

PRESS RELEASE

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State of Michigan Press Release: <http://www.michigan.gov/mcsc/0,1607,7-137-8168---,00.html>

Local students to be honored at Governor's Service Awards; FREE tickets available

On Thursday, June 19, 2008, students from the Muskegon Area Intermediate School District's **Third Street Transition Center Classroom** will be honored as finalists in the Outstanding Volunteer Program category of the **Governor's Service Awards**. The students, school staff, friends, family, and local supporters will travel to the Fox Theater in Detroit for the awards ceremony. The award acknowledges the important impact an organization or club makes in community life and recognizes those who strive to make communities better places to live through a variety of activities, or by focusing on one issue of primary importance in their community. The four other finalists include: Brother Dan's Food Pantry of Petoskey, City Mission of Detroit, Detroit Executive Service Corps, and the Medical Care Access Coalition of Marquette.

The Third Street Transition Center Students, who range in age from 18 to 26, have moderate disabilities. They reside in the Muskegon, Mona Shores, Ravenna, Montague, Reeths-Puffer, and Muskegon Heights school districts. The students volunteer in many ways, but are being honored specifically for their service to the senior citizens who live at Jefferson Towers. Each week they pick up shopping lists, purchase requested items, and deliver groceries to each resident's door. The Third Street Transition Center is one of six centers operated by the Muskegon Area Intermediate School District.

The awards ceremony will be a theatre-style gala starring LaKisha Jones, *American Idol* standout and Flint native. Governor Jennifer M. Granholm and First Gentleman Daniel Mulhern will host the event. Five finalists in each of the eight award categories will be honored, including the award winner, who will be announced that evening. The 40 finalists have been selected from nearly 180 individuals, businesses, and nonprofit organizations from across the state who were nominated for their commitment to volunteer service. A statewide panel of peer reviewers representing nonprofit organizations, foundations, schools, and businesses along with the Michigan Community Service Commission (MCSC) members reviewed the nominations and made the selections.

The Governor's Service Awards annual statewide recognition event acknowledges the contributions made by Michigan volunteers. It is coordinated by the MCSC, which is chaired by First Gentleman Daniel Mulhern. The MCSC is a state agency committed to building a culture of volunteer service to strengthen communities. It is part of the Michigan Department of Human Services. A limited number of FREE tickets are still available for local supporters who would like to attend. Contact Tom Miller at Wesley School at 231-767-7320. ###