

PRESSRELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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Mayor Presents Award to Young Heroine

Michigan City, IN (July 14, 2003) – Mayor Chuck Oberlie presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Jessica McDonald today in City Hall in recognition of her heroic actions and quick thinking that saved the life of Christopher Barnack on June 13, 2003.

Fifteen-year-old Jessica and her cousin, 10-year-old Ryan Wingard, were entertaining 22-month-old Christopher Barnack at Ames Field when a bee stung the infant. Jessica said that Christopher cried briefly, and she applied a cool cloth to the sting. But just moments later, Jessica noticed that the baby was extremely pale and he seemed to be having trouble breathing. Christopher began breaking out in hives.

Jessica put Christopher in his stroller, and she and Ryan sprinted to St. Anthony Memorial Health Centers. She said that she and Ryan talked to and even resorted to yelling at Christopher to keep him conscious; when that wasn't working, Ryan wiggled him around

When they arrived at the hospital, emergency room physicians gave Christopher an injection and some oxygen, and in a short time he seemed to be breathing normally once again. The doctors said that Christopher's symptoms were caused by an anaphylactic reaction, a life-threatening condition in which blood pressure falls and airways close.

Jessica, who had taken a first-aid class in the fifth grade, had recognized the symptoms and knew Christopher was in danger. "I was nervous, and I was scared," Jessica said.

Mayor Oberlie said, "Many adults would have panicked in a situation like this one, but Jessica reacted so quickly and in exactly the right way, and she saved Christopher's life. Michigan City is honored to have Jessica as one of our young citizens, and we wanted to acknowledge her heroic actions."

Jessica received a framed certificate from Mayor Oberlie during a ceremony in the Mayor's office.

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