



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

NORFOLK DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

45 SHAWMUT ROAD | CANTON, MA 02021 | 781.830.4800 | F: 781.830.4801 | www.norfolkda.com

MICHAEL W. MORRISSEY
NORFOLK DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Press Release

Sharon High's Fraser Earns Berns' Leadership Award

Contact: D. Traub, 781-830-4917



Lucy Beth Fraser, center left holding her award, was joined by her family as she was honored by, from right, Dr. Scott Berns, Dr. Leslie Gordon, and Norfolk DA Michael W. Morrissey at his 2018 Peer Leadership Conference.

On some days, Lucy Beth Fraser's juvenile arthritis means using a wheelchair to navigate the halls of Sharon High School. On other days, she dances.

But on Nov. 20, the Sharon High School junior was presented with the 2018 Sam Berns Courage Award For Peer Leadership, at Norfolk DA Michael W. Morrissey's Peer Leadership Conference at Gillette Stadium.

The award is named for the Foxborough teen, and admirable peer leader, whose unsuccessful battle with pre-mature aging inspired an Emmy-winning documentary – and countless Americans. The award was presented to her by Sam's parents, Doctors Leslie Gordon and Scott Berns along with DA Morrissey after the 250 students in the audience watched a video of Sam delivering his TED Talk – the second most viewed TED on Youtube.

"Yes, Lucy Beth is a dancer, in both Hairspray last year and The Whiz this year, I was amazed and impressed by her skill, stamina and grace," Andrea d'Entremont, her school counselor, wrote in her nomination letter to DA Morrissey.

"Most inspiring is her work with advocacy groups to promote awareness for people with physical challenges. She has shared her own struggles and stories," d'Entremont said. "She has traveled with her family to attend summits and advocacy group seminars despite the challenges that she faces when she travels."

Fraser does it all while maintaining enviable grades across the board – even when hospitalizations and physical barriers cause her to miss significant stretches of school, according to her teachers.

"The nomination package ran onto a fourth page with teacher after teacher describing great work that Lucy Beth Fraser has done both inside and outside class, and what an outstanding example of courage and perseverance she is – not just to her classmates but the staff at Sharon High," District Attorney Morrissey said. "She wants to combine her interests in engineering and technology with creating services and supports for people with physical challenges. Today she is making her school better, it appears that tomorrow she will be making the world better."

The Peer Leadership Conference was funded by the award of a Drunk Driving Trust Fund Prevention Education and Training Grant to the Norfolk DA's Office for the fifth consecutive year.