

DANIEL MANUEL - National Essay Winner

Daniel C. Manuel II, the son of Paula and Craig Manuel and a sophomore at Sacred Heart High School was selected as the winner of the March of Dimes Essay Contest. Daniel's involvement with the March of Dimes began during his freshman year through his FBLA chapter's fund-raising activities.



**Daniel Manuel &
Anna Eleanor Roosevelt**

As the winner, Daniel was invited to attend the March of Dimes 50th Anniversary Youth Volunteer Leadership National Conference in Washington DC on July 27-31, 2005. The conference provided Team Youth members from around the nation an opportunity to acquire skills in mission awareness, fund-raising, communications, advocacy, and leadership that will be crucial to their roles as March of Dimes volunteers.

While at the conference youth volunteers attended workshops, toured selected sites in Washington, DC and had the opportunity to hear testimonials from family and friends of premature babies. They also had the honor of meeting with Anna Eleanor Roosevelt, the granddaughter of Franklin D. Roosevelt.

FDR started the Foundation for Infantile Paralysis in 1938-seventeen years later in 1955 its funding allowed Dr. Jonas Salk

to find a cure for Polio. Instead of giving up after completing its mission, the foundation became the March of Dimes and aimed itself towards fighting prematurity, birth defects, and infant mortality.

Daniel said the entire conference experience was a wonderful opportunity to fight for a worthy cause, gain leadership abilities, and meet some great people.

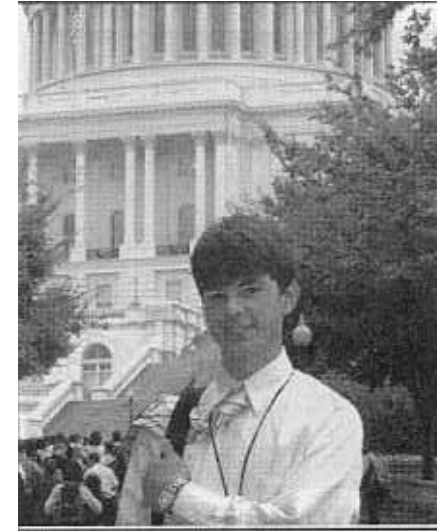
For more information on this issue, and what you can do to help this worthy cause, visit www.marchofdimes.com and www.walkamerica.org. Or visit Daniel's personal Walk America Website at www.walkamerica.org/DanielMn86

Hope for the Future by Daniel Manuel

In troubled times such as these, families with premature babies are able to turn to March of Dimes and get the help they need. With more

than thirteen-hundred babies born prematurely every day, the March of Dimes is a beacon of hope to families with post-natal difficulties. The cause of early birth is unknown, and worse is the fact that it affects more than four hundred thousand newborns a year! The side-effects are debilitating and aren't something a family with a new baby should be forced to experience.

This is why March of Dimes has the support of us, the youth. Since 1955's "Teens Against Polio" campaign, teenage volunteers have been the basis of the foundation, but what of the future of March of Dimes? I clearly see the future of the organization as a new hope, supporting causes such as babies with AIDS. Problems with newborns are the problems everyone shares, if it doesn't affect you, it affects someone else as their brother, sister, niece, or nephew. The only thing that is for certain in today's world is the hope and faith we have in each other. We must help those less fortunate, and if we all do our part, no matter how small, we can save lives, together. This is the future of March of Dimes, cooperation, teamwork, and leadership among young people, only together can we achieve our goals, and there is none more important than the healthy development of future generations. March of Dimes already has several programs not only allowing teens to volunteer but also to grow in leadership, an opportunity everyone should take advantage of. We must reach out



**Daniel Manuel
in front of the Capitol in
Washington, D.C.**

and stop this 'silent crisis' before it's too late. We need to discover the very cause of premature birth before it becomes worse, whether it's an environmental factor or not, we must speak up about the crisis that is happening now, so that way we can safely think about the future. The invitation to help isn't only extended to teens, but also college students, we all need to act out our role in this organization, volunteering to help the cause is a wonderful thing.

We all have a part to play in the future, let's start it now, so that their future is bright and hopeful. We are not only helping the babies, but their families. This crisis is a web starting with the babies, spreading to the families, then to friends. So, let's attack it at the source. March of Dimes, making the future brighter, one birth at a time. All thanks to teen volunteers.