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Alaska Youth Honored for Heroic Environmental Service Work

Boulder, CO, September 26, 2006 - Cheryl "Charlee" Lockwood, age 17, of Saint Michael, Alaska, is one of fifteen national youth recently named to the Gloria Barron Prize for Young Heroes' 2006 Honor Roll of Heroes. The Barron Prize honors outstanding young leaders who have made a significant positive difference to people and our planet.

Charlee is being honored for spearheading a youth petition drive with the Alaska Youth for Environmental Action program of the National Wildlife Federation. The petition asked state and national leaders to take action to reduce global warming. Charlee worked with schools all over Alaska, faxing them the petition and making presentations about the impacts of global warming on Alaska Natives. Her personal efforts resulted in the collection of 1,000 youth signatures from over ninety villages in the state. Charlee then traveled to Washington D.C. as part of a student delegation to hand-deliver the petition to Senator Lisa Murkowski and other members of Congress.

The Barron Prize was founded in 2001 by Colorado author T.A. Barron and was named for his mother, Gloria Barron. Each year, the Barron Prize selects ten winners and fifteen Honor Roll recipients nationwide. Half of the students honored have focused on helping their communities and fellow human beings; half have focused on protecting the health and sustainability of the environment.

"Nothing is more inspiring than stories about heroic people who have truly made a difference to the world," says Barron. "And we need our heroes today more than ever. Not celebrities, but heroes -- people whose character can inspire us all. That is the purpose of the Gloria Barron Prize: to share positive examples of heroism with as many young people as possible."

"Because so many youth from so many villages have signed this petition, I really feel like I am helping others," Charlee said of her involvement in the campaign. "By speaking to other youth about global warming, I have given other people the courage to speak up."

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