

In your own words, why does your nominee deserve recognition as a CNN Hero?

Our nominee, a young student in Saint Joseph High School, is Aurelien Duvignac. He is the president of the association named « Interact », which is located in Roquebrune-Cap-Martin, a little city on the French Riviera. He is the president so it's a very special position for a boy who is only sixteen years old. This involvement has taken an important place in his life. He and the association raise funds for poor countries in Africa i.e., Togo or South Africa. For example, two years ago, he helped pupils and children in a township in South Africa, next to Paarl. After his trip there, his outlook on life radically changed. He spends a lot of his time to help them. When it was Christmas time, he sold roses and cakes. For the moment, he is waiting for the response of the mayor of Menton, a city next to Roquebrune -Cap-Martin who should give him a place to sell citrus and oranges. So, we can say, that our nominee deserves recognition because he has a big heart for his age and he concretely acts !

Is there a specific incident or turning point that motivated your nominee to take action?

Our nominee has been the president of a charity for two years. Before that, he had already helped people in winter. The veritable incident which motivated him was the visit of a poor school in a township in Cape Town in South Africa. When he saw how poorly these children were living, he knew he had to put his heart and soul into the association in order to change their lives. He is unique because we were forty pupils on this trip and he was the only one to react and the only one who decided to help others. All of these events motivated him to take action and make him an exceptional nominee !

How have your nominee's efforts made a difference for the better?

All the “Interact” association’s or Aurélien’s plans help South African kids very much. The money he earns, be it selling lemons, roses and cakes, is given to South African schools to help them improve their infrastructures. Thanks to this help, lots of African children have had access to education and maybe a better future. I don’t know if he inspired other people, but I can say he is a model for everybody in our school and we should do the same to help people who need it. Our input is to send his nomination to you.

Is there anything else that makes your nominee exceptional or unique?

Aurélien is unique because he is very young to be the president of an association that helps children in South Africa. But he does not restrict himself to this, Aurélien also devotes himself to helping others who need help. For example, every Christmas he goes with his mother and gives soup and food to homeless people and poor people with another French association. In conclusion we can say Aurélien devotes all his life to others.

How will being recognized as a CNN Hero further your nominee's cause?

CNN is so popular a channel that, if my nominee is recognized a CNN Hero, his cause will be better-known and more people will join “Interact”, give more donations or just talk about it. As a consequence, Aurélien and “Interact” could help more people in need.