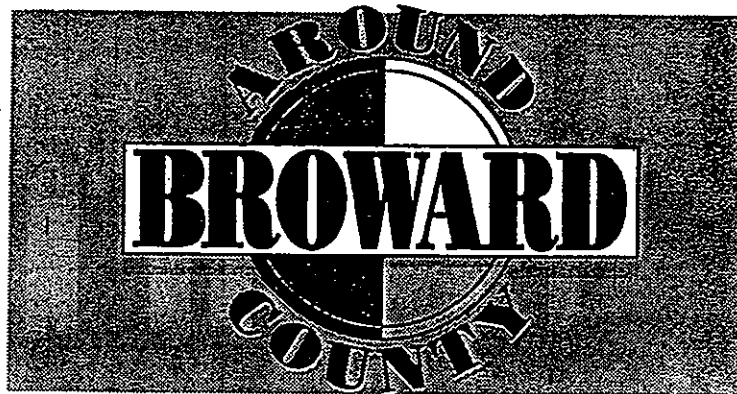


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FORT LAUDERDALE

Pine Crest student receives national award

Eric Perlyn from Pine Crest School in Fort Lauderdale was named one of Florida's top youth volunteers in the national Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program Tuesday.

The nationwide program recognizes outstanding self-initiated community service by America's youth. It was launched last fall by The Prudential Insurance Company of America in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP).

Each Florida honoree will receive a silver medallion and a \$1,000 award and will participate in a national recognition event in May in Washington, D.C.

Perlyn, 18, was recognized for founding Stepp'n Up, a non-profit organization that has provided new shoes to needy children in Florida for more than five years. Working with shoe manufacturers and local shoe stores, Perlyn has helped provide new shoes to more than 5,000 children.

A total of 104 students from each of the 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico were honored.