

Congratulations to Bethlehem Catholic Squires Circle for a job well done and for being awarded the prestigious Outstanding Youth in Philanthropy Award from the Eastern Pennsylvania Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP).

The Arc of Lehigh and Northampton Counties nominated the Bethlehem Catholic Squires to receive the prestigious Outstanding Youth in Philanthropy Award from the Eastern Pennsylvania Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP). This award is one of several that honor outstanding philanthropic contributions in several categories that will be presented at National Philanthropy Day on Wednesday morning, November 14, 2012 at DeSales University. More than 400 community, government and business leaders pack the DeSales University Center for National Philanthropy Day's annual awards breakfast.

I am pleased to share that the Bethlehem Squires have been selected to receive the Outstanding Youth in Philanthropy Award this year. The Arc's nomination was considered with many other worthy youth-oriented nominations from other organizations, but the Squires impressed the judges by demonstrating sustained, caring support and compassion for others in need on many different levels. The judging panel included:

Jaciel Cordoba, news anchor, TV 69 News

Lona Farr, Owner, Farr and Associates Consulting

Rev. Dan Gambet, retired, DeSales University

Cindy Glick, Director of Community Relations, Just Born, Inc.

Miriam Huertas, Vice President, Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce

Kathy Leber, Community Philanthropist and Volunteer

The Arc will purchase a table at National Philanthropy Day and will invite 5 members/representatives from the Squires to attend and accept the award. I promise you that it will be an experience that they will never forget. I will be in touch with more details later.

As you requested, I have included below the body of text that The Arc put together for the nomination – the nomination was made to fit AFP’s guidelines, including a limited amount of text:

Description of nominee’s philanthropic work:

The Bethlehem Catholic Squires have made a real and lasting difference in the lives of local children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities served by The Arc of Lehigh and Northampton Counties, through a variety of fundraising and volunteer projects over the past year. A group of school-age boys from Bethlehem Catholic High School that serve as the youth organization for the Knights of Columbus, a men’s service organization for the Catholic Church, the Squires have chosen to support The Arc by taking on several fundraising activities such as participating in the Knight’s annual “Measure Up Campaign” community fund drive. They raised hundreds of dollars for The Arc by having their members stand outside local grocery stores and shopping centers during several weekends last summer, asking the public to consider making a donation. In addition, the Squires assisted in selling raffle tickets at The Arc’s golf tournament raffle in September, which raised more than \$1,000.

In addition to their fundraising efforts, the Bethlehem Squires volunteered their time and talents to spearhead meaningful projects for the children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities who receive services at The Arc. The boys designed and built wooden flower boxes and vegetable gardens that enabled The Arc’s program participants to learn to grow beautiful seasonal flowers and a wide variety of delicious fresh vegetables throughout the summer. Thanks to these caring and talented boys, The Arc’s program participants selected the flowers and vegetables they wished to grow, planted them, cultivated them, and harvested them. It’s difficult to put into words how proud the program participants felt with their wonderful accomplishments of fresh flowers and vegetables they had grown themselves with the gardens the boys had built for them. Further, the courteous and helpful Squires volunteered their time during the day of our golf tournament by taking the golfers clubs to their golf carts for them. And finally, the boys came to The Arc on Valentine’s Day 2012, and brought personalized Valentines for each participant in our adult day program. For many of these adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities, this may have been the only time that they received a Valentine from anyone other than family.

In addition to their efforts to support The Arc and local people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, The Bethlehem Squires helped other organizations such as new Bethany Ministries by assisting in their soup kitchen, and the Lehigh Valley Cops for Kids program, where they read to children and assisted with their arts and crafts activities. For these reasons and many more, The Arc enthusiastically nominates The Bethlehem Catholic Squires as AFP’s 2012 Outstanding Youth in Philanthropy honoree.

