



Honoring those who inspire the best in all of us.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Leigh McCauley Honored with Essence of Humanity Award

Lancaster, Pa. (April 16, 2010) – Leigh McCauley of Grantham in Cumberland County was honored by the United Way of the Capital Region Volunteer Center with an Essence of Humanity Award on Tuesday, April 13. A sophomore at Messiah College, McCauley received the award from the organization through its work with the Second Mile Program at the United Way’s annual volunteer awards ceremony at Beth El Temple in Harrisburg.

The Essence of Humanity Award is intended to recognize individuals who, beyond the requirements of their work, demonstrate remarkable human qualities including courage, love, strength, determination, and persistence when dealing with adversity. The award also honors those who demonstrate a spirit of caring and provide inspiration to such individuals on a daily basis.

About Leigh McCauley

Born addicted to drugs as a result of her mother’s drug use, Leigh McCauley began life with more challenges than many of us experience in a lifetime. She would later lose her mother when she was six years old, and she would never know her father. McCauley’s grandmother raised her from the time she was six.

Though there were developmental issues and not much money, her grandmother would teach her that she was expected to behave and that “they weren’t poor,” they “just didn’t have much money.”

In middle school, a caring guidance counselor recognized McCauley’s struggles and referred her to the Second Mile Challenge Program. She went to camp and learned how to set goals and overcome obstacles, and later completed the organization’s intensive learning experience.

Today McCauley is a sophomore at Messiah College majoring in communications. She works hard to support herself with a part time job and also serves as a student ministry coordinator, matching students with volunteer opportunities in the community. She volunteers at Second Mile camps and, as a poised and confident speaker, frequently speaks at Second Mile events with donors and community partners. According to those who know her so well, she embodies inspiration, persistence, determination, strength, and love, leveraging the story of her personal challenges to help and inspire others.

About Essence of Humanity

The intent of the Essence of Humanity Award is to honor those who inspire the best in all of us through the award and by elevating their stories. The program began in 2001 when business and community leaders in South-Central Pennsylvania established the award. The award is presented by participating organizations in collaboration with the Essence of Humanity program’s steering committee, which evaluates the nominations. For more information, contact Robin Stauffer, Executive Director, at 717-293-4498, or visit the website at www.essenceofhumanity.org.

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