

Congratulations to the recipient of the 2009 Award for Excellence in Youth Volunteerism: Kristy Okada!



The 2009 Award for Excellence in Youth Volunteerism goes to **Kristy Okada**, youth leader at the Minnesota Children’s Museum and student at Mounds Park Academy. Kristy has contributed over 320 hours of her time to ensuring that the museum-goers who come to play have a positive and fun-filled experience. She is incredibly social, extremely outgoing, and works wonders with the children who visit the museum. In addition to this, Kristy continually goes above and beyond her normal call of duty. She repeatedly steps up without having to be asked, and remains very proactive in seeking out any opportunities to help the guests and other staff members at the museum. In addition to volunteering at the Minnesota Children’s Museum, Kristy donates her time in other ways throughout her community. For one, she volunteers at the Como Zoo spending time educating the visitors about the various animals that they will see in the exhibits. She tutors at her high school, Mounds Park Academy, aiding in the academic growth of her peers, and also serves as a teacher’s assistant in the Biology department helping with grading assignments, setting up, and taking down labs. When asked what motivates Kristy to donate her time in so many ways, she simply said that it makes her happy to help people and finds it incredibly gratifying when she can make someone’s day better.