

**\* News Flash \***

## **Autism Heroes Nomination Forms Out Now!**

As you are all aware the North Somerset Branch hosted its first Autism Hero Awards last year. All recipients of the award were worthy winners and set the bar very high. Their dedication to working hard to improve the lives of a child or adult with autism is second to none. When we first decided to host this event it was obvious from the start that there were many Autism Heroes, our problem was limiting the awards to just 18 in our first year. It was with this in mind we decided make this an annual event. We now intent to limit this to 10 nominations every year.

These were last years Heroes. All very deserving, all have made a huge difference to the life of someone with an ASC. Now is the time for you to nominate your Hero!

**Nominate Your Hero NOW!**



We have arranged for help filling the forms if needed, just give the branch line a call 01934 628287 and leave a message and someone will call you back and either fill in the form for you or give some advice on how it should be filled in.

Your nomination could be for a teacher, health care professional, dentist, a family member even your hairdresser, in fact anyone that has helped improve the quality of life an person with an ASC can qualify.

If your nomination is successfully selected, you will be notified by the end of March and given the opportunity to present the Award, to your nominated person at our award evening on 21st June 2010

### **Example Nomination**

I would like to nominate my son's LSA, Mrs Brown, for a Heroes Award. Nothing is too much trouble for her. From the minute my son, Tom, arrives at school, she does a fantastic job of looking after him. She can read his body language and tell whether he is anxious. She is proactive and will lead him away from stressful situations before he becomes aggressive. In previous years, he would come home from school wound up from the stresses of the day and would often have a meltdown. Now he comes home from school in a good mood. She has been working on his social skills and taken time to encourage friendships and recently he has been invited to a friend's house for tea for the first time. This shows to us the progress that has been made over the past year. She has made an enormous difference to our lives as a family and we are very lucky to have her supporting our son.

**Completed Nomination forms need to be with us by the 1st March 2010  
Nominations received after this date will not be used!**

Send your completed  
form to..

National Autistic Society North  
Somerset Branch  
3 Coleridge Rd  
Weston-Super-Mare  
North Somerset  
BS23 3UH

**Please include your name  
and address on the rear  
of the nomination form**

## Autism Heroes Criteria for Nomination

1. Nominations can only be accepted from current members of the National Autistic Society with a valid membership number.
2. Members must be resident in the area that the Awards are being held in.
3. Members cannot nominate another person if their previous Hero was successful within a 5 (five) year time period.
4. Nominees cannot be nominated more than once in any 5 (five) year period within the same field that they were first nominated.
5. Nominees must have gone above and beyond expectations, in helping a person or persons with an Autism related condition before they can be nominated.
6. The nominees can be from outside the local Branch area subject to the above conditions.
7. Awards can be given to an institution such as a school or club.
8. Committee members can be nominated but only by the membership (non-committee members). The nominated committee member can veto the nomination should they feel they do not wish to receive the award.
9. If the committee agree on a nomination and the nominee was nominated by more than one person then the committee will decide which nominator will present the award. Other nominators will be given the opportunity to attend the Award Evening should they wish to do so.
10. If your nomination is successful you will be invited to present the award to your Hero at our Hero Award Evening on 21<sup>st</sup> of June 2010. The Award is a framed Heroes Award Certificate and a personalised mug with the words "I am an Autism Hero".
11. When all nominations have been received the committee will meet to decide which Heroes to put forward this year. If you are unsuccessful this year you will have the opportunity to resubmit your nomination next year.

Please note the final decision rests with the North Somerset Committee Members. If your nomination is successful you will be notified by phone no later than 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010.