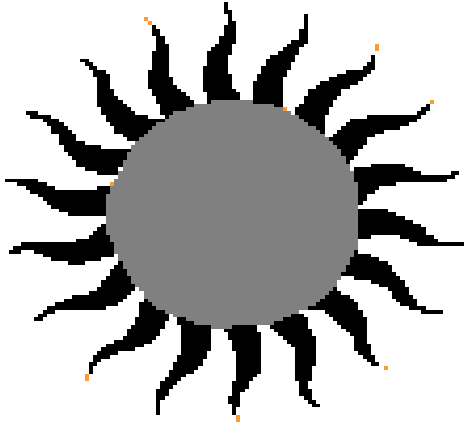


RAY OF HOPE

PROGRAM AND MONTHLY RECIPIENT



Left to right: Michael P. Browne, Needham Bank, Rachel Vergara and Jon Mattleman, Needham Youth Commission

January Recipient – Rachel Vergara

Rachel Vergara is a senior at Needham High School where she has been involved in community service/volunteer programs in and around Needham. She recently received a citation from Massachusetts Senator Scott Brown in recognition of her public service contributions in Needham. Rachel was a publicity leader for an annual event called "Take Back The Night" (TBTN) that promotes public awareness for domestic violence in local communities nationwide. Over the past three summers, Rachel volunteered with Project VAN (Volunteers around Needham) doing community service at the Needham Community Council, Needham Public Library, Needham Council on Aging, Charles River ARC, Needham Historical Society, the Business Association and Needham Park and Recreation. Since 9th grade she has volunteered with the Animal Rescue League of Boston (Dedham Branch) and participated in the ARL Foster Care program taking in newborn kittens at home providing food, shelter and socialization to prepare them for the adoption center. At Needham High School Rachel participates in the Environmental Action Club, Make A Statement Club and Relay for Life. This year she was captain of the high school varsity volleyball team. Her hobbies include snow boarding, camping, art and reading. Rachel was nominated by her sister who was a 2008 Recipient of the RAY of Hope Award.

Needham Youth Commission Representative - Jon Mattleman

Jon is the Director of the Needham Youth Commission, and a firm believer in the ability of youth to contribute to the larger community. He envisions this program as one in which to highlight the positive actions of the young people of Needham.

Needham Business Association Representative – Michael P. Browne

Michael P. Browne is Assistant Vice President of Bank Services and Compliance for Needham Bank, a member of the Needham Community since 1892. Needham Bank serves the Needham Community and surrounding areas as the leader in personal banking and real estate loans. With five locations in Needham, Dedham, Medfield, Wellesley and Westwood, Needham Bank is a convenient, reliable community bank that puts its customers and community first.

NEEDHAM YOUTH COMMISSION

1471 Highland Avenue, Needham, MA 02492

Phone: 781-455-7518 Fax: 781-449-4569

Needhamyouthcommission@town.needham.ma.us

www.needhamma.gov/youthcommission