

John Edward Pevy

“There is a saying among outdoor enthusiasts regarding their responsibility to the world: ‘Always leave a campsite better than you found it.’ It conveys the importance of improving your surroundings without requiring a reason or reward, irrespective of the circumstances that might befall you on any given day. Few people would say John Pevy is anything less than a model camper in this regard,” writes one student.

Another states, “John exemplifies what it means to have a heart for service, as well as for those being served.” John is a charter member of Advocates for the Homeless, a service organization created to foster relationships among Rhodes students and the Memphis homeless population, and to raise awareness about the needs of homeless people. He’s also served as a coordinator and regular volunteer at the Rhodes student-run soup kitchen.

Yet another student reminds us, “John worked tirelessly this past year to plan and coordinate an appearance by social activist Jonathan Kozol, who—mostly through John’s efforts—lectured at Rhodes on educational injustice in the United States.”

During the past two years, John served on the steering team that led spring break trips to Costa Rica and Dominican Republic. A student writes that “John’s passion for poverty-stricken people not only inspires Rhodes students, but has also been recognized at the national level. Most notably, John has been named a recipient of the Emerson National Hunger Fellowship, a postgraduate fellowship presented by the Congressional Hunger Center.”

Other students have said, “Algernon Sydney Sullivan, himself, was noted for having ‘reached out both hands in constant helpfulness to all.’ John exemplifies this quality of selflessness by taking what once was a small interest in serving the homeless and allowing it to grow into a lifelong desire to serve them, not only personally but at the congressional level. John’s story and legacy serve as a guide to many who have claimed to be inspired by his drive ‘to fix hunger and homelessness.’ ”

For his love of service and for those served, it is my pleasure to recognize John Pevy as the male Algernon Sydney Sullivan award recipient for the class of 2011.

William E. Troutt, President
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