



9NEWS Presents 9Who Cares Award to FRIENDS FIRST Volunteer

Award recognizes an individual and organization working to make a positive impact in the community

Denver, CO (Sept. 22, 2016) - FRIENDS FIRST volunteer, Adam Campbell, received the 9NEWS 9Who Care Award at a celebration Thursday at the 9NEWS studio. A total of nine volunteers and their organizations were recognized.

Although 9 News has been giving the 9 Who Care award for 35 years, this is the second-straight year 9NEWS has recognized not only the individuals who give their time to help others through the 9Who Care Award, but also the organizations the winners volunteer for. These nine generous individuals have volunteered with people experiencing homelessness or illness, those who are underserved, and non-profits with small budgets. They have fund-raised, organized and created events, and provided extra sets of hands and hearts to help others.

About Adam Campbell

As a FRIENDS FIRST volunteer for the past year and a half, Adam has offered more than 200 hours of service by consistently volunteering two days a week. He is making a difference in the lives of others by inspiring them to keep persevering in the face of great obstacles.

As a teenager, Adam struggled after developing a brain tumor and undergoing numerous surgeries that left him with permanent disabilities. Despite these difficulties, he always has a cheerful and positive attitude. Realizing that his story could inspire others, Adam has found a great deal of emotional healing by focusing on others rather than himself.

Adam also inspires other people through his poetry. At this year's FRIENDS FIRST STARS National Conference (a 4-day youth leadership conference) themed 'Unstoppable,' Adam read a poem he wrote in February 2015. Entitled "Unstoppable You," the poem focused on always persevering and not letting anything hold you back from reaching your dreams. It was read to a crowd of more than 250 teenagers, who, inspired by Adam's words, gave him a standing ovation.

"Many of the teens in attendance were visibly moved," says Elycia Cook, Executive Director for FRIENDS FIRST. "We can only imagine the ripple effect his words will have on these youth as they face struggles of their own."

In addition to the recognition by 9NEWS, each of the winners and their respective organizations received a \$1,000 donation and will be featured on 9NEWS and 9News.com.

About FRIENDS FIRST:

FRIENDS FIRST educates and mentors teens to make positive life choices and develop healthy relationships through various teen and community programs offered locally and throughout the U.S. For more information on FRIENDS FIRST and its programs, visit www.FRIENDSFIRST.org.

Photo available: (include link to photo of Adam on website)

###