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CB 10 YOUTH RECEIVE SCHOLARSHIPS

by *Patrick Rocchio*

The New York Yankee organization and Ladders for Leaders honored neighborhood youth, who have made a difference by giving back to their community.

The event, hosted by Community Board 10, on Tuesday, March 11, highlighted the best and brightest of Throggs Neck, Pelham Bay , and Co-op City , as the students receive scholarship checks and internship opportunities.

CB 10 district manager Ken Kearns and CB 10 chairwoman Virginia Gallagher welcomed New York Yankee media specialist Rocky Halsey and CB 10's own Patrick Caruso, who helped organize the Ladders for Leaders program, an award organized at the community level by the Throggs Neck Community Action Partnership.

“The Ladders for Leaders program is for talented young people, who have participated in community service and done exceptionally well in school,” Kearns expounded about the citywide program.

Two students from Preston High School will be attending leadership workshops on the weekends, where they are learning skills like resume writing and communication, likely culminating with an internship at a company related to a field in which they are interested.

“I would like to thank Ladders for Leaders and [guidance counselor] Mrs. Mulvany for this opportunity,” Preston senior Elizabeth De La Toro, who plans to study journalism, said.

Her fellow honoree, Preston senior Evelyn Hernandez, is considering a business internship.

The recipients of the Yankee Leadership Award, which came with a \$500 check that can be put towards school or community service expenses, were Jacqueline Villa, of Truman High School ; Hassan Jalalluddin and Robert Santos, both of Lehman High School ; Mary Falciano, of Preston High School ; and Dessiree Infante, of Monsignor Scanlon High School .

Jalalluddin is no stranger to the award process, but is usually on the other side of the equation. “I help induct juniors into the national honor society,” he said, noting that the process is lengthy due to the overall size of the school. Jalalluddin also helps raise money for the robotics team.”

The Yankee Leadership Awards are granted yearly to five students in all 12 Bronx community boards. The five CB 10 Yankee scholars have participated in such diverse

activities as Santos' efforts in helping to raise money for Darfur and breast cancer research; Villa's decision to serve food to the homeless at the Bowery Mission and Infante's role as a leader in the campus ministry.

Another Yankee scholar also expressed that service, in itself, has intrinsic rewards.

“The scholarship is great,” commented Falciano, “but more important is to know that all of my many years of service and leadership since the fourth grade have paid off.”