

October 2007

Sam Lavery wins National Volunteer Achievement Award

Teenager Sam Lavery recently became one of six individuals chosen by a national selection committee to receive a prestigious award for his voluntary work with Clare Youth Service. Having first been nominated by his fellow volunteers and youth workers in the Ennis area, Sam was presented with his top award by Youth Work Ireland at the Volunteers Achievement Awards held in Dublin recently. The awards were presented by Minister of State for Youth Affairs, Seán Haughey at a ceremony hosted by RTE presenter John Creedon.

Sam, from Inch, is currently in his first year at LIT studying Applied Studies in Social Care. However, his studies have not hindered his contribution to Clare Youth Service.

Sam first started volunteering with Clare Youth Service four years ago. Along with eight other young people he was involved in opening Ennis Youth Club. The group started the club as senior members and were responsible for planning, organising and running club activities for other members in the club. Sam then took part in Leader training and is now a leader with Ennis Youth Club. He gives his time to the young people in the club freely and arrives early every Friday night enthusiastic about working with the senior members and members in the club.

Sam has also worked as a volunteer with Ennis Summer Camp for the last two years; Ennis Summer Camp caters for over a hundred children 9-13years. The camp runs for two weeks in July, Sam works with a team of volunteers in running activities and programmes for the participants. Although the camp runs for two weeks, the volunteers start preparation work on the camp with planning and fundraising meetings in April. Along with his involvement in the youth club and the summer camps, Sam is always willing to lend a hand for other activities in the youth centre from serving coffee in the Youth Space, to security at the bands gigs. Sam has worked on a number of projects and clubs over the last four years; he is always ready to try something new, he has a great relationship with the young people he works with and the other volunteers in the projects.