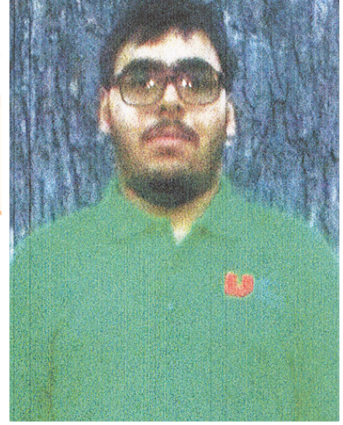


CURTIS JAMES (C.J.) MILLER

2017 A.C.E. of the Year



The 2017 National A.C.E. of the Year Award goes to Curtis James (C.J.) Miller, who is sponsored by the Exchange Club of Detroit, MI, of the Michigan District.

C.J. is a remarkable young man who graduated from University Prep High School in May 2017 with a 3.5 GPA, overcoming horrific trauma, abuse, and isolation at the hands of his birth mother and her boyfriend.

After five years of being locked in a dark attic – often duct taped to a chair, being fed once a day and only given one cup of water a day, and having his life threatened – C.J. was rescued from the home where he was being held. He was reunited with his father, whom he hadn't seen in 11 years, and diagnosed with ADHD, Autism Spectrum Disorder, and PTSD. His captors were each sentenced to 25 years in prison.

C.J. has thrived in the past three years, closing a six-year academic gap. When he was reintroduced to school, as a freshman with a 3rd grade education, C.J. was barely able to sit in the classroom for half a day; upon graduation, C.J. was independently completing projects and assignments.

In addition to his academic successes, C.J. has become a community volunteer with Build-On, through his high school. He has worked with kindergarten children making arts and crafts at the local children's museum and packed food pallets for the underserved. One of his most memorable projects was a three-week effort with Back Alley Bikes. With this program C.J. learned to clean and repair bicycles, which were then donated to local children.

His future plan are centered on making the community, and world, a better place to live by helping to build a residential facility similar to the one that assisted him when he was rescued. C.J. believes he began "healing right away" because the facility was setup to run like a family.

"I know the difference a place like this can make in the life of a hurting child, first-hand. It makes a big difference to have a loving family around you, rather than staff who go home after eight hours."

2017 A.C.E. of the Year Nominees

NAME	SPONSOR CLUB	DISTRICT
Sophia Newcomb	Tuscaloosa, AL	Alabama
Boris Ivanisevic	San Diego, CA	California/Nevada
Lisbeth Zamora Verduco	The Central Coast, CA	California/Nevada
Dottie Davis	Martinsville, VA	Colonial
Rami Ammar	Naugatuck, CT	Connecticut
Jazmin McCants	St. Petersburg, FL	Florida
Kimberly Jenkins	Rome, GA	Georgia
Gabrielle Cox	Albert Lea, MN	Lakes and Prairies
Hector Garcia	Round Lake, IL	Lincolnland
Curtis James Miller	Detroit, MI	Michigan
Alyssa Suter	Hanover, PA	Mid-Atlantic
Mackenzie Wright	Oklahoma City, OK	Mid-America
Kelsey Lipe	Grenada, MS	Mississippi
John "Alex" McCaskey	Mooresville-Lake Norman, NC	North Carolina
Keola Ogawa	Hilo, HI	Northwest
Parker Inks	Fremont, OH	Ohio/West Virginia
Amandine Akimana	Salt Lake City, UT	Rocky Mountain
Ama Lincoln	Isle of Palms, SC	South Carolina
Jason Simer	Charleston, SC	South Carolina
Brandon Reeder	Santa Rita, Tucson, AZ	Southwest
Robert Yarberry	Millington, TN	Tennessee
Jacob Lynd	Richardson, TX	Texas
Valeria Delossantos	Fort Bend, TX	Texas/Louisiana Gulf Coast
Seth Russell	Butte, MT	Yellowstone
Alexandra Wilson	Sun Prairie, WI	Wisconsin/Upper Peninsula

CONGRATULATIONS!