

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Pat Kroiss  
Development Leader  
Boys' & Girls' Brigade  
109 W. Columbian Ave.  
PO Box 665  
Neenah, WI 54957-0665 USA  
(920) 725-8992 ext 25  
[www.bgbrigade.org](http://www.bgbrigade.org)



### **BOYS' & GIRLS' BRIGADE RECOGNIZES YOUTH ACHIEVEMENTS**

NEENAH, WI – The Boys' & Girls' Brigade held its annual awards program at Bridgewood Conference Center in Neenah on March 22, 2009. The event recognized 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade youth for their achievements and success in the Brigade.

Stephanie Birchfield, Christine Jilek, Steve Matthews, Stephanie Neabling, Sara Neff, Michaela Schmidt, and Matt Sprangers received the Seven-Year Four-Fold Award. This award is presented to high achieving 12<sup>th</sup> grade youth who consistently reflect mental, physical, social, and spiritual balance in their lives during their seven years in the Brigade.

Matt Sprangers from Menasha received the Seven-Year Perfect Attendance Award for attending all seven years of the Brigade program without any absences.

The Wide Awake Award is presented to one boy and one girl in 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade that demonstrates exemplary performance during the current Brigade year. Taelynn Feustel and Drew Owen received the 11<sup>th</sup> grade award and Jessica Pierce and Jacob Woelfel the 12<sup>th</sup> grade award. Each of these award winners received a partial scholarship to attend Brigade's 2009 Leadership Training Conference (LTC) at Camp Onaway Island to further develop their leadership skills.

Marlys Brehm from Neenah received one of the highest awards for a 12<sup>th</sup> grade Brigader – the Sure & Steadfast Award. This award is presented to any youth whose total commitment to Brigade is reflected in their constant service and availability to Brigade programs.

The Outstanding Brigader Award, the highest award a Brigader can receive, went to Christine Jilek and Noah Wichman. This award is based upon all-around participation and performance during a youth's entire Brigade career.

John Dery, executive director of the Boys' & Girls' Brigade, commented, "Each year it is very difficult to single out just a few recipients for these top awards because so many of the youth are very deserving. We're very proud of all of the youth and especially these award winners for their character and leadership at Brigade. We look forward to them returning to serve as adult leaders one day."

The Brigade mission is: We Build Leaders. Character development and leadership programs are offered for sixth through twelfth grade youth at the Brigade building located at 109 W. Columbian Avenue in Neenah, Wisconsin. Summer camp experiences are offered at Onaway Island in Waupaca, Wisconsin. Youth are served by hundreds of adult volunteer leaders. For more information on how to join or become a volunteer visit Brigade's website at [www.bgbrigade.com](http://www.bgbrigade.com) or call (920) 725-3983.

CAPTION: Christine Jilek (l) and Noah Wichman (r) received the 2009 Outstanding Brigader Award, the highest award given at the Boys' & Girls' Brigade in Neenah.

