



2009 New Jersey State Jefferson Awards



Daria Placitella, Executive Vice President, Eastern Region, PNC Wealth Management honoree Byron Yake and Nancy Hamilton, Community Foundation of New Jersey



From left: Gayle Griffin, John Goldsmith, Honoree Byron Yake (front center) and Myrtis Yake

“Do you know someone who makes a difference in your community?”

If you do, then nominate them for the prestigious Jefferson Award by visiting www.nj.com/jeffersonawards

Jefferson Awards honor ordinary people who, through public service and volunteerism efforts, do extraordinary things for other people, their community, their nation, or the environment.



Linda Bowden, President
PNC Northern New Jersey

Honoree Byron Yake

Byron Yake of West Orange was nominated by Ann Frechette for creating Write on Sports, an alternative education program that inspires middle school children to improve writing skills through their passion for sports. Students are given a real world reporting and interviewing experience -- writing articles, developing videos, and creating blogs during the course. Byron has raised more than \$230,000 to operate the Write on Sports camps at no charge to students, and hopes to expand the program to offer summer camps in more towns and to conduct after school programs. Through his efforts, Byron Yake has been able to “light a fire in the hearts and minds of the young students we are counting on to become the next generation of responsible and productive citizens.”

To read the full essay and to learn more about this year's honorees, please visit www.nj.com/helpinghands/jeffersonawards

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