

Challenge program honors students

DAILY COURIER

Three Southwestern Pennsylvania high school students who are making major differences in their communities have been recognized by The Challenge Program.

California Area High School sophomores Ronald Lincoski and J.J. Cullen, Geibel Catholic High School senior Katelyn Hunyady and Uniontown High School senior Ellen Williams have all donated a significant amount of time to making a real difference in their communities. For their efforts, Lincoski, Cullen and Hunyady were named recipients of The Challenge Program's Community Service Award which rewards the students with a \$250 prize.

■ Lincoski, 16, has revitalized the World War I, World War II, Korean and Vietnam War Memo-

rial in Daisytown. He has cleaned, pointed and sealed the stonework and sidewalk, cleared overgrown brush, timber and trash, dug pits and poured concrete for flag poles and is currently working to procure the poles for installation as well as installing lighting.

The undertaking was not inexpensive in either dollars or time. The total project cost was around \$20,000 which Lincoski raised through monetary and supply donations from local businesses. In terms of time, Lincoski has personally invested nearly 300 hours while other volunteers he organized have put over 200 more hours into the project.

■ Cullen, 16, is wheelchair bound due to brittle bone disease but has not allowed that to be an obstacle in giving back to his community. In fact, Cullen has been so active that he has put in

nearly 200 hours of service in two pursuits that are very important to him.

Cullen has spent some of that time working with residents at Flo's Personal Care Home. The rest of his volunteer time has been with the Roscoe Volunteer Fire Department where he has completed fire support and basic training programs.

■ Hunyady, 18, has split her 273 service hours between Uniontown Hospital, Masontown Public Library and as an altar server for All Saints Church in Mason-town. Of the three organization's, Hunyady spend the bulk of her time at Uniontown Hospital where she has spent the past four years assisting in the Progressive Care Center where she makes charts, fills water pitchers and assists older patients.

After graduation, Hunyady plans to attend Wheeling Jesuit

College to become a pediatric nurse. Hunyady, who was diagnosed with diabetes at 18 months of age, hopes to work in diabetic education and research and eventually find employment at Children's Hospital in Pittsburgh, where she has received care for the past 16 years.

■ Volunteering has always been important for Williams, 18, who has performed more than 400 hours of community service. She has volunteered for her church, Third Presbyterian Church, since she was 4 years old and more recently has made multiple trips to Mississippi where she aided in clean-up efforts following a flood.

In addition to The Challenge Program's Community Service Award, Williams' giving nature was also recently recognized with the Fayette County All Star Award for Community Service.