

McCort students go beyond requirements

Last year, Bishop McCort High School students in grades 10-12 completed more than 12,500 hours of community service.

That's quite a remarkable figure, especially for a school whose overall enrollment in these grades last year was 320 students.

Guidance counselor Kelly Mack attributes the achievement partly to the school's community-service policy and to its participation with The Challenge Program Inc.

"Students are required to do at least 32 hours (of community service) a year, but since TCP came to the school, many of our students go above and beyond the basic requirements," she explained.

The Challenge Program rec-

ognizes student excellence in four award categories each year, including the area of most community service.

Mack said that, for her, the Most Community Service Award is one of the program's biggest appeals.

Adam Wassil, one of last year's winners, performed 222 hours of community service as a junior counselor for Camp PARC at Laurel Hill State Park. Every July, Camp PARC offers a program for individuals with mental disabilities.

Wassil was the sophomore recipient of the Most Community Service Award during the 2007-2008 school year. Two other McCort students, Breanne Seitz and Kelsey Babik, also were recognized for their service. Seitz as a youth mentor



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and Babik as a volunteer trainer for McCort's football team.

The three winners' combined service to the community totaled more than 1,100 hours.

McCort students have been participating in The Challenge Program Inc. since the 2003-2004 school year.

The Challenge Program Inc. is a nonprofit organization headquartered in Johnstown whose dual mission is to award students with financial incentives for successes they achieve while still in school and to build a bridge between high schools and the local business community.