



Going the Extra Mile

High achiever earns President's Scholarship

"It wasn't difficult to get people involved because he is one of our closest friends," explains Amanda Stahmann about her involvement in the Kellan Henning Benefit. "That was the main motivation, knowing it was for someone who really needed help, someone we were close to," Stahmann adds. This year's winner of the National Mutual Benefit President's Scholarship, Amanda Stahmann was co-chair for the Kellan Henning Benefit, a full day of activities to raise money for a high school student and friend who was injured in a near-fatal bicycle accident.

As an active volunteer, Amanda is involved not only in her school, but also in her community, church and other organizations. She also carried over a 4.0 grade point average in high school, played varsity softball, basketball, and volleyball, and participated in many extracurricular activities. Her activities and volunteer efforts have helped her earn National Mutual Benefit's most prestigious scholarship award, the President's Scholarship.

"Volunteering has taught me how much I'm capable of," states Stahmann. "From participating in events like the Kellan Henning Benefit I have learned how much I can accomplish when I set my

mind to it." Undoubtedly she is capable of accomplishing a lot. Stahmann served as president of the National Honor Society, coached little league softball, volunteered at a volleyball camp for middle school students, won academic awards, and played varsity sports. Stahmann is busy, to say the least.

Shirley Krueger, Amanda's National Mutual Benefit District Representative, has known Stahmann for over six years and

knew that Amanda would put her heart and soul into the Kellan Henning Benefit. "She's just one of those kinds of people," says Krueger. "She is very busy and not afraid to jump into things. You know you won't have to follow up on things with her. She is very organized."

Stahmann and friends wanted to help Kellan and his family, but needed resources to do so. Shirley Krueger brought the benefit to NMB Branch 695's attention



The Stahmann family at Amanda's high school graduation. From left to right: Roger, Rita, Nicole, and Amanda Stahmann.



and they promised to match \$2,500 of the money that was raised. The benefit consisted of “Hope for Kellan” wristbands, a kickball tournament, tug-of-war contest, a dance, concessions, a silent auction, and kid’s carnival games. Stahmann served as a supervisor for the event, organizing all the games and prizes, and creating schedules for everyone. The Kellan Henning Benefit was a success despite the almost constant rain during the outdoor activities. Overall, the benefit raised over \$20,000 to help with Kellan’s medical expenses.

Stahmann credits her history of volunteering with helping to shape her life today. “In a way I think volunteering has helped me with my educational goals. Volunteer work has helped me to mature, develop new skills, and learn how to prioritize what is important.” She continues explaining how volunteering has provided her with leadership skills, “I’ve learned how to prioritize things, responsibility and a sense of urgency, knowing when I have to get things done and when I’m out of time. A lot of it is from always having been involved in a lot of activities; school, sports, clubs, volunteering. Being involved in so many things creates such a tight schedule that I had to learn when to fit things in so everything gets done.”

Although she was accepted to many schools, including the University of Wisconsin—Whitewater, Marquette University, Wisconsin Lutheran College, and Lawrence College, she chose to go to Concordia University to pursue their four-year Masters of Business Administration program. In addition, she will be



Friends and volunteers gather for a photo at the kickball tournament portion of the Kellan Henning Benefit on September 23, 2007. Front row (l-r): Amanda Stahmann, Kellan Henning, and Lauren Messner. Second row (l-r) Wally Messner, Lynn Messner, Rita Stahmann, NMB District Representative Shirley Krueger, and Keith Krueger. Back row: Roger Stahmann.

playing both basketball and volleyball for the Concordia Falcons.

Stahmann is looking forward to an eventual career as an entrepreneur. She is excited to begin her MBA program, which will include participating in an internship. Through this program she will enjoy determining her specific interests in the field of business.

Stahmann personally volunteers because she likes giving back to the community, “I enjoy helping other people. It makes me feel like I’ve made a difference, seeing the results.” Her advice for getting other young people involved in volunteering is simple, “Spread the word more. Let

kids know about the extra things they can do. They probably don’t really hear all about the opportunities that are out there. Any kind of volunteering is appreciated and there is just so much that needs to be done!”

Stahmann is humble when it comes to her accomplishments. “My parents did an amazing job helping me through everything and supporting and encouraging me. Also teachers and coaches have contributed to shaping my life.” Although praise of her accomplishments is not in short supply, Shirley Krueger boasts, “She is probably one of the most well-rounded people I know.” ♦