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## Four midstaters honored as Everyday Heroes

By **EMILY OPILO, The Patriot-News**  
 May 08, 2009, 12:23PM

At age 14, when Vinny Cherry began collecting supplies for the pediatric unit at Harrisburg Hospital, he never thought of awards and accolades; he just wanted to finish some service hours for church.

Five years later, Cherry, 19, of Hummelstown, has collected thousands of dollars in toys and raised nearly \$100,000 with his charity Vinny's Kid's, Inc.

Cherry was one of four midstate men recognized Thursday night by Mid Penn Bank at the Everyday Heroes Dinner and Awards. The ceremony, held at the Country Club of Harrisburg, recognizes the volunteer efforts of local residents.

The recipients have worked tirelessly to improve the community, and too often go unrecognized, said Mid Penn Bank Northern Region President and Chief Operating Officer Kevin Laudenslager said.

Each winner was given a bronze medal and \$1,000 for the charity of their choice. Family and friends applauded as each of the recipients stood to be recognized and gave a short speech.

Larry "Rex" Welker, of Lykens, received the award for his years of work with his "scrap ministry." Welker has raised over \$3,000 for local charities through aluminum can collections. He also founded the Lykens United Methodist Emergency Food Pantry.

Scott Hammaker, of Camp Hill, was recognized for his volunteer work with his family non-profit Kallan's Klan. They formed the organization in honor of their daughter Kallan who died of pediatric cancer in 2007. The group offers several scholarships and has raised more than \$105,000 for the American Cancer Society.

Hammaker removed his bronze medal and placed it around the neck of his 7-year-old daughter Krystian Hammaker.

"Krystian does as much if not more than everybody in our organization," he said. "She really wants to beat the disease that took her sister."

Auctioneer Mervin Adams of Millersburg was honored for his work with the Millersburg Area Ambulance Association, his 20 years of service in local government positions and his volunteer auctioneer services. He credited his supportive wife for his many years of community dedication.

"A lot of times, you do things and think no one will ever notice," he said. "If you're one of those people, don't worry, someone will recognize you somewhere."

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Posted by **edseviltwin**  
May 08, 2009, 2:53PM

What month is "Everyday Hero Month" June ??

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Posted by **uptowngirl34**  
May 08, 2009, 3:56PM

Ed,

Are you trying to imply that these people shouldn't be recognized because it isn't June yet? Or, are you simply wondering? I wasn't sure because you always seem to have something negative to say.

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Posted by **edseviltwin**  
May 08, 2009, 5:44PM

These people deserve alot of respect & honor !! They do more than you & I put together. I think they should have their month,LeSean got a month for being a great ball player & all he is doing is living the American Dream....

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Posted by **piggyplum**  
May 08, 2009, 8:51PM

What a great story...

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