

# CORSE to give new award at gala Saturday

By Benjamin Brown

**Wicked Local Scituate**

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At this year's **Community of Resources for Special Education** fifth annual gala fundraiser — Saturday, Oct. 2, from 6:30 to 11:30 p.m. at Scituate Country Club — CORSE organizers will present the new Compass Award for the first time.

The award is designed to recognize outstanding community members who help make the organization what it has become. According to the written criteria, as read by CORSE president Tracy Johnston, the award is given to “a member of the community who leads by example and demonstrates a commitment of compassion to children with special needs and their families.”

The inaugural recipients are two sets of siblings, Kathleen and Bridget Burke and Josh and Zach Sogolow.

“Last year, we were talking about what went well and what we could do better, and one of the ideas that came out is that the community gives us a lot of support, so how can we go back and recognize individuals who’ve gone above and beyond,” Johnston said. “Then we came up with what we’re calling the Compass Award.”

She said the choice to choose these four teens was obvious.

“This year we felt strongly that there were four teenagers in the community who go above and beyond in working for us,” said Johnston. “Even if they’re not being paid, they still come and volunteer and work for us.”

The Burkes and Sogolows become such a regular sight at CORSE events that children participating in the program look forward to seeing them as volunteers.

“Their eyes light up every time they see them,” Johnston said. “They’re just models for being mentors for these kids.”

Johnston called this year’s choice an obvious one, but said she’s looking forward to who receives the award next year. It doesn’t always have to be youths, she said.

“It will probably be different every year,” said Johnston. “We’re just excited to get it started up, and it will be interesting to see who we come up with each year. It can be anybody: community members, teachers, selectmen. We even talked about the harbormaster (Mark Patterson), because he was so great with the Maritime Adventures.”

The gala itself will be similar to previous years, complete with live and silent auctions, a 50-50 raffle and dancing. It's one of two main fundraisers that the organization holds a year, the other being the CORSE golf tournament. Because of the down economy, Johnston said the organization has budgeted less money than it's received in the past. This year, it's shooting for around \$18,000.

"But anything we get is really appreciated," she said.

As of Monday, tickets were still available for \$50 apiece, and a limited number will also be available at the door. If any group of 10 would like their own table, it may purchase one for \$400, but must notify Johnston by Friday morning, Oct. 1.

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