



THE PRUDENTIAL SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY AWARDS

HONORING OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICE BY YOUNG AMERICANS

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NEWS ADVISORY

Local Student to Be Honored for Outstanding Volunteer Service at Award Presentation

WINTERPORT, Maine – Chad Worster of Winterport, Maine, an eighth-grader at Wagner Middle School, will be officially presented with an engraved silver medallion to signify his selection as one of Maine's top two youth volunteers for 2008 in The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program. The presentation will take place on Wednesday, April 9, 2008, at 12:30 p.m. during a school-wide assembly in the gymnasium of Wagner Middle School, 54 Mount View Drive, (207) 223-4309.

As a State Honoree, Chad also will receive \$1,000 and an all-expense-paid trip in early May to Washington, D.C., where he will join more than 100 other top honorees from across the country for several days of national recognition events. Ten of them will be named America's top youth volunteers for 2008 at that time.

Chad is being honored for devoting five weeks of each summer vacation over the past four years to volunteering at a summer reading program for low-achieving elementary school students. When a former teacher suggested that the program could benefit from his involvement, Chad recalled his own summer-school experience years earlier, and eagerly agreed to help. "At the time, I did not realize the impact I would have on the program or on the kids," Chad said. "I just wanted to make it better for the kids who have to go to summer school."

Chad has to be at school by 6:00 each morning to get ready for his volunteer job. After spending an hour and a half preparing for the day's activities, he leads group lessons in spelling and journal-writing, reads to the kids and has them read aloud to him, organizes games such as kickball and tag in the gym, assists with art projects, and serves snacks. He also encourages and mentors the young students. "Up until my involvement, many students did not enjoy summer reading school program," said Chad. "I made it fun and gave the students something to look forward to everyday."

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All middle level and high schools in the U.S., along with all Girl Scout councils, county 4-H organizations, Red Cross chapters, YMCAs and Volunteer Centers, were eligible to select a student or member for a local Prudential Spirit of Community Award last November. Nearly 4,500 Local Honorees were then reviewed by state-level judges, who selected two State Honorees – one middle level and one high school youth – plus a select number of Distinguished Finalists from each state and the District of Columbia, based on criteria such as personal initiative, creativity, effort, impact and personal growth.

The awards program, sponsored in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP), is part of a broad initiative created by Prudential Financial to encourage young people to become involved in community service. Other elements of the initiative include a community leadership training program for high school students, and a variety of educational materials for young people and teachers relating to youth volunteerism.

For more information on this year's Prudential Spirit of Community State Honorees and Distinguished Finalists, visit www.prudential.com/spirit or www.principals.org/prudential.

The National Association of Secondary School Principals – the preeminent organization and the national voice for middle level and high school principals, assistant principals and aspiring school leaders – provides its members with the professional resources to serve as visionary leaders. NASSP promotes the intellectual growth, academic achievement, character development, leadership development, and physical well-being of youth through its programs and student leadership services. NASSP sponsors the National Honor Society™, National Junior Honor Society™ and National Association of Student Councils™. For more information on NASSP, NHS, NJHS or NASC, visit www.principals.org.

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