

Mentoring group honors Stow resident

STOW — Stow resident Kimberli Nelson, age 17, was presented with the "KELLY Award" \$5,000 scholarship at a breakfast ceremony at Fenway Park May 7.

Kimi was nominated by her mentor, Kimberly Kolloff, also a Stow resident. They have been matched for almost 10 years through Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Massachusetts/Metrowest.

Over the last decade Kimberly has watched Kimi develop from a timid third-grader to a confident and intelligent young woman. With personal determination and help from her mentor, Kimi overcame significant personal obstacles early in her life. By the time she reached middle school she began to excel academically and became an honor roll student in middle school and throughout high school. In her junior year, she decided she wanted

to go to college and law school so that she could become a lawyer and help those who couldn't afford legal representation.

During her junior year, Kimi maintained her honor roll status while she worked 30 hours a week to save money for college. As a senior, she enrolled in a dual certification program through which she finished high school a semester early and acquired 10 college credits.

"Kim is the best thing that has ever happened in my life, and because of her I have become a good-hearted positive young woman," Kimi said.

The KELLY award is a \$5,000 educational scholarship made possible by the Liberty Mutual Foundation and is the namesake of Liberty Mutual Chairman, President and CEO Ted Kelly and his wife Debbie, and was created by Mass Mentoring Partnership last year to



Courtesy photo

Debbie Kelly, wife of Liberty Mutual CEO Ted Kelly; Kimi Nelson, 17; and her mentor Kimberly Kolloff.

honor Kelly, a past board chair of Mass Mentoring Partnership, and to recognize his dedication to providing educational opportunities to youth.

