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CITY YEAR GREATER PHILADELPHIA

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PHILADELPHIA EAGLES PRESIDENT JOE BANNER RECEIVES TOP CITY YEAR AWARD

Joe Banner is often in the headlines as the Eagles' chief operating officer. Tuesday he made news because of his other passion—City Year Greater Philadelphia.

PHILADELPHIA, Pa. May 12—Joe Banner is a passionate man who takes his football seriously. While winning the Super Bowl for loyal Philadelphia fans is his number one priority, he spends much of his free time helping young people dedicate their lives to serving others. As founder of the Philadelphia Chapter of City Year, where students dedicate a year to work as tutors and mentors in some of the city's toughest neighborhoods, Banner provides the same focus and insight that has made the Eagles one of the most impressive organizations in the NFL. He can be found meeting with local CEOs to encourage their corporations to sponsor corps member teams, lobbying Congress for AmeriCorps funding, helping build playgrounds in inner-city schools, and leading the branding effort for City Year nationally.

On Tuesday this hands-on believer and tireless devote of national service was awarded City Year's highest honor—the *2009 Lifetime of Idealism Award*. At an event in the Crystal Tea Room in Philadelphia, 900 people joined in honoring a man who has literally changed the lives of thousands of City Year Corps members, as well as helped bring the national service movement to Philadelphia.

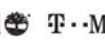
In 1995, Banner came to Philadelphia from Boston, where he and Eagles owner Jeffrey Lurie were boyhood friends. After selling the clothing business he started with his father, he was looking for a non-profit organization to get involved. He was at heart a volunteer. Even as a teenager, Banner was a mentor, and as an adult, spent many hours volunteering his time by reading to sick children in the hospital, and being a Big Brother. When he met two young Harvard Law graduates—Michael Brown and Alan Khazei, he was impressed with their idea to start a non-profit that would encourage young people to serve their country by taking a year to “save the world.” Today, City Year is one of the largest national service advocates in America and around the world with 19 chapters in the U.S. along with a site in South Africa.

In 1997, Banner led a Philadelphia delegation that went to Boston, met with City Year's leadership, and secured the commitments to launch a site in Philadelphia. In the past 12 years City Year Greater Philadelphia has grown to be the largest City Year site in the network, and has led the way in developing more advanced models for service and fundraising, as well as new ways to establish public-private partnerships within the community.

- more -



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“Joe’s incredible leadership, as both the co-chair of the City Year Greater Philadelphia Advisory Board and as a member of the City Year National Board of Trustees, has helped make CYGP one of the largest and most successful Americorps programs in the country to date and helped to expand the national service movement from coast to coast,” said Jim Balfanz, Chief Operating Officer, City Year, Inc., and the CYGP Executive Director from 1997-2005.

Among the dignitaries attending tonight’s event were: Mayor Michael Nutter, PA Treasurer Rob McCord, former U.S. Senator Harris Wofford, Philadelphia Eagles owners Jeffrey and Christine Lurie, Eagles coach Andy Reid and his wife Tammy, former 76ers General Manager Billy King, David Girard-DiCarlo of Blank Rome, Brian Tierney of Philadelphia Media Holdings, Richard Green of Firstrust Bank, and many others.

The honorary chairman of the event include: Governor Edward G. Rendell; Senator Arlen Specter; Mayor Nutter; Senator Robert Casey; Brian L. Roberts; Andy Reid and others.

Past winners of the award include; former U.S Senator Harris Wofford; David L. Cohen of Comcast; Bill McDermott of SAP; Brian Tierney of Philadelphia Media Holdings; Richard Green of Firstrust Bank; and Warren “Pete” Musser.

City Year is a nonprofit organization built on the belief that young people can change the world. In Philadelphia, City Year annually supports 225 young leaders aged 17-24 who serve on teams in 26 public schools across the city, tutoring, mentoring and providing academic and after school support to the city’s children. Since 1997, City Year has had nearly 2000 corps members who have served a combined 2.75 million service hours and reached more than 125,000 school-aged children.

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