



Contact: Jessica Estevez
(727) 568-9333
jestevez@communitytampabay.org

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www.communitytampabay.org

ANYTOWN GRADUATE WINS LEADERSHIP AWARD!

Largo, April 2006 – Devon Grimmé, a graduate of Community Tampa Bay’s Anytown program won the prestigious Sheila Keller Award for Youth Leadership. The award recognizes elementary, middle, and high school students who have made significant contributions to respect for diversity in their schools. Devon also won the Anne Frank Humanitarian Award in 2005 through the Florida Holocaust Museum for his dedication to teaching members of all races and cultures to recognize the inherent worth and dignity of human life.

“It is not a coincidence that an Anytown graduate won this Award,” Jessica Estevez, Director of Programs at Community Tampa Bay, indicates, *“it attests to the power of Anytown which is truly a life-changing experience.”*

A senior at East Lake High School in Tarpon Springs, Devon has been a leader of his school’s Multicultural Club for the last 4 years, alongside a demanding schedule of AP and Honors courses. Devon is also valedictorian for the 2006 graduating class.

Devon attributes his leadership role to his Anytown experience: *“I owe my life, as I know it today, to the week I spent growing, learning, and maturing there. That week transformed me from an impressionable child into an analytical, socially responsible and open-minded young adult. When I correct my friends and peers on racist jokes and ignorant comments, and when I think about the change I have made, and the changes I will make in the future, I know that it was the right thing to do...”*

Anytown is Community Tampa Bay’s 5-day residential youth leadership and diversity awareness program. Over 3,500 students have graduated from Anytown since the program was first launched in 1991. In Pinellas County, the program is funded by the School System, the Juvenile Welfare Board of Pinellas County and St. Petersburg Police.

Community Tampa Bay is still accepting applications for its upcoming Anytown season. Interested? Apply online at www.communitytampabay.org or call (727)-568-9333.

