



June 9, 2010

Youth Automotive Training Center Graduation Celebrates Second Chances for At-Risk Youth *First Bruce Rossmeyer Memorial "Kick Start" Scholarship Awarded*

Deerfield Beach— Frustrated with the path his life was taking, Christopher Minino, 21, was hoping for change and new opportunities when he enrolled at the Youth Automotive Training Center (YATC) 10 months ago.

Now Minino, who graduated May 27th, has earned his GED, has a part-time job at JM Lexus and hopes to be enrolled this fall at the Atlanta Technical Center in the Toyota Technical Education Network program. He was also the first recipient of the Bruce Rossmeyer Memorial Kick Start Scholarship, established this year by Jan Moran, widow of YATC Founder Jim Moran, to honor the memory of Harley Davidson and Toyota dealer Bruce Rossmeyer and his longtime support of YATC. The award was presented at the ceremony by his widow Sandy Rossmeyer, daughter Shelly Rossmeyer-Pepe and Moran. The fund is designated for deserving graduates who choose to continue their studies at a technical or vocational school.

"Being here at YATC, I now feel confident about myself, my ability and just how dedicated I can be," Minino said.

The 24 graduates were chosen from 130 applicants based on their need for the program and a desire to change their lives. In addition to learning basic automotive skills, students at YATC receive academic remediation, job readiness training and life management skills. The goal of this program is to prepare young adults who are at a disadvantage in their lives to become self-sufficient and productive citizens. This year, six students received their GEDs, thanks to help from the academic instructors.

A firm believer in making a real difference in the lives of others, automotive legend Jim Moran founded YATC in 1984 for kids just like Minino. Since then, YATC has provided second chances for more than 500 students and continues to be guided by Moran's philosophy of preparing young people for brighter futures.

The graduation ceremony this year was attended by friends, family members and longtime YATC supporters and sports legends Andre Dawson, Earl Morrall and Mike Schmidt.

"To see the growth and the positive changes in these students from the first day of classes until now makes all the hard work worth it," said Terry Routley, executive director of YATC. "We expect to see great things from this class, as they have overcome some really tough obstacles to arrive here today."

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Other students honored for their exceptional commitment to the program included Richard Rosario, 19, who received the Turnabout Award and thanked YATC staff for listening, giving great advice, and taking him “under their wings.” David Rager, 21, received the award for Best Attendance and plans to enroll in Santa Fe Community College in the fall to major in Business. Anthony Peglow, 18, received the Jump Start Award and credits YATC with changing the course of his life.

“YATC helped me mature and gain confidence to move forward with my life,” Peglow said. “Anyone who comes to this program should know how lucky he or she is to be here learning so much. I’m proud to have completed the program.”

The prestigious Jim Moran Award was presented this year to Tire Kingdom in recognition of the unique employment program the company launched this year for YATC and their continued support through the years. Students who have demonstrated responsibility and job readiness to begin work as tire technicians are interviewed by Tire Kingdom executives and employed by stores close to their homes.

About the Youth Automotive Training Center

Established by Jim Moran in 1984, the mission of the Youth Automotive Training Center is to train and educate at-risk youth in basic automotive repair skills, academic remediation, job readiness and life management skills. The goal of this program is to prepare young adults who are at a disadvantage in their lives to become self-sufficient, productive, law-abiding citizens. Students are referred to YATC in a variety of ways, including through the Departments of Juvenile Justice and Children and Families, as well as YATC graduates, local clergy and word of mouth.

For more information about the Youth Automotive Training Center, visit www.yatc.org, or call (954) 428-0909. YATC is located at 399 S.W. Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue, Deerfield Beach, Fla.

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Photo Captions:

Image 1: *(Left to right)* Terry Routley, executive director, Youth Automotive Training Center (YATC); Sandy Rossmeyer; Chris Minino, YATC graduate and winner of the Bruce Rossmeyer Memorial Kick Start Scholarship; Jan Moran; Shelly Rossmeyer-Pepe; Larry McGinnes, president, YATC Board of Directors.

Image 2: The 2010 graduating class of the Youth Automotive Training Center.

Image 3: *(Left to right)* Sports legends Mike Schmidt, Andre Dawson and Earl Morrall with Youth Automotive Training Center (YATC) executive director Terry Routley (*far right*) and YATC graduates who received special honors: *(from left)* Chris Minino (Kick Start Award), David Rager (Best Attendance Award), Richard Rosario (Turnabout Award) and Anthony Peglow (Jump Start Award).

Image 4: Tire Kingdom is the 2010 recipient of the Jim Moran Award in recognition of the employment program the company launched this year for graduates of the Youth Automotive Training Center (YATC). *(Left to right)* Larry McGinnes, president, YATC Board of Directors; Edwin Arias, Tire Kingdom; Frank Dorso, Tire Kingdom; Jan Moran, chairman and president of The Jim Moran Foundation; Mike Papi, Tire Kingdom; Lauren Arias, Tire Kingdom; Tony Rodriguez, Tire Kingdom; Terry Routley, executive director, YATC.

Media Contact:

Christie Caliendo
(954) 363-6285
Christie.Caliendo@jmfamily.com

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