Sefton Shining Stars

Sefton Shining Stars, now approaching its 11th year, is an annual awards ceremony organised by Sefton Council for Voluntary Service. The evening celebrates the contribution of children and young people to their local communities, and to Sefton as a borough. The awards have a particular emphasis on young people’s achievements outside of the usual school curriculum, and look to reward those who may otherwise not receive recognition.

Sefton Shining Stars give everyone living, working in and contributing to the borough the opportunity to celebrate our young people’s achievements in a positive, warm and unique way.

Promotion and Awards

We begin to promote Sefton Shining Stars towards the end of the summer. Leaflets like this one are circulated across all local schools, youth clubs, sports clubs and our network of voluntary, community and faith organisations. They are also widely shared around our social media networks and website.

This helps us to build the Shining Stars brand across the sector and promote our sponsors in the process. It also allows us to receive a wide variety of nominations from a broad range of backgrounds.

Every year without fail we hear a huge amount of inspirational stories, and endeavor to reward these deserving young people as best we can. Winners’ stories can range from incredible acts of bravery, to sporting achievements, to raising thousands of pounds for charity, to supporting families in their community who have experienced hardships and much more.

Typically, we split our awards across nine categories. These categories include: ‘Achiever of the Year’; ‘Changing Attitudes Award’; ‘Community Impact & Fundraising Award’; ‘Participation Award’; ‘Mary Roberson Inspiring Change Award’; named after our Sefton CVS colleague and friend, who sadly passed away in 2016; and the ‘Catherine Strickland Award for Bravery’, named after our 2012 winner who tragically passed away the following year.

Each category will have one winner, and two runner up prizes.

The awards have grown in popularity year on year. In 2016 we received our record number of nominations, and we anticipate that we will improve on that figure in 2017 as we look to make it our most successful year yet.
Impact and Legacy

We pride our awards on the positive impact they can have on a young person’s life; feedback from parents, families and the community testify to the personal impact receiving recognition has had on the individual young people. The evening itself is inspiring, for both young and old, as we learn more of the work and achievements of our young Sefton residents.

As well as being a great experience for the award winners, Shining Stars can also have an incredibly positive impact on the schools, youth groups and activity clubs that put nominations forward. The awards serve to recognise some of the incredible work these groups do across the borough.

As part of our commitment to making each year bigger and better than the last and to reflect our belief in the capabilities of our young people, we invite winners from previous years to play a part in every aspect of the Awards ceremony. This includes in the planning as well as on the night—co-hosting alongside our Sefton Young Advisors, providing entertainment or presenting awards themselves. This year we hope to

Sponsorship

To make Shining Stars happen each year, we are reliant upon volunteers and the local community. This can range from staff here at CVS giving up their own free time, to contributions from local businesses, to special guests such as former professional footballer Jamie Carragher, who donates prizes each year. We also receive donated prizes by various organisations including Everton FC and Sefton Council who offer free passes for Splashworld and other local attractions. Most of all, however, we rely on sponsorship. The awards could simply not happen without the financial support and co-operation of our sponsors.

We are keen to have sponsors who have an impact on the lives of young people and the wider Sefton population, and whose work in the Borough is part of providing residents with a great place to live, work and play.

We value the input of all of our sponsors, and invite a representative from each to join us for the shortlisting process. Each sponsor will also be assigned their own award for the evening; they are also invited to present the award and pose for a few photographs with the winners.

Past sponsors have provided anything from £50 to £500, which helps us to raise the money for the overall cost of the event, which covers the venue, prizes, entertainment and refreshments. Every penny raised in sponsorship goes towards providing a fun, young person centred celebration.

If your organisation can support this year’s awards or would like to discuss this opportunity further, please contact Joanne Lee on Joanne.Lee@seftoncvs.org.uk or by phone on 0151 920 0726/07850 328022