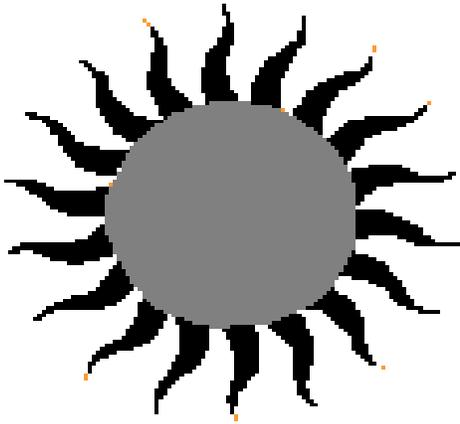


RAY OF HOPE PROGRAM _ AND MONTHLY RECIPIENT



Left to right: Jon Bulian, Needham Business Association, Jourdan Steel, Jeremy Steel, September RAY Recipients and Alexandra Hogan, Needham Youth Services.

September Recipients – Jeremy and Jourdan Steel

Jeremy and Jourdan Steel are sophomores at Minuteman Career and Technical High School in Lexington. The twin boys were nominated for the RAY of Hope award by their pastor, Rev. Debora Jackson for their “zest and passion for life that makes them simply shine.” Both boys have served as Vacation Bible School assistants at the First Baptist Church. For several years. Jeremy and Jourdan have volunteered many times at the Long Island Shelter in Boston where they served food and entertained over 400 men and women with their magic act using slight of hand and card tricks. In addition they have performed magic shows at both the Needham and Wellesley Senior Centers. When not doing magic, Jeremy and Jourdan are studying the craft of acting. In 2007 the Steels performed in the play “Mercy Streets” which was presented at several local churches in the area. They are presently working on a film with Adam Sandler. Both boys hope to become actors when they grow up “using mediums such as stage/TV/film to reach out to people not just in our community, but to people all over the world, teaching, touching their lives, and evoking inspirational emotions for a positive change!” Both brothers have been playing ice hockey for the past six years in the Needham Youth Hockey League; they also play as pitchers for the Needham Little League. Jourdan plays drums, piano, and guitar; Jeremy plays the guitar. Both boys take voice lessons and Hip Hop Dance classes. In addition they enjoy writing poetry, monologues, and songs. At Minuteman the boys are practicing in another artistic field of graphic design.

Needham Youth Commission Representative –Alexandra Kosciak

Alexandra is a Mental Health Counselor who initially joined the Needham Youth Services (formerly Needham Youth Commission) in 2005. She currently enjoys working with high school students on community wide programs, in small elementary school groups, and individually through confidential counseling. It has been said that it takes an entire village to raise a child ... and it could not make her happier to be part of a community that does exactly that by embracing, encouraging and supporting its youth in who they are both inside and out.

Needham Business Association Representative - John Bulian

John Bulian is President of BostonBlinds, Inc with locations in Newton, Pocasset & West Dennis. BostonBlinds specializes in custom window fashions for the residential customer. John and his family reside in Needham, where he is also vice-chairman of the Board of Selectmen.

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