

Needham Youth Services

March RAY of Hope Recipients

Samantha Distler, Aliza Bloostein, and Beth Gordon



Left to right: Jon Mattleman, Director Needham Youth Services, Samantha Distler, and Beth Gordon, Ray of Hope Recipients, and Matthew Carson, Executive Director at Kindred Healthcare Assisted Living – Avery Crossings.

March Recipients – Aliza Bluestein, Samantha Distler, and Beth Gordon

Penny Gordon nominated Samantha Distler, Aliza Bloostein, and Beth Gordon for the RAY of Hope award for their work in assembling a swim-a-thon in 2010 to raise funds to help disaster relief work in Haiti after a very powerful and devastating earthquake struck Haiti. In 2011 the girls also participated in a second swim-a-thon to benefit a Japanese relief fund to aid victims of the tsunami. They met six years ago on their swim team and have been friends ever since. Samantha, Aliza and Beth are long-time members of the Karishim Swim Club, a competitive swim team at the Jewish Community Center in Newton that is devoted to developing strong values, building self esteem, and enabling swimmers ages 8-17 to meet their competitive potential. Samantha and Beth attend Pollard Middle school; Samantha is in the eighth grade and Beth is in the seventh grade. Aliza is a seventh grader at Solomon Schechter Day School in Newton. Samantha loves swimming, cooking, and spending time with friends and family. She has done other volunteering working in a soup kitchen in Cambridge and reading to children in Roxbury. Aliza adores swimming, hanging out with friends, and spending time with her family. Beth enjoys swimming, dancing, playing basketball, and spending time with friends and family. Beth has also volunteered at homeless shelters on various occasions.

Watch the Needham Channel's piece on the March RAY ceremony at:

http://youtu.be/BbwbftQ_4zc

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