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LIFE-CHANGING DIANA AWARD FOR UK's YOUNG INSPIRATIONS

**Kidulthood Star, Government Minister and friend of Princess Diana
present Diana Award
Tuesday 15 December at Barclays**

Eighty of the UK's most inspirational young people will be honoured with the Diana Award by Kidulthood Star, Aml Ameen, Dawn Butler MP, Minister for Youth Citizens and Youth Engagement and Julia Samuel, friend of Diana and Founder Patron of the Child Bereavement Charity. The ceremony marks the Diana Award's 10th anniversary year and takes place at Barclays, Churchill Place, London, E14.

This lifetime honour, in memory of Princess Diana, is presented to young people – from all circumstances and sections of society - who are determined to take action and make a positive change to their communities and the lives of others. Many of these young people disregard their own difficulties to help others.

The Diana Award was created in 1999 by friends of Princess Diana 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. The 27,000 Diana Award holders from across the UK represent the values that the late Princess lived by.

The Diana Award invests in young people through its unique development programme which harnesses the compassion and commitment of these young people so they fulfill their aspirations for society.

Gold Diana Award holder, 21 year old Alex Holmes, MC for the event, says:

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

Young people receiving the Diana Award include:

17 year old Gertride from London, was deeply upset by the brutal stabbings of people she knew. Deciding that enough was enough and that someone had to make a stand to end this violence she set up the 'Breaking the Cycle Campaign' which raises awareness of the suffering knife crime causes to the families of both victims and perpetrators as well as the whole community. Local Police credit her with a reduction in knife crime in her community.

13 year old Jak from Worcestershire, has received major brain surgery and is undergoing chemotherapy this year. Despite this he has successfully made the transition to senior school. He has also raised thousands of pounds to replace vital equipment at the hospital where he received treatment. Determined to make something positive from his negative experience he acts as a mentor to other pupils making the difficult move from primary school to secondary school.

18 year old Jonathan from Essex, was the victim of a horrific unprovoked stabbing attack. While recovering from this terrible crime he decided to help his local community by creating opportunities for other young people to play sport. He now coaches at and fundraises for a local Hockey club, and acts as an ambassador for sport in the London Borough of Enfield.

17 year old Kate from Cumbria, acts as a young carer to her younger sister who has learning difficulties. Fed up with the lack of local play opportunities and support for people like her sister, she decided to create her own, and uses her skills as an art student to provide art based play therapy for local young people who have learning difficulties.

Maggie Turner, Chief Executive, Diana Award says;

“The impact of the Diana Award on young people is immense. 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. As individuals Award holders change lives but as a group of community entrepreneurs have the power and ambition to build the cohesive society in which we would all like to live.”

Dawn Butler, Minister for Young Citizens and Youth Engagement, said:

“These awards recognise young people who have gone the extra mile to help those around them and have made a real difference to the lives of people in their communities. It is fantastic to see the outstanding achievements of so many young people who are determined to make the world a better place. Still going strong on its tenth anniversary, the Diana Awards show the depth and breadth of what young people are doing and achieving. Having met just a few of these young people I was inspired by their energy and commitment. This alone shows us why young people are such an important part of modern Britain.”

John Box, Diana Award Trustee and Managing Director, Strategic Debt Finance at Barclays, says:

“Barclays is proud of its association with the Diana Award and the inspirational young people the Award recognises. By highlighting these stories, the Diana Award offers support and encouragement for the recipients and their communities.”

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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 Miranda Porter on: 0207 484 0530 intern@diana-award.org.uk

Notes to the editor:

The Diana Award has three award schemes; the **Diana Award**, our flagship programme 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.

At Barclays, we take our responsibilities seriously. We're really proud of our leading community investment programme which added up to £52.4 million in 2007. Over 43,000 of our people were involved in fundraising or volunteering in their communities. We supported over 7,000 charities around the world. Over the last 5 years Barclays people have raised over £60 million for their favourite charities with our help and matched fundraising