



Contact: Heather Gerker  
Telephone: (859) 431-2075 (x.123)  
Email: hgerker@gccme.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LOCAL STUDENT AWARDED “NATIONAL JEFFERSON PRIZE FOR PUBLIC SERVICE”  
Student To Be Recognized For Building School Houses In Kenya

A Saint Henry High School senior is traveling to Washington D.C on June 18th, where he will be honored for his community service efforts at the 40<sup>th</sup> annual National Jefferson Awards ceremonies.

Michael Best’s three year relationship with Journey: the Ed Colina Foundation seeks to improve the lives of Kenyan children and women through sustainable efforts. His projects included the building of a school house and fund-raising for the purchase of necessities such as school supplies, uniforms, and food.

“I saw how proud the kids were wearing their new uniforms, and how interested they were in the subjects they were learning,” he said. “Seeing how appreciative the kids and adults were of the classrooms, showed me how to be more thankful for the gifts that I have been given in my life.”

During the three day event, award recipients will speak to influential political figures including their local Senators; and attend the Jefferson Awards National Ceremony with keynote speaker, former Vice President, Dick Cheney (subject to his health).

Children, Inc.’s Mayerson Service Learning Initiative awarded Michael with the expense paid trip to the awards, which are recognized by many as the “‘Nobel Prize’ for public service.”

“When I look at the community I live in, I realize how many students take school for granted and don’t put out the effort to achieve good grades,” Michael said. “Kids in Kenya would do anything to have a proper education like ours. A goal that I’ve had for the past two years is to build a new classroom in Bisil, Kenya every year so the students have the ability to continue their primary education.”

Following his trip to Washington, Michael is traveling to Kenya for the fourth time this July.

In addition to offering awards to eligible candidates, Children, Inc.’s Mayerson Service Learning initiative serves over 23,000 k-12 students by providing professional training, resources and onsite supports for service learning projects.

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If you’d like to know more, please call Heather Gerker with questions at 859-431-2075 (x123), or to set up an interview, email Michael Best at [mikey.best@mac.com](mailto:mikey.best@mac.com) or [michaelbest37@yahoo.com](mailto:michaelbest37@yahoo.com) .