Some "beary" socially conscious teens get lunch and scholarships from Maxine Clark

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BUILD-A-BETTER-TEEN: Ten young "leaders" from across the country are having lunch today with Build-A-Bear Workshop's founder and chief executive bear (as she likes to be called), **Maxine Clark**.

The lunch, at the company's "World Bearquarters," is to recognize the young people - ages 11 to 18 - who have donated their time and raised money and gathered items valued at more than $22.5 million for a variety of causes. Collectively the group has volunteered more than 650 hours each month of this year for their causes.

In addition to their trip to the Lou, each leader will receive $10,000, a $7,500 scholarship and a $2,500 donation to charity. The young people are being honored as part of Build-A-Bear Workshop's "Huggable Heroes" program, which is in its eighth year.

Heidi Glaus of KSDK-TV (Channel 5) is hosting today's lunch. The keynote speaker is **Talia Leman**, 15, founder and CEO of RandomKid, an organization that assists kids with volunteering. Talia is a former Huggable Hero.

In her address, Talia will preview a project that is scheduled to launch in St. Louis this fall. The project will encourage local businesses to underwrite goodwill efforts by young people.

St. Louis had a Huggable Hero semifinalist in this year's competition. She is **Simone Bernstein**, a Clayton High graduate, who started St. Louis Volunteen, a program that lists volunteer opportunities for teens around the metro area.

This year's heroes, their ages and their hometowns are: **Jourdan Urbach**, 18, Roslyn Heights, New York; **Riley Carney**, 17, Englewood, Colo.; **Ashlee Smith**, 11, Reno, Nev.; **Melissa Monette**, 18, Mililani, Hawaii; **Tatiana Grossman**, 15, Palo Alto, Calif.; **Dylan Mahalingam**, 14, Derry, N.H.; **Alison Mansfield**, 15, Fort Wayne, Ind.; **Charles Rappazzo**, 17, Castleton, New York; **Matthew Armstrong**, 18, Fort Saskatchewan, Alberta, Ca.; and **Alaina Podmorow**, 13, Lake Country, British Columbia, Ca.