

Searching for the young person of the year

The search is on for the young person of the year.

Junior Chamber, Castleknock is casting its shadow far and wide to unearth ten individuals who most exemplify the finest attributes of modern youth.

According to Aoife Warren of JCI, the Outstanding Young Persons (TOYP) programme "is an excellent opportunity to recognise the tremendous achievements of young people and encourage both them and others to seek excellence and work for the good of others."

Previous winners include Caroline Casey who established the Aisling Foundation as part of a unique fundraising adventure which saw her travel across southern India on an elephant despite being visually impaired, and Sophia McColgan who made legal history as a victim of sexual abuse who took on the state and medical profession.

The criteria for nominations can be made under one of a myriad of headings, from environmental leadership to medical innovation and from cultural achievement to business accomplishment. Successful nominees will be ordinarily living in Dublin or were born there and be aged between 18 and 40. Last year's awards were given to candidates in a number of areas including social work (helping adults in disadvantaged areas study for their Leaving Cert), overcoming disability to pass the Leaving Cert and attend college, setting up a new company, charity work and a music composer.

Suggestions for nominees must be submitted to JCI Castleknock by Friday 21st April. You do not have to be a member of JCI to be nominated, but you must be nominated by a JCI branch.

Local winners will be invited to a ceremony to be held in Tullamore in October where they will be presented with their awards. Ten international award winners will then be selected to attend the worldwide TOYP ceremony at JCI World Congress in Seoul, Korea, in November. These winners will receive complimentary World Congress registration, hotel accommodation and airline travel to Seoul.

Suggestions for candidates should be made to JCI Castleknock - either by email (castleknock@jci-ireland.org) or in person at their next meeting (Monday 10 April at 8.30pm upstairs in Myos). They will then nominate people and fill in the relevant forms.

"We are delighted to be formally recognising young people who excel in their chosen fields and exemplify the best attributes of the world's young people," says Aoife. "Last year's awards were given to candidates in a number of areas including social work - helping adults in disadvantaged areas study for their Leaving Cert, overcoming disability to pass the Leaving Cert and attend college, setting up a new company, charity work and a music composer."

The Junior Chamber of Ireland meet upstairs in Myo's on the second Monday of every month. New members are always welcome.

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BUSINESS

Young person awards

THE President of Junior Chamber Castleknock, Aine Coulter, has cast her net for nominations for the Young Person of the Year Award 2006. According to chamber policy, the purpose of this award is "to honour 10 individuals between the ages of 18 and 40 who exemplify the finest attributes of the world's young people".

The area winner for the Junior Chamber becomes eligible to enter for the national award and on winning this, entered for the International Young Person of the Year Award which takes place in Korea next winter.

The individual nominated should be living in or born in Dublin.

Log on to www.jci-ireland.org for further details on nominations.

Junior Chamber helps students

Things have been particularly hectic for members of Junior Chamber (JCI) Castleknock this year with a number of projects occupying much of the members' time.

Several members have teamed up with the JCI branch in Dun Laoghaire and been involved in doing mock interviews with students in St Lawrence's College, Loughlinstown. These interviews are part of the transition

year programme in the school and members of JCI Castleknock interview the students and gave them feedback on their performance, as well as assisting in the preparation of CVs and offering some hands on advice on their possible career paths.

Several other members are taking part in a mentoring programme in conjunction with JCI Fingal, DCU careers service and the DCU Educational Trust. This programme, which is the first of its kind in Ireland sees members

paired with second year students with a view to assisting the student in providing practical advice on their career paths.

Work shadow days are also being organised this month where students can gain an insight into the careers of members of JCI Castleknock and spend a day with them "on the job".

As a recognition of the work of the local Junior Chamber, one of its members, Karen Sweeney, has been

appointed Deputy President of JCI Ireland. Karen who joined JCI Castleknock in 2002, has already held the positions of finance officer, convention director and president in the local branch.

JCI Castleknock meets at 8:30 p.m. on the second Monday of each month upstairs in Myo's, Castleknock and new members are always welcome. Further details are available by e-mailing castleknock@jci-ireland.org

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