



News release: 26 February 2010

**High Sheriff of Lincolnshire and sister of Princess Diana
presents Diana Award to Lincolnshire's young inspirations**

Lincoln Cathedral: Friday 26 February 2010. Photocall: 1.30pm. Ceremony: 2pm.

Lady Sarah McCorquodale will be presenting over 50 young people with the Diana Award, set up in memory of her sister Diana, Princess of Wales, at a special ceremony at Lincoln Cathedral on Friday 26 February. This lifetime award is given to young people – from all circumstances and sections of society - who challenge the negative stereotypes of young people and are passionate about improving society and the lives of others.

Other speakers and award presenters at the youth-led event include; The Right Worshipful, The Mayor of Lincoln, Councillor David Gratrick, The Subdean of Lincoln Cathedral, Canon Alan Nugent and Anti-Bullying Campaigner and Strongman, Dave Gaulder.

To date over 27,000 young people from across the UK have received an award. Diana Award holders represent the values that the late Princess lived by. For the 1,000+ people who receive this award each year it is truly life-changing, as they don't seek reward for the work they do and for many it may be the only recognition they receive.

For young people receiving this award is just the beginning. The Diana Award invests in young people through its unique development programme which harnesses their compassion and commitment so they fulfill their lifelong aspirations for society.

One example is Lincolnshire Diana Award holder, Charlotte Pridham, who continues to contribute to society since receiving her Diana Award in 2007.

Charlotte, who is MC for the event, says:

“Too often young people don't get the recognition they deserve. This award celebrates a growing force of young people, like myself, who get up off their backsides and enjoy giving back and putting others first. The Diana Award spurs us on to do even more for society.”

Young people to be honored on the day include:

James, 15yrs, Scunthorpe: despite been badly bullied in school and the community James campaigns tirelessly to raise awareness about the harm caused by bullying and champions the rights of young people, especially those with special educational needs or disabilities.

Ross, 13yrs, Grimsby: next time you come across a negative stereotype about Hip Hop in the media, take a moment to think about Ross who gives up his time, twice each week, to help teach young children to dance at his 'Skillz Workshop'. His work creates a real buzz, and gives young people's confidence a massive boost.

Children from Park Community Primary School, Boston, aged between 7 and 10, have been members of their school buddy group, helping new children settle in and being there for the lonely children at the special 'friendship stop'. Their work has resulted in fewer incidents in the playground and instances of bullying have dropped.

High Sheriff of Lincolnshire, Lady Sarah McCorquodale, says;

"I warmly congratulate all the young people receiving this award. I hope today's ceremony encourages nominators from Lincolnshire to highlight the inspirational work of many more young people in their schools and communities."

Maggie Turner, Chief Executive, Diana Award says;

"We are delighted to be holding this special Diana Award ceremony to highlight the wonderful work that young people in Lincolnshire are doing. As a group of community entrepreneurs Diana Award holders have the power and ambition to build the cohesive society in which we would all like to live."

There are three awards; the main **Diana Award** for inspiring individuals, the **Diana Anti-Bullying Award** for young people who have tackled bullying and the **Diana Certificate of Excellence** for groups of young people who have made an exceptional contribution to their community.

Award winners from Lincolnshire, and the surrounding area, include:

Diana Award

James Newton, Grimsby

Ross White, Grimsby

Chloe Slater, Leeds

Bethany McFarlane, Chaddesden, Derbyshire

Samantha Waddon, Northampton, Northamptonshire

Richard Bullass, Ryan Hughes and Jarrod Teanby, Crowle, North Lincolnshire

Diana Anti-Bullying Award

James Drury, Scunthorpe

Leys Farm Junior School Buddies, Scunthorpe

Jordan Wright, Susanne Gray, William Dias-Ferreira, Hugo Das Neves, Paulina Ciesielska and Tamars O Driscoll-Dale, Boston, Lincolnshire

Winterton Cyberbuddies, Scunthorpe

Longbenton Peer Mentors, Newcastle Upon Tyne

Peer Mediators, Dewsbury, West Yorkshire

Diana Certificate of Excellence

St. George's College Fair Trade, Sleaford, Lincolnshire

Peer Mentors, Scunthorpe

Young Ambassadors, Grantham, Lincolnshire

Vinvolved Youth Action Team, East Riding of Yorkshire

Beverley Open Doors Community Project, East Riding of Yorkshire

Big Mouth Group, Gainsborough

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For full case studies or interviews, please contact Emma Pelling on: 0207 624 7533 / 07958 558172, epelling@diana-award.org.uk or Liz Cartwright at Cartwright Communications on 07769 713919. www.diana-award.org.uk

Notes to Editor

There will be young people to interview/photograph before the ceremony. All media will need to be on the guest list prior to the event and therefore must inform us of their attendance.

The Diana Award was created in 1999 by friends of Diana, Princess of Wales who felt that her belief in the power of young people to change the world, and her desire to reach out to people who might otherwise have been marginalized, should not be allowed to end with her tragic death.