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## Press Releases, Articles, and Ads

April 26, 2006

### Providence resident's volunteer efforts to promote literacy recognized by RI Foundation

Samantha Grabelle's more than 20-year volunteer commitment to promote literacy and inspire others to learn has earned the Providence resident the attention of The Rhode Island Foundation. The Foundation will honor Ms. Grabelle on Wednesday (April 26) by awarding her its Merit Award for Outstanding Community Service. At the 9 AM award ceremony at the Metropolitan Regional Career and Technical Center (the Met), Libby Monahan, special funds administrator at The Rhode Island Foundation, will present Ms. Grabelle with a certificate of merit and a \$500 award.

In her nomination of Ms. Grabelle, Rebecca Siddons, advisor at the Met, explains, Samantha Grabelle has done volunteer work with children and adults around literacy since she was 14 years old. In the four years I have known her, Sam has mentored a number of my students and other students, has made whole school presentations about literacy, and has run several book groups with our students. Sam also buys used books with her own money and distributes them to students based on her knowledge of those students and their interests.

Her energy is contagious and her passion for reading and writing is inspirational. Our students are very lucky to have her in their lives.

Nancy Diaz, principal at the Met concurs, noting the numerous projects with which Ms. Grabelle has been involved at the school and concludes, She is very important to our community.

Ms. Grabelle's volunteer service also includes serving on the board of the Friends of Rochambeau Library and as a mentor at Year Up.

Recipients of the Merit Award are selected by an advisory committee from nominations made by the general public and organizations in Rhode Island. Nominees must be Rhode Island residents who are at least 15 years of age and who have volunteered for a significant period of time. Nominations may be made through the Specials/Merit Award section of the Foundation's website, <http://www.rifoundation.org/>. Nomination forms also are available by calling Libby Monahan at the Foundation at 274-4564. The next nomination deadline is October 1, 2006.

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