

# ARCHBISHOP MAY SERVICE AWARD WINNERS – *Where Are They Now?*

**CURTIS STRUBINGER –**  
2010 awardee

1. Was there a key influence at Duchesne that prompted you to be so interested and involved in service? Please give specifics if possible.

My influence, one who I likely share with many alums, is Ron Kjar. Mr. Kjar was a force of personality who always drove the members of Key Club to do more and to be more. I joined Key Club a few weeks into my freshman year at Duchesne and Mr. Kjar pushed me to seek leadership positions within the organization at the national level.

For Mr. Kjar, as anyone who spent time with him knows, the world was black and white: there was a right way to do everything, including service. Even though those with whom we worked did not pay us, we owed them our best in order to recognize their dignity as humans. Whether it was the number of leeks in a soup for a meal for the St. Charles Council of the Blind or the way to serve cake at the Boone Center Christmas party, Mr. Kjar demanded that we did our work with an attention to detail that our “clients” deserved.

2. Have you continued to be involved in service in your life after Duchesne? Please give a few examples, if possible.

I am actively involved with Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Triangle in Durham, NC. My wife encouraged me to get involved with the organization, and I have the privilege of being a Big Brother to a 4<sup>th</sup> grader. The experience mostly involves losing at flag football and playing video games, but it is incredibly rewarding.

I have served with the American Legion Boys State of Missouri for 8 years. I attended this program after junior year of high school, and have served ever since as a counselor on the volunteer staff. I am grateful to serve with two other Duchesne alumni, Shane Loewenstein and Mike Deluvia.

Lastly, through the law school, I do pro bono work representing local nonprofit organizations and providing counsel on tax strategy, fundraising, and overall legal

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structure. My goal through this work is to affect change at a broader level by providing sound, free legal advice in order to allow philanthropists and social entrepreneurs to get something done without getting slowed down by legal minutia. As I graduate, I plan to continue an active pro bono practice in addition to my career with my law firm.

**3. We know you've done a lot for others; what do you feel you've gained in the time you've spent in the service of others? What have you taken away from the experience(s)?**

I have learned that, when it comes to making an impact, there is no substitute for action. It often seems that many believe the issues facing our society can be solved with a particularly clever Facebook post or a persistent political agenda., I have found that the problems that affect the most vulnerable populations in our nation aren't likely to make the list of hot-button social issues that make the headlines. Rather, the issues that affect so many households—stagnant incomes, the rising costs of health care, unequal educational opportunities—require long hours of work far from the limelight.

On a personal level, I have gained an appreciation for those in my life who have served me. Whenever I spend time serving others, I am reminded of the incredible group of people who have served me—for my Grandmother who raised 4 children (one with special needs) after she was widowed as a young woman, for my incredible patient and supportive wife who consoles me after every Cardinals loss, for my parents who raised me, and many more.

**Please let us know what you are doing now.**

I am in my third year of law school at Duke. My wife (Cameron) and I currently live in the Raleigh-Durham area, where she works as a CPA. After graduation, we will be moving to Charlotte, NC, where I will go to work for Robinson, Bradshaw, and Hinson P.A. and focus my practice on tax law, mergers and acquisitions, and investment fund formation.

