

103-136-631
Community builders recognized by Kansas Health Foundation and Kansas Leadership Forum

Five outstanding community citizens and their initiatives were recognized recently by the Kansas Leadership Forum (KLF) and the Kansas Health Foundation, which will present \$1,000 donations to the charity of each winner's choice.

These honorees include four winners of the Kansas Community Leadership Initiative Leader-Full Community Award, as well as the Kansas Leadership Forum Distinguished Leadership Award winner.

Leader-Full Community Award winners are; Jason High of Newton; Melissa Massey of Winfield; John Sturd of Arkansas City; and the Youth Activities Team of Fort Scott. Seth Bate, of Winfield, was recognized as the KLF Distinguished Leadership Award recipient.

Jason High is president of Harvey County Big Brothers Big Sisters and works for Farm Bureau Financial Services. He is working to build the strength of the Big Brothers Big Sisters organization through board recruitment and has embraced and integrated the effectiveness of servant leadership in his workplace. His nominator wrote, "Jason is a skilled and capable leader because of the way he approaches life, business and volunteerism. Jason is trustworthy, persuasive and deeply committed to the growth and development of others."

Melissa Massey teaches at the Community Learning Center in Winfield and serves on the Leadership Cowley County steering committee. She facilitates "Inclusivity Day" for Leadership Cowley County. Her nominator wrote, "Melissa has positive vision for the future. (She) has empowered young people in a way few of us ever realize."

John Sturd is president of Union State Bank of Arkansas City and incoming president of the

chamber of commerce. John headed up the citizen's committee for the recent school bond issue to improve facilities. He organized volunteers, led community meetings, and helped the bond issue to pass. His nominator wrote, "John leads by example, not only professionally but with his family and those that have had the privilege of working with him to make Cowley County a better place to live, work and raise a family. A real team builder!"

The Youth Activities Team

(YAT) led an effort to renovate a community park in a neglected part of town.

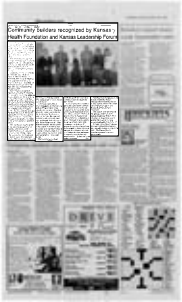
To raise funds, they initiated a penny drive and led the community to achieve two world records: Longest line of coins in the world and laying the fastest mile of pennies. They collected 3.379 million pennies. Their nominator wrote, "This community is changed as a result. The leadership provided by this group helped others in the community rise to levels of responsibilities they'd never know. It encouraged residents who never take part in community activities to volunteer their time and money. It inspired young children and made them feel like they really can make a difference."

Seth Bate was recognized as the Kansas Leadership Forum Distinguished Leadership Award winner. Seth works for the Center for Community Support and Research at Wichita State University.

The awards were presented at the annual conference of the Kansas Leadership Forum. More information about these awards and the KLF can be found at www.kansasleadershipforum.com.

K-State's Huck Boyd National Institute for Rural Development provides administrative support for KLF. The Kansas Health Foundation annually sponsors these awards.

Winfield Daily
Courier
Winfield,KS
Circ. 5229
From Page:
9
10/8/2008
34801





Winfield Daily
Courier
Winfield,KS
Circ. 5229
From Page:
9
10/8/2008
34801



Recipients of the Kansas Community Leadership Initiative Leadr-Full Community are holding plaques. Ffrom left, Jason High, Newton; John Sturd, Arkansas City; Melissa Massey, Winfield Jeff Usher, Kansas Health Foundation, Wichita; and Donna Martin and Kim Henry, Fort Scott. Not pictured is Seth Bate, of Winfield. (Special to the Courier)