

NH Youth Wins Award for Leadership in Making World Better

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Dylan Mahalingam, 14, of Derry, NH, has won a "Hero" award for his leadership in making the world better. He co-founded a UN-affiliated group that rallied some 20,000 youth from about 40 countries to raise money for tsunami aid. (pic: INDIAnewEngland.com)

The following is from IndiaNewEngland.com, August 5, 2010:

Mahalingam Wins Prestigious National Community Service Award

Dylan Mahalingam, 14, of Derry, NH, has won a spot in the Build-A-Bear Workshop Huggable Heroes class of 2010. Dylan joins an elite group of 10 young people from the United States and Canada being honored for demonstrating outstanding leadership, dedication and compassion to make the world a better place.



Dylan co-founded Lil' MDGs to help meet the United Nations Millennium Development Goals. He has rallied more than 20,000 youth volunteers from 40 countries to work together to raise more than \$780,000 for tsunami relief. His mobilization efforts also have raised funds to build schools, dorms, libraries, playgrounds and community gardens in several countries such as Uganda, Indonesia, Cambodia, India and Sudan.

As a Huggable Hero, Dylan is part of a group of young leaders who are making a difference. Collectively, these dedicated young people have raised funds and collected items valued at more than \$22.5 million, and they volunteer more than 650 hours of their time each month.

Dylan will meet the other nine 2010 Huggable Heroes in St. Louis, Mo., at the Build-A-Bear Workshop World Bearquarters on July 22 to 23 to participate in ceremonies and leadership workshops.

Dylan also received \$10,000 (\$7,500 in the form of an educational scholarship and \$2,500 from the Build-A-Bear Workshop Foundation to be donated to the charity of Dylan's choice.

Build-A-Bear Workshop launched the Huggable Heroes program in 2004 to recognize young people making a difference in their communities and/or worldwide. Huggable Heroes are young leaders who demonstrate kindness, compassion and leadership to help make the world a better place.

From Jan. 15 through Feb. 26, Build-A-Bear Workshop accepted nominations for Huggable Heroes. More than 1,000 young leaders were nominated for their volunteer and community service efforts. Entries were narrowed down to a field of 75 semi-finalists, 25 finalists and ultimately 10 Huggable Heroes.

Source: INDIA New England