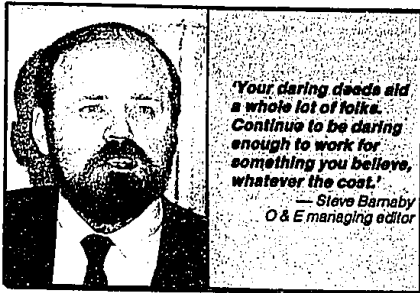


# Daring and caring

## Farmington Youth Assistance spotlights deserving students



**Your daring deeds aid a whole lot of folks. Continue to be daring enough to work for something you believe, whatever the cost.**

— Steve Barnaby  
O & E managing editor

By Bob Sklar  
staff writer

**A**DDRESSING THE eight students honored by Farmington Youth Assistance May 29, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers Managing Editor Steve Barnaby challenged them to "live every minute of your life, don't be afraid to dare."

"Your daring deeds aid a whole lot of folks," Barnaby said. "Continue to be daring enough to work for something you believe, whatever the cost."

"The gray twilight knows not victory but defeat," he added. "Don't you step into that twilight."

Stressing that freedom of the press really means freedom for everyone to think and speak out, Barnaby challenged the honored students to not "become mindless, just following the leader."

"Be daring to educate yourselves about the issues of the day," he said.

**TO SALUTE** good-hearted students who volunteer time and energy to aid an individual, an organization or the community without thought to personal reward, Farmington Youth Assistance held its first youth recognition breakfast May 29 in the Farmington Community Center.

"Farmington Youth Assistance deals with a lot of kids and parents in trouble," said Joan Dudley, chairwoman of the youth recognition committee.

PROBATE JUDGE Eugene Moore said the common denominator among cases he hears is the low self-esteem among juvenile delinquents.

He challenged the honored students to promote the rewards gained by helping others.

"Motivate your classmates to do what you've done. Maybe next year, through your motivation, twice as many young people will be honored," he said.

Channel 7 investigative reporter Vince Wade presented youth volunteer award plaques to each honored student.

What you've done is very much in keeping with our American tradition and pioneering spirit," he said.

"Helping others is part of our national character."

In concluding the awards program, Dudley said to the honored eight, "Please — take the challenge, and dare that's been offered to you today."

Dudley is chairwoman-elect of Farmington Youth Assistance. Kristine Ritter is current chairwoman.



photos by RICK SMITH/staff photographer

Youth recognition award winners (clockwise from top) are shown outside the Farmington Community Center: Michael

Merkler, Colleen McGowan, Julie Runk, Heidi Merkler, Julie Buesterian, Sarah Judge, Amy Schwab and Dan Valcich.

## Volunteer works spans spectrum

Farmington Youth Assistance honored the following eight students at the first youth recognition breakfast May 29 in the Farmington Community Center:

• Julie Buesterian, North Farmington High School 11th grader, nominated by Botsford General Hospital volunteer services director Adele Emmer. A Botsford volunteer since March 1985, Julie works at the information desk for four hours after school each week, answering questions from patients, visitors and staff. She also delivers mail and flowers to patients.

• Sarah Judge, North Farmington High School 12th grader, nominated by Betty Dahlgren, North Farmington teacher. Sarah tutors and helps care for a handicapped child. She is a helper at SCAMP, a summer camp for handicapped children, and collects money for the March of Dimes. She's also a youth group leader at her church and a member of Students Against Driving Drunk.

• Colleen McGowan, Mercy High School 11th grader, nominated by Sister Rachelle Harper, pastoral minister. Colleen has helped at soup kitchens, visited Oakhill Nursing Home residents and donated 150

hours of service to the American Red Cross. She has worked at four bake sales to raise money for the needy and has helped raise money for FOCUS: HOPE and the Statue of Liberty. She also tutors fellow students and cooks for student retreats.

• Heidi Merkler, Harrison High School 12th grader, nominated by Botsford General Hospital volunteer services director Adele Emmer. A Botsford volunteer since November 1985, Heidi has donated 518 hours of service, the most of the Junior Friends volunteers. For 10 months, she changed beds and ran errands for patients. Currently, she's in pediatrics — holding, hugging, feeding and playing with the babies and visiting with the older children.

• Michael Merkler, Harrison High School 11th grader, nominated by Botsford General Hospital volunteer services director Adele Emmer. Michael reports to the hospital pharmacy for five hours each Saturday. Since August 1985, he has clocked 170 hours of volunteer service.

• Julie Runk, Harrison High School 12th grader, nominated by Charmaine Ragusa, Harrison Spanish teacher. Julie spent three weeks in Nicaragua, helping peasants pick coffee beans and learn about Ameri-



**AT LEFT:** North Farmington senior Sarah Judge (right) listens to the keynote speech at the awards breakfast.

cans. The trip was co-sponsored by the Nicaragua Exchange and the Young Religious Unitarian Universalists. Since her return in January 1986, she has described her experiences to several school classes and youth groups.

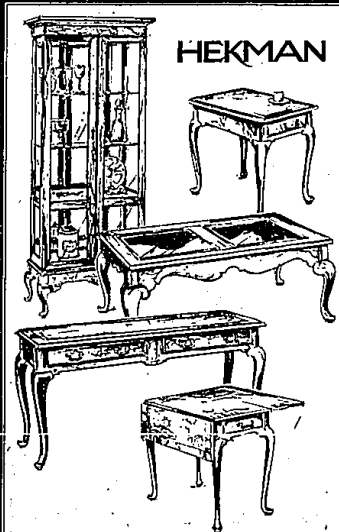
• Amy Schwab, Mercy High School 11th grader, nominated by Sr. Rachelle Harper, pastoral minister. Amy is a volunteer at Oakhill Nursing Home and has spent many hours volunteering in soup kitchens. She has assisted with spina bifida child

therapy and has tutored fellow students.

• Dan Valcich, East Middle School seventh grader, nominated by Sharon McConaghe, counselor. Dan has done volunteer fund-raising for the March of Dimes, Jump Rope for Heart and the Statue of Liberty. Since coming to East a few months ago, he has helped decorate the cafeteria for dances and has helped serve refreshments. He also designed the new student handbook cover.

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