

## Work in fundraising earns honors for teacher

By: **TODD MCHALE**

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MOORESTOWN - Marcie Steel never set out to be a hero.

The fifth-grade teacher from Lumberton just loves what she does.

So much so that the educator at Our Lady of Good Counsel School was selected for the Teacher As Hero Award.

Steel joined nine other teachers from the Delaware Valley who were honored at the National Liberty Museum in Philadelphia on Thursday night.

The annual award program recognizes outstanding educators for excellence, commitment, leadership, conflict resolution, and community service in today's challenging classrooms.

"I think it's great," Steel said of the award. "It's humbling. It's sort of embarrassing to get an award like this."

The program is sponsored by State Farm Insurance and the nominees are selected by a panel of area educators.

All the winners received awards of recognition and their photographs will be displayed in a special exhibit at the museum.

Steel's class will receive a free tour of the museum, and she will be sent to a training seminar on enhancing student achievement.

Steel was selected for the award for, among other things, starting the school's "Just Do It" committee, which helps students raise money for charities.

Since its inception the committee of fifth- through eighth-graders has raised nearly \$7,000 for such organizations as the American Red Cross, Alex's Lemonade Stand and area hospitals. Most recently it made donations to the Haiti relief effort.

"Our honorees are an excellent representation of heroes that touch the future by teaching our youth," said Gwen Borowsky, CEO and vice president of the National Liberty Museum, before the ceremony.

"All teachers make a footprint on a student's life, but our winners make a deeper one than others. We are grateful to them for going the extra mile with creativity, dedication and inspiration," Borowsky said.

Dave Phillips of State Farm said the company recognizes the passion teachers put into their profession.

"All these teachers are motivated by the positive impact they can have on a student and the great things they can inspire," Phillips said.

Steel said she's simply trying to do the best she can for her students.

"It's all about teaching," she said. "I love my job. It's a passion for me."

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