

# Needham Youth Services

## March RAY of Hope Recipient Matthew Zielonko



Left to right: Scott Fagan, President and Director of Case Management for Commonwealth Caregivers, Matthew Zielonko, March RAY of Hope Recipient, and Jon Mattleman, Director Needham Youth Services

### March Recipient – Matthew Zielonko

Matthew is a senior at Needham High School. Ms. Gretchen Ayoub, Needham High School Community Service Coordinator, who nominated Matt, says that he is a warm empathetic individual who volunteers because it is the right thing to do with no expectation of recognition. Throughout his high school years Matt has participated in a wide variety of programs, ranging from after school tutoring programs that focus on science and engineering to volunteer hospital work at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center to theater camps, where he teaches music to students of all ages. Matthew competes on the Academic Bowl team and is a National Honor Society member. In his senior year Matthew spent two weeks on a school trip to Costa Rica with the Spanish department, where he spent some time learning about new cultures and doing volunteer work for the community. He also devotes his time to teaching musical theater to students through two programs: Saint Joe's Summer Theater (a student-run company for teens in Needham) and The Needham Players (a group of elementary school students who raise money for a charity of their choosing). At college Matt plans to study math or computer science, with the hopes of working or teaching in one or both of those fields in the future.

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

<http://youtu.be/DWG0IIKRZs8>

### NEEDHAM YOUTH SERVICES

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