

## EDUCATION

# Student volunteer praised

**T** Tyler Doppelheuer has an addiction, but it's not the type of addiction you commonly hear about teens having these days: Tyler Doppelheuer is addicted to community service.

During the past two years, Tyler has spearheaded several projects within his community. During the Christmas season, Tyler donates his time to the Salvation Army as a bell-ringer and to the Red Cross as a blood-drive volunteer.

In the spring, Tyler is a coach for the Special Olympics and coordinates cleanup sessions at a local recreational facility, Yough River Park.

He also has coordinated several fundraising events to benefit the remodeling of Austin Field in Fayette County.

In addition to his busy schedule as a coordinator and volunteer for several worthy community service projects, Tyler also manages to be a very active and successful high-school student. He has had

straight As in all of his high-school classes, participates in two sports and a musical, and is very involved in Connellsville Area High School's Student Council.

Tyler has become quite the poster-child for community service in the Connellsville area. Connellsville Stadium, a local sporting-events center that hosts football and soccer games, contacted Tyler when it was in need of volunteers. Even national organizations such as Habitat for Humanity and the Salvation Army are interested in what Tyler can do for them.

Tyler has never disappointed.

He managed to coordinate a group of volunteers to work the concession stand at Connellsville Stadium in the fall and will begin working with Habitat for Humanity in the spring. Furthermore, Tyler is co-coordinator of the Salvation Army's Red Kettle Collection in the Connellsville Service Unit.

Tyler says that, thanks to the efforts by

him and his co-coordinator, all of the volunteer time slots for the Connellsville Service Unit have been filled this Christmas season.

"Any event I do, I try to make it as fun as possible," Tyler said, explaining how he manages to get students and adults to volunteer their time.

"If you don't have fun, you're not going to want to (do community service again)."

Despite all of Tyler's accomplishments, he still claims that "it was a surprise" to be recognized by The Challenge Program in the spring with both the Most Community Service Award and the Highest Sophomore G.P.A. Award.

"Believe me, it caught me completely off-guard," Tyler said.

Since the spring, Tyler's interest in The Challenge Program has grown tremendously. He now is a student advocate for the program, networking with other students and administrators across the state



THE CHALLENGE PROGRAM

**Kayla Washko**

to spread the message of the program. "I think (The Challenge Program) teaches that you can do a lot for the community, and even if you weren't expecting it, you could get rewarded."

Tyler is a junior at Connellsville Area High School. He plans to further his education after high school, majoring in either political science or business.

As for now, Tyler said that he has "several projects in the works."

*This article is part of a human interest series that will feature past recipients of The Challenge Program's four award categories: Most Improved, Best G.P.A., Most Community Service, and Best Attendance.*

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