
Joe 15 Team receives governor's award for community service

"The Joe 15 Team" recently was awarded the Governor's 2011 Volunteerism and Community Service Award for Outstanding Community Organization for the state of Virginia.

"This year's recipients reflect the tremendous difference individuals, families, businesses and nonprofits can make in their communities through volunteerism," Gov. Bob McDonnell said.

"Each honoree's contribution began with one word, yes. As we recognize their vision and accomplishments, we encourage all Virginians to follow their examples and engage in their communities. The example set by the individuals you see here tonight has never been more important to follow than right now."

The Joe 15 Team Inc. is a Manassas-based organization.

Founded by Debbie Page-Maples whose 20-year-old son, Joe, was murdered in 2008, Joe 15 partners with local public high schools and middle schools encouraging young people to become involved in their communities.

In less than three years, the organization has faced the unique challenge of turning a tragedy into an opportunity to educate youth by bringing awareness to crimes, giving them hands-on experience working in the community and a chance to see alternatives, thereby creating positive results for everyone.

Bennie Scarton Jr.
