

Lauren Finn Recognized for Volunteer Service

Lauren Finn, 18, a senior at Washington Academy in East Machias has been honored for her exemplary volunteer service with a President's Volunteer Service Award.

The award, which recognizes Americans of all ages who have volunteered significant amounts of their time to serve their communities and their country, was presented by The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program on behalf of the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation.

Lauren participated in the Spirit of Community program this year as a representative of Washington Academy, where she is a student. Lauren is the daughter of Marie Finn of East Machias.



Lauren earned her award through participation in Tri-M Music Honors Society. Her role as Tri-M historian lead her to develop a scrapbook of her activities and those of her fellow musicians, winning the state chapter award for this work. Embodying the three M's-modern, music, and master-Lauren used her talent as a baritone saxophone musician to not only entertain folks of all ages, but also to assist local, regional and national organizations with fundraising efforts through musical performances, including "Feed the Children," an awareness raising campaign to bring the plight of starving African children to the forefront; and raising funds to send individuals to

New Orleans to help with the Hurricane Katrina relief effort. Lauren and fellow musicians performed for National Doctors Day in appreciation of the dedication and service of health professionals in her community, and supported the local children's program "Chocolate Fling" with a concert in the park. Lauren's volunteer service totaled nearly 175 hours.

If Lauren could pass along any advice to youth from her experiences, "it would be to find something you enjoy, that you can share with others. Not only does it benefit you and others, it just puts a smile on everyone's face. What a thrill to know you're setting the right example and being a good role model."

Sponsored by Prudential Financial in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP), The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program recognizes young people across America for outstanding community service activities. More than 200,000 young people across American have been considered for these awards since the program began in 1995.

"The recipients of these awards vividly demonstrate that young people across America are making remarkable contributions to the health and vitality of their communities," said Art Ryan, chairman and CEO of Prudential Financial. "They truly deserve all of the praise and encouragement we can give them."

"The young people recognized by the Spirit of Community Awards demonstrate an enormous capacity for giving and reaching out to those in need," said Gerald N. Tirozzi, executive director of the National Association of Secondary School Principals.

“NASSP is proud to honor them as they are wonderful examples of the high caliber of young people in our nation’s schools today.” Program applications were distributed last September through all public and private middle level and high schools, Girl Scout councils, county 4-H organizations, American Red Cross chapters, YMCAs, and Volunteer Centers. After Local Honorees were named, state-level judges selected State Honorees, Distinguished Finalists and Certificate of Excellence recipients. Volunteer activities were judged on criteria such as personal initiative, creativity, effort, impact, and personal growth.

NASSP, based in Reston, Va., is the preeminent leadership organization representing the nation’s middle level and high school principals, assistant principals, and aspiring principals. Prudential Financial, based in Newark, N.J., serves individual and institutional customers worldwide, offering a variety of products and services in the areas of insurance, investments, securities, banking and real estate.