

2012 Imagine Awards Talent & Honorees Announced

This year is shaping up to be one of the most memorable yet in the 12-year history of the Imagine Awards. The event will be held March 3 in Horseshoe Southern Indiana's Showroom and Horizon Wealth Management has returned as the event's generous title sponsor. The festivities will commence at 5:30 p.m. with a fabulous silent auction, mingling and delectable appetizers.

The 2012 event is incredibly fortunate to host 19-year-old jazz pianist Matt Savage as the evening's keynote speaker and performer. Matt was diagnosed with Pervasive Developmental Disorder, a high-functioning type of autism, at age 3. He could not withstand sounds of any kind and could not communicate easily. His parents immersed him in early intervention therapies over the next four years, and at age 6 ½ he completed an auditory integration therapy to make his ears less sensitive to sound.

Matt taught himself to read and play piano music literally overnight. He began to receive instruction and his musical skills flourished, recording his first album at age 7. By the time he entered Berklee College of Music at 17 years of age, he had already written and recorded over 70 songs.



Jazz Pianist Matt Savage



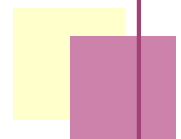
Matt will be joined on-stage for a portion of the performance by jazz saxophonist Jamey Aebersold, and this pairing promises to be nothing short of captivating. In Matt's own words written in his recent blog entry, "Jamey Aebersold, in case you don't know, is a world famous saxophonist, educator, and Louisville area native. He is best known for his series of Aebersold Play-A-Longs, a series of jazz play-along records that currently stands at 129 volumes. I have played along with Aebersold's records since I was nine years old, so to play with 'the man himself' is a great honor."



Jamey Aebersold

The evening will culminate in the presentation of the 2012 Imagine Awards and celebration of the honorees. We are pleased to announce the recipients in this issue of *Building Blocks*. We will honor the contributions and achievements of Gregory Thomas Court, Geradine Schultze of New Albany-Floyd County Schools and Tunnel Hill Christian Church. More information on the honorees is included on the following page.

For more information about the event, sponsorships or to purchase tickets, please contact Teresa Jackson, Director of Development, at tjackson@rauchinc.org or 812-945-4063 or visit www.imagineawards.org.



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Individual with a Disability:

Gregory Thomas Court

28-year-old Greg has Duchenne muscular dystrophy and has been confined to a wheelchair since age 8. His movement is limited to his hands and he is on a ventilator full-time. A gregarious, intelligent and determined individual, Greg completed his Associate of Science degree in Computer Graphics Technology from the Purdue School of Technology. Following graduation, Greg established his own company, Designs-by-GTC, through which he fulfills freelance graphic and web design contracts. Greg also works to support other individuals with disabilities. He participates in the Muscular Dystrophy of America telethon as a support and model to others with MD, and maintains a Facebook page and communicates regularly to support others who share his diagnosis.

Community Leader:

Geradine Schultze

Geradine began her career as a speech language pathologist specializing in deaf and hard of hearing. Working for Department of Defense Schools in Germany in the 1990s, she focused on preschool special education programs. Later, she pursued certification in early childhood special education and

became involved in horseback riding therapy. Geradine advocates for early diagnosis, intervention and education of children with special needs. Now the Early Intervention Coordinator for New Albany-Floyd County Schools and Building Supervisor for the Children's Academy Early Learning Center, she and the early intervention team have built a program providing a wide spectrum of services to all Floyd County preschool children and their families. The Early Learning Center provides evaluations and programs including speech, occupational and physical therapies and services for children with developmental delays, vision, hearing, orthopedic and multiple disabilities. Geradine believes parent involvement is key to school success and encourages parents to attend the frequent parent activities at the Early Learning Center.



I m a g i n e

Awards

Organization:

Tunnel Hill Christian Church

Since 2005, Tunnel Hill Christian Church has held bi-monthly dances for adults with disabilities. The events feature a volunteer DJ, fun with karaoke, light snacks and great times with friends. Some of the dances draw 150 or more individuals. Church member families and a Boy Scout troop support the volunteer outreach. The impact of the events has rippled throughout the church community, resulting in involvement of members in Special Olympics, Sunrise Horse therapy, DADS (Dads Appreciating Down Syndrome) and gestures such as knitting hats and scarves as gifts for participants. Also important has been the connection among people with disabilities and between their parents, providing a vital opportunity for them to build a support network and friendships.