

# Needham Youth Services

## November RAY of Hope Recipient

### John Williams



Left to right: Katy Colthart, Social Worker Needham Youth Services, John Williams, November RAY Recipient, and Carole Sullivan, Co- owner/Executive Director, Needham Children's Center

John Williams, a senior homeschooler, was nominated by Penny Kirk for his work organizing and starting up a club dedicated to providing residents of the Needham Housing Authority with useful computers, monitors, and tech support. Started in his sophomore year, the Needham High School Linux Club has given out 12 computers through the Guidance Office, the Needham Senior Center, and the Needham Housing Authority. During his time as Club President, John applied for and received a Needham Education Foundation Grant to improve the quality of monitors distributed by the club. In February 2011, John incorporated the Linux Club Coalition Inc., a tax-exempt nonprofit, dedicated to founding and supporting more Linux Clubs across the state. He is currently working with four Linux Clubs in various stages of development, from working with their local housing authorities, to training students in computer repair, to helping with the administrative requirements of running an active club. Currently John is teaching an AP World History Class to a group of high-school homeschoolers. John is the advisor to the Linux Club at Needham High School as well as to the Linux Clubs at Framingham High School, Wellesley High School, and St. Sebastian's School. The aforementioned clubs are under the umbrella of his nonprofit, Linux Club Coalition Inc. During the year John has also volunteered at his church in their choir and in a group, Helping Hands, which helped to build a house in Belize for a hurricane victim. In his leisure time John likes to build cabinets and shelves for his parents' new house, goes rock climbing and has tea-dubstep parties with friends.

**Watch the Needham Channel's piece on the November RAY ceremony at:**

<http://youtu.be/XeI5kXRuU-4>

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