

Rebecca Annitto Service Opportunities for Students (SOS) Award

Grants Program Honors Spirit of Service

Background

During the summer of 2005 Rebecca Annitto was working to develop her vision to connect students with meaningful service opportunities, and to help local organizations identify and harness the talent and vitality of her fellow students.

Rebecca recognized that middle and upper school students have schoolbased community service requirements and their own desires to contribute. She saw how difficult it was for kids to find suitable, interesting, and accessible volunteer websites. She thought it would be great if students could identify local volunteer opportunities online that matched their interests, abilities, and schedules. Rebecca was about to turn fifteen when a tragic accident took her life on September 14, 2005.

The Rebecca Annitto Service Opportunities for Students (SOS) Award is presented annually to a Mercer County middle or upper school student who has embraced volunteerism beyond required community service and over a period of more than one year, and has demonstrated the qualities which Rebecca possessed and shared so fully. The award rewards and encourages the involvement of youth, and is based on volunteer service not academic achievement.

The winner will have:

1. made a difference at home, in school, and/or in the community
2. lived out the ambition to serve, not to be served
3. inspired others to make volunteering a central part of their lives
4. demonstrated motivation, leadership, creativity, and commitment in pursuing service

A grant from the Rebecca Annitto Service Opportunities for Students (SOS) Fund is made each year to one or more local nonprofit organizations suggested by the award recipient. Students must be nominated for the award. No formal application is required. Self-nominations and nominations from family members are automatically disqualified.

Simply submit a letter of nomination highlighting the qualities and accomplishments that make your nominee a worthy candidate. Please include written letters of support from other individuals who can complete the profile in ways that will better inform the Selection Committee. All nominations and supporting documents must be received by the Princeton Area Community Foundation (15 Princess Road, Lawrenceville, NJ 08648) by July 1. A winner will be chosen by the Annitto Award Selection Committee. For further information, please contact the Community Foundation.