

Role Models Of Hope



Mark Braun, far left, and Mindy Draws, third from left, are all smiles after receiving their Rainbow of Hope award at the Twin Cities Shriners Hospital in Minneapolis.

(NAPSA)—Role models are not always found on athletic fields, politics or in business. They can also be found in hospitals.

To Mindy Draws and Mark Braun, the Rainbow of Hope Awards they recently received from the Twin Cities Shriners Hospital for Children will be cherished, along with the many fond memories of their days as Shriners Hospital patients.

The Twin Cities Hospital, in Minneapolis, Minn., hosted the fourth annual Rainbow of Hope Celebration, which honors one current and one former patient with a plaque, medallion and a \$1,000 check.

Mindy and Mark were selected as this year's recipients because of their ability to overcome physical limitations and, as a result, have become highly visible role models within their community.

Mindy 18, of Yutan, Nebraska, was diagnosed at age 3 with a dominant type of dwarfism called chondrodysplasia punctata, which affected her right leg. "I have had my fair share of 100-day stays," Mindy said.

Throughout her high school

years, Mindy has been dedicated to a variety of leadership activities. Her role in student council, band, speech, drama, National Honor Society, the academic decathlon, and church youth groups are examples of Mindy's genuine interest in her school.

Mark Braun, 8, of Mounds View, Minn., accepted his Rainbow of Hope award with three profound words, "Help save babies." Mark, who was saved from an orphanage in Jamaica, was born with spina bifida.

For more information on Shriners' network of 22 hospitals that provide medical care and services totally free of charge to children with orthopaedic problems, burns and spinal cord injuries, write to: Shriners International Headquarters, Public Relations Dept., 2900 Rocky Point Dr., Tampa, FL 33607, or visit the Web site at www.shrinershq.org. Treatment is provided to children under age 18 without regard to race, religion or relationship to a Shriner.

If you know a child Shriners can help, call 1-800-237-5055 in the United States or 1-800-361-7256 in Canada.