

“PORTRAITS OF SUCCESS” AWARD NOMINATION

Name of Nominee: Benjamin (Ben) Fogle

Name of Nominator: Marilyn Jamerson

District: Mt. Diablo Unified School District

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School: Diablo Community Day School

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Category (circle one)

Student

Teacher

Administrator

Other

Please include all pertinent information on your nominee in your Portrait. You will be contacted by e-mail if your Portrait is to be included in the final selection portfolio. Entrees may be submitted between Jan., 2004 and Nov., 15, 2004. Early submissions are encouraged to provide a benchmark for Success. Entrees may be viewed on the web at www.cdsnetwork.org.

Ben was expelled from his high school on November 12, 2003 after being arrested. He had a history of poor attendance and failing grades. His standardized test scores had dropped from the 81st percentile to the 26th percentile in one area and he had been at risk for being retained in eight grade.

As a condition of his transition he had to complete a substance rehabilitation program. That experience changed his life. He began connecting with his school experience and started attending church. An interest in music became a passion and he began producing CD's with drum and keyboard tracks (I even bought one). His grades improved to a 3.5 grade point average with full credit in all classes. To stay fit, he regularly boxes at the gym. He plans to attend college after his senior year in 2005-06.

Ben positively contributes to the school climate by encouraging his peers to stay out of trouble and take school seriously.

As he says, "I've learned that being 'cool' has nothing to do with being the one who is messing up and using substances. All those things do is bring you down. 'Being cool' is being purely yourself without putting on acts to impress somebody".

Ben Fogle received the principal's award last year and successfully transitioned back to regular school in November of 2004.

Submittal Options:

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