



Metta Students Foundation announces 10th grant winner

Press Release-12/10/13-Quiet, caring, and unassuming are the words used to describe Andrew Lanni. Despite losing both his parents at a young age, the Bishop Hendricken Junior has always persevered.

A Metta Students Foundation ceremony will be held December 10th at 11:15 am at Bishop Hendricken, located at 2615 Warwick Ave, Warwick, to honor Andrew. Members of the media are welcome.

Norm Kelly, founder of Software Quality Associates in Providence, created the Metta Students Foundation in October of 2012 after learning of one teen's kind act towards another teen. Each month, during the school year, the foundation awards one thousand dollars to a student who shares metta.

"Metta means love and kindness," states Norm Kelly, "and we are proud to be able to give recognition to all of those bright lights who give back, not because they have to, but because they are truly good hearted and want to make a positive difference."

Andrew's Homeroom teacher, Kathy Bellavance nominated Andrew, stating, "Leadership for Andrew is natural thing. The place I see this the most is in school working with the Options Program. This is a program that allows special needs students to be part of the Hendricken community. Andrew works with them in the statewide unified sport leagues, both basketball and volleyball. He was recently asked to be part of the Special Olympic Youth Forum.



"I'm honored to receive this award" states Lanni. "I didn't realize working with all the Special Olympics athletes and doing what I love to do would get me an award like this. I like seeing a smile on all the kids' faces and helping them out, helping them to have a better day or a better opportunity."

Andrew is also one of the leaders in the recycling program at Hendricken. He belongs to a homeroom that tries to show the school community the importance of being green and recycling. He is the junior representative for the core group. Andrew is also involved in the Sea Scouts. He is the top youth leader which is called the boatswain. This position allows him to be a mentor and teacher for the younger seamen.

During the last Veteran's Day, he organized a flag ceremony to honor the vets in the area. Last but not least is his involvement with the Salvation Army. On a regular bases, Andrew spends Sunday nights serving dinners to the people that frequent this facility.

It is for all of these reasons the Metta Students is proud to award Andrew one thousand dollars. To see [video](#) of how the Metta Students foundation began or for more information about the foundation, log onto: www.mettastudents.org If you are interested in doing a story please contact Laura Clarizio at 617-852-7784 or lauraclarizio@aol.com.