daniel J. Ault (D.J.), 17 years old, has won the Maine 2009 Teens Who Care Award from WLBZ TV2 Bangor and WLBZ TV6 Portland. With this award he will receive a \$2000 scholarship that he will use to attend the New Brunswick Bible Institute in Victoria Corner, New Brunswick, Canada in the fall. D.J.'s plan of study is biblical and theological that will prepare him for pastoral or missionary services, as well as pursuing his interest in music (vocal).

D.J., of Brewer, Maine, earned the 2009 Teens Who Care award because of his volunteer service not only to the March of Dimes but to the Maine Transition Networks: Youth Leaders Club, which is an organization that helps students with disabilities plan for their future.

- With the March of Dimes he has raised \$4,620 and has been the top youth walker for two years and top walker (youth and adult) for 2008, Bangor and a top youth walker for Maine. He has been in the top 200 youth walkers in the U.S. for two years, being as high as 51 nationally.
- Started the Brewer High School March of Dimes walk team (the Witches Brew)
- Is a member of NHS (this year) and started a second walk team with the National Honor Society
- And a third team with the Key Club
- He has been on the March of Dimes Leadership Committee in Northern Maine for three years.

He also:

- Volunteered for Habitat for Humanity
- Has been to Belize on two (2006 and 2007) separate mission trips with a church in Florida
- Is the current president of the Brewer High School Key Club:
- Has helped at the homeless shelter to prepare meals several times
- Coordinated and participated in the planning of Blood Drives at BHS and has been a donor since he was 16
- Food Drives
- Worked with the Brewer Kiwanis Club on fundraising events.
- Volunteers with the Brewer High School Writing Center, helping students with writing papers
- Volunteered with the American Diabetes Walk (2008)
- Is doing the Alternative Spring Break where they will be helping to build a house (Habitat for Humanity) in Portland over spring break

D.J. was nominated for Teens Who Care by Trish Hansen, fellow March of Dimes Volunteer. Here is what Trish said about this young man:

"I nominate Daniel J. Ault for a 2009 Teens Who Care award.

When I saw the announcement for the Teens Who Care Awards, I immediately thought of Daniel Ault. DJ is the one of the most giving people I know, which is especially impressive to me considering he's only 17 years old.

He cares and does more for people than most people I've known - teen or otherwise. He gives his time to a handful of organizations, is active with clubs and fundraisers at his school, and is an Eagle Scout.

I met DJ when I was the chair of the March of Dimes Walk America committee three years ago. He volunteered his time whenever he was free from school, found fellow students to help with the committee, and even organized an event last year (and is planning another this year) to raise additional funds for the March of Dimes. He has been the top youth walker in our area, as well as the country, for the last two years.

When I started this nomination process, I didn't realize the extent of DJ's activities. In addition to the March of Dimes, he has donated his time to the Maine Transition Network, working with disabled young adults and their shift from high school into college, as well as prepared meals for Manna Ministries, organized blood drives... The list goes on and on.

DJ is special because he is a genuine person with a big heart. He is mature beyond his years and I, at age 35, can't compare my volunteer work to his. His dedication has inspired me to be more involved with much-needed projects in our community. He is an example to everyone around him and I can't think of another person more deserving of your award.

DJ's future plan is to devote his life to working with youth. He will attend the New Brunswick Bible Institute this fall to become a youth pastor. After he graduates from NBBI, he plans to attend the University of Maine.

Per your requirements, I have attached the nomination form, a letter from within a volunteer activity, as well as a letter from a person who knows the nominee personally.

Please let me know if you have any questions or would like any additional information.

Thank you for your consideration and for all the work that goes into your 2 Those Who Care awards. Your support of volunteers is appreciated throughout the community."

Sincerely,
Trish Hansen
Trish Hansen,
Trust Administrator
Merrill Bank, a division of People's United Bank