

Outstanding Youth in Philanthropy

This award is presented to an individual(s) between the ages of 5 and 17 who has demonstrated outstanding civic and charitable responsibility. Through a personal commitment to charitable activities, this person encourages others to be philanthropic leaders in our community.

Breast cancer awareness is now “center stage” thanks to the determination of *Rachel A. Helson*. When a fourth aunt was diagnosed with breast cancer, the 15-year-old Louisville Collegiate performing arts student was compelled to act – in more ways than one. Her performance in a New York City summer cabaret inspired her produce the “Rocky Horror Show” as a fundraiser for breast cancer research and awareness.

Ms. Helson obtained approval to name the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation as the show’s beneficiary. Within 6 weeks she established the “Acting for a Cure” production company, secured underwriters and media sponsors, and performed in the show. The 2004 premier at the Kentucky Center for the Arts raised \$12,000 and the 2005 production raised over \$25,000.

Ms. Helson, now 17, is a freshman at NYU’s Tisch School of the Arts and is organizing a March 2007 production of the “Rocky Horror Show” in New York. The event will benefit both Louisville and New York City Komen affiliates. For increasing awareness of the Komen Foundation’s mission, for engaging a diverse group of supporters, and for stretching the geographic boundaries of her own role, we proudly recognize Rachel A. Helson as an Outstanding Youth in Philanthropy for 2006.