

I am honored on behalf of the Houston Community Betterment Youth Association to nominate Ben Hugenot for the 2014 Missouri Community Betterment Youth Leadership Award.

Ben Hugenot is a 2014 graduate of Houston High School. He has been active as a youth representative on the Houston Area Community Betterment YOUTH organization for the past four years. During his tenure at Houston High School, Ben was recognized as Art Club President, Community Betterment YOUTH Vice President, and Senior Class Secretary/Treasurer. Ben has also been active in History Club, Yearbook, and is an active member of the Methodist Church. During the summer, Ben is a certified life guard at the Licking Aquatic Center and is a member of the Houston Swim Team.

Ben has won many awards during his high school career. He won the Top Swimmer award two years in a row. Ben also won Best in Show for a portrait of Franklin D. Roosevelt at the Alpha Rho Tau Regional Art Contest, and was awarded second place at the Drury University Art Competition.

In the Community, Ben has volunteered time ringing the bell for Salvation Army, cooking at the Hospice Chili Cook-Off, preparing food boxes for Thanksgiving, buying Christmas gifts for underprivileged children, delivering flowers to the local residents at the nursing home on Valentine's Day, and stuffing and hiding thousands of eggs for the local Easter egg hunt.

Ben worked with the student committee to help bring Rachel's Challenge to our school last year. To summarize the event, it's based on the life of Rachel Joy Scott, the first victim of the deadly shooting at Columbine High School in 1999. While she will forever be linked to this horrible tragedy, Rachel was also proactive in promoting that one act of kindness can start a domino effect that may ultimately change someone's life for the better. Ben spent many hours working on various fundraisers to help cover the cost of \$3000.00 to bring this to our local high school.

Ben is a student who is looked up to by many. He is an outstanding young man who has demonstrated passion, kindness, and the willingness to help others. Ben is well respected by his peers. He finds his joy in helping others of all ages to become all that they can become.

As you can see, Ben has great involvement with the Houston community all while being involved in many extra-curricular activities at school. We appreciate your consideration of Ben's nomination. We feel that Ben needs to be recognized for his hard work and dedication that he contributed to our local YOUTH program. He definitely has spent many of hours making an impact on our community.