



Cathy Erickson (l) of Yankee Cable Network's Kearsarge Valley Magazine interviews Meredith Cline about the People To People Student Ambassador program. The interview aired on Andover's Cable Channel 8 and can now be seen at Video.Google.Com. Photo: Don Cline

## Meredith Cline Chosen People To People Student Ambassador

By Lorraine Cline  
For the Beacon

Meredith Cline, an eighth grade student at Andover Elementary/Middle School, has been selected as a student ambassador for the People To People Student Ambassador Program.

Meredith was chosen based upon her demonstration of leadership, citizenship, and a desire to learn about diverse cultures. This July, Meredith and 37 other student ambassadors will travel throughout Europe as representatives of the United States in the name of peace, friendship, and understanding.

The three-week exchange will consist of meetings with government officials, interaction with foreign students, educational enrichment activities, and home stays with host families. The trip will begin in the United Kingdom with a visit to Parliament, The Tower of London, and Buckingham Palace.

The delegation will then travel via ferry to France, where they will study World Wars I and II, trace D-Day events at Normandy and the graves at Flanders Field, and visit the Eiffel Tower and the Louvre. Next stop on their itinerary will be Brussels, Belgium, the capital of the European Union and headquarters for NATO, where the students will visit a Belgian Chocolate factory.

The delegation will then explore The Netherlands, where they will visit The Hague, study global justice, and learn about the short, yet significant, life of Anne Frank. The student ambassadors will then leave for Germany traveling by canal boat, where they will explore the Black Forest and live for three days with a German host family.

The final destination on the itinerary is Switzerland, where the student ambassadors will discover Switzerland's four main languages. The delegation will venture on to Zurich, where they will learn about international banking and finance.

"As an ambassador, I can earn high school and college credit because of the many educational aspects offered in the

program," says Meredith. "This experience will increase my understanding of the world and give me the opportunity to meet people from different cultures and learn about new places, languages, and customs.

"This knowledge will help me become a better person – someone who can give back to my community, having the perspective and understanding of other people. At the same time, I will have the opportunity to teach people about American values and share with them our customs and culture."

The program tuition, which includes transportation, meals, accommodations, and educational activities, is \$5,683. Meredith is seeking sponsorships and/or scholarships to help cover her tuition. Contributions from family and her own savings, have totaled \$3,400. She needs to raise the remaining \$2,200 by May 1. Individuals and/or business interested in sponsoring Meredith can contact her or her parents at 648-6477. Checks can be made payable to: People to People Programs.

### Program Background

In 1956, President Dwight D. Eisenhower called a special White House conference of American leaders, who joined him in creating the People to People initiative. As a result, the People to People mission developed around personal exchanges and firsthand experiences with other cultures. President Eisenhower believed that ordinary citizens of different nations, if able to communicate directly, would solve their differences and find a way to live in peace.

Since 1963, Student Ambassador Programs has taken thousands of young Americans across international borders. Venturing abroad or on our own continent, Student Ambassadors return home with a greater sense of what it means to be a good neighbor and a global citizen. As Student Ambassadors and leaders travel under the banner of People to People, they represent the best of our country: hope, courage, openness, and a love of peace.

## HONORED: Kaitlyn Anderson

By Michael Jette  
Principal, MVHS

Sixteen seniors at Merrimack Valley High School were recently recognized as outstanding female scholar athletes at a ceremony attended by Governor John Lynch. Kaitlyn Anderson of Andover was one of these honored young women.

The criteria for this distinction is

having at least a B+ average, have lettered in at least two New Hampshire Interscholastic Athletic Association sports, and must be a positive role model with active community service. Over 600 young women from schools around the state were recognized, and MVHS had the fourth highest number of qualified students.

## BORN Annika Elizabeth Candace Green

Karine, Stuart, and William Green are delighted to announce the birth of Annika Elizabeth Candace Green on September 29, 2006 at 8:33 AM. Annika weighed seven pounds, 13 ounces and measured 19.1 inches. The family currently lives in Washington DC, but their home base is Andover.



### Hope from page 24

Bader says, "Our mission is to ensure that no soldier feels unloved."

In an effort to provide comfort to the wounded heroes, the First Response Backpack was developed. The First Response Backpack is a backpack stuffed with necessary personal items. When a soldier is wounded, often his personal things take a long time to catch up with him at the hospital. A typical First Response Backpack contains a toothbrush, toothpaste, comb, shampoo, soap and other hygiene products. It also contains articles of clothing and undergarments

to provide the soldier some relief from the airy hospital gowns. A phone card is included so the soldiers can call family members while they recover.

Each pack also contains a blanket. The blanket, dubbed a "Blanket of Hope" is handmade by Soldiers' Angels volunteers and is accompanied by a note of well wishes for each soldier.

To learn more about Soldiers Angels and Blankets of Hope, visit [SoldiersAngels.org](http://SoldiersAngels.org).

### Donate!

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