

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

**TYLER MERKLE — 2011 awardee** (Tyler is at the far left in this group photo)



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

The Key Club was my main influence in becoming interested in service. I was looking for ways to become involved at DHS beyond sports. I had friends from grade school that were sophomores in the Club when I was an incoming freshman. Everyone talked about how great the comradery was between the members. We got to work with some of the most involved charities in St. Louis over a broad spectrum of causes

(hunger, homeless, poverty, etc). That was appealing to me and ultimately lead to me applying for the Archbishop May Award.

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

Yes. At the University of Missouri, I immediately began looking for my next “Key Club”. I joined a business fraternity within the college of business, Alpha Kappa Psi. A strong focus was on professional development and philanthropy. I worked with Columbia Second Chance Dog Shelter, Girls on the Run, and The Food Bank of Central Missouri. Post college, my colleagues and I work with Ronald McDonald House and Operation Food Search in St. Louis.

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)?

An open mind has been the biggest take-away. I studied abroad in India in college and I believe that decision was largely driven by my experiences and how I was shaped during my time in the Key Club. India has more poverty than most can fathom and seeing that first hand is eye opening. Remembering to have an open mind has served me well in high school, college, and in my professional/personal life.