

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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National Emergency
Number Association



**FOUR NATIONAL “9-1-1 HEROES” HONORED—YOUNG CHILDREN
NOMINATED FOR CALLING 9-1-1 TO SAVE LIVES/PROPERTY**

National Association Works to Raise 9-1-1 Awareness

COLUMBUS, Ohio (June 18, 2001)—Four young children will be honored June 18 during a National ceremony recognizing their bravery and life saving efforts. The National Emergency Number Association (NENA) and 9-1-1 for Kids are sponsoring the National 9-1-1 Heroes Program to honor children who called 9-1-1 correctly when confronted with an emergency situation.

NENA, with the help of its Illinois, Texas, Florida and North Carolina Chapters, located the child heroes and is sponsoring their trips to the NENA Annual Conference and Trade Show in Orlando where the event will take place at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, June 26. (Event details follow.)

“Educating our children about the proper use of 9-1-1 is a key part of what makes our Nation’s public safety response system work,” said Norman Forshee, NENA President. “These children have shown that everyone can make a difference when 9-1-1 is used properly to save lives and property.” Forshee will present the children with awards and letters of commendation from Governor Jeb Bush.

The NENA Annual Conference and Trade Show is the largest event dedicated to educating 9-1-1 professionals from the US and Internationally. With over 2,000 conference attendees, this event brings 9-1-1 together to discuss critical issues and plan for the future. Conference highlights include: the National 9-1-1 Heroes Program, debut of the Wireless 9-1-1 Certification Program, 9-1-1 Strategic Vision Panel, 2001 William Stanton Award.

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About NENA:

NENA is the only organization dedicated solely to the promotion and implementation of 9-1-1 as America’s universal emergency number. NENA’s mission is to foster the development and implementation of 9-1-1 as a universal emergency number. NENA has more than 7,000 members, most

of whom manage over 6,000 9-1-1 centers that answer and process emergency calls. As an integral part of its mission, NENA also develops recommended standards and practices for 9-1-1 centers and manufacturers of 9-1-1 equipment. Visit NENA online at www.nena.org.

About 9-1-1 for Kids:

The 9-1-1 for Kids® Heroes Program was designed to honor the efforts of children who call 9-1-1 for the correct reasons and help create greater awareness of our emergency network in our community. 9-1-1 for Kids® is a non-profit organization that dedicates its time and resources to education children on how to use our 9-1-1 emergency system to save lives and property. This is accomplished with the 9-1-1 for Kids® Classroom Kit, a comprehensive program that focuses on three important points: how to dial 9-1-1, what to say to the 9-1-1 dispatcher, and when to call. For more information, contact Melanie Poon at (626) 574-8527.

NENA & 9-1-1 for Kids

National 9-1-1 Heroes Event

WHAT: The National Emergency Number Assn. (NENA) and 9-1-1 for Kids will honor four young “heroes” who called 9-1-1 correctly when confronted by an emergency situation. The names of the heroes and a description of their 9-1-1 calls are:

- **Brandon Pope**, age 5 (*when call was made*) from *Centralia, IL* called 9-1-1 from a wireless phone when his mother suffered a seizure and fell. Brandon had never used or was instructed on how to use a wireless phone. While wireless callers cannot currently be located by 9-1-1, Brandon quickly gave the dispatcher the address and help was on the way.
- **Ethan Heard**, age 9 from *Arlington, TX*, called 9-1-1 when his stepbrother was found unconscious in the family pool. Ethan alerted his father who then pulled the little boy from the pool and started CPR.
- **Johnny Carr**, age 6 from *Milton, FL*, called 9-1-1 when his father had exhausted his oxygen supply and could not breathe.
- **Michael Mathis**, age 7 from *Lexington, NC* called 9-1-1 when his mother suffered a seizure and became unconscious while driving. Michael also pulled the car over to the side of the road.

WHEN: Tuesday, June 26, 2001 at 10:00 a.m.

WHERE: **Orlando World Center Marriott, Grand Ballroom**
8701 World Center Drive
Orlando, FL 32821
(407) 239-4200

VISUAL: Norman Forshee, NENA President, will present 9-1-1 Heroes medal to each child and describe the 9-1-1 call and emergency situation. Rap singer J Flexx will sing the 9-1-1 rap song. Orlando Boys and Girls club members will participate.

WHO: Sonya Carius, NENA Communications Manager, (800) 332-3911; Mark Adams, Executive Director, NENA; Elise Kim, National Executive Director, 9-1-1 for Kids®