

Downingtown Ledger
Local woman honored with National Service Award
By: Nick Browne, Editor
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For some, all the hard work they put in and loads of time they donate for non-profit organizations goes unnoticed.

For Downingtown resident Hillary DeLone, she was recognized on a national level.

DeLone was recently awarded the national Daily Point of Light Award. The award honors individuals and volunteer groups that have made a commitment to connect Americans through service to help meet critical needs in their communities. DeLone received the honor thanks to her work with the local non-profit, Mommy's Light Lives On Fund, an organization that brings joy and comfort to children and teens whose mothers are terminally ill or have died by helping them keep alive family traditions and simple pleasures.

"Hillary became active in Mommy's Light after she faced a serious health illness which she fortunately overcame," said Laura Munts, Executive Director of Mommy's Light, who nominated DeLone for the award. "In turn, Hillary has dedicated tremendous time and effort to helping families who are not as fortunate as hers - families in which mothers have died," "Mommy's Light is very lucky to have Hillary as our 5K Race Chair, go-to fundraiser, and friend and we are thrilled she has been recognized for the tremendous person she is."

The Daily Point of Light Award focuses on the goals for children and youth set by the President's Summit for America's Future. Each weekday, one volunteer or volunteer effort in the country receives a Daily Point of Light Award.

DeLone received a certificate in the mail, as well as a plaque recognizing her outstanding service from President George W. Bush. DeLone has worked tirelessly in her support of Mommy's Light and was key in organizing the first Mommy's Light Lives On Fund 5K Race fundraiser in 2005. The fundraiser is used to raise money to assist in providing direct services and bereavement education materials to children whose mothers have died.

DeLone and her race team raised more than \$20,000 in sponsorships in the first year of a very local race, and more than 230 people participated.

The second 5K Race garnered over 700 participants and more than \$30,000 in sponsorships. DeLone also single-handedly recruited MC3, a video production company in West Chester, to donate their services to produce Mommy's Light's groundbreaking DVD When a Mother Dies...Breaking Down the Walls of Silence.

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