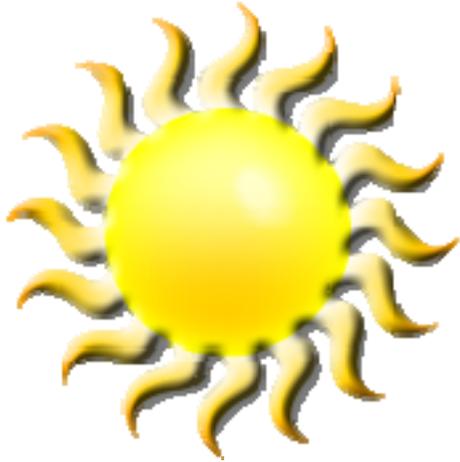


# RAY OF HOPE

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION AND MONTHLY RECIPIENT



From left to right: Mark Silverman, Mark's Moving & Storage, Sam Blank, December RAY Recipient, and Jon Mattleman, Needham Youth Services

### **December Recipient – Sam Blank**

Currently a senior at Needham High, Sam Blank is a student who has become deeply involved in working with special needs students throughout his high school career. Sam was nominated by Dr. Leo Hogan, Assistant Principal at Needham High School. Dr. Hogan believes that “he (Sam) is a positive force at Needham High School”. As a sophomore, Sam gave up his free periods to volunteer as a teacher’s assistant in STRIVE, which he has continued through his senior year. He also participated in the after-school “Best Buddies” program, which he started during his junior year, and Rocket Connection Club that sponsors activities that promote inclusion for special education students. According to Dr. Hogan “Sam has been a volunteer with some of the more challenged special education students and he is outstanding in forming positive relationships with these students”. In addition Sam is involved with the literary magazine, the RAG, at Needham High School; Sam also participates in the Literacy Corps program (run by the Jewish Community Center), where he goes to an Early Development center in Roxbury, to read to younger children. Knowing his passion, Sam spent the summer of 2009 as a special needs counselor at Grossman Camp, where he helped children ages four to seven enjoy their summers to the fullest extent. He plans on returning to Grossman Camp in the summer of 2010. As graduation approaches, Sam looks forward to continuing his work with special need youth and adults in college. When Sam has free time he likes to read, to exercise (go to the gym, run, swim, and ride his bike), and see his friends as much as possible.

### **Needham Youth Services Representative - Jon Mattleman**

Jon is the Director of Needham Youth Services (formerly Needham Youth Commission), and a firm believer in the ability of youth to contribute to the larger community. He envisions this program as one in which to highlight the positive actions of the young people of Needham.

### **Needham Business Association Representative – Mark Silverman**

Mark Silverman is president of Mark's Moving & Storage, Inc, founded in 1979 as a one-man, one truck operation that now operates with over 25 trucks and trailers and moving services locally, nationally and internationally. Mark is past president of the Massachusetts Movers Association and the Needham Business Association and is past Director of the Commonwealth Transportation Compensation Corporation. Mark is the producer of the local television series, Meet Your Needham Merchants.

### **NEEDHAM YOUTH SERVICES**

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