

Andrews, Hansen honorees of 2018 Ted Gruszkowski Jr. Youth Star Award

Andre Andrews and Joey Hansen are the 2018 recipients of the prestigious NCAUSBCA Ted Gruszkowski Jr. Youth Star Award, which is named in honor of the late association Hall of Fame member who was a strong supporter of area youth bowling. The announcement of this year's winners took place January 21 at Crofton Bowling Centre during the NCAUSBCA 49th Annual Youth Invitational Scratch Singles Tournament.

The award winners, honored for their bowling achievement and/or service to youth bowling, each were presented with a plaque and \$200 in scholarship funds, which will be administered through the USBC SMART program. In addition, their names appear on the plaque that contains the names of the 22 previous award recipients.

ANDRE ANDREWS • Washington, D.C.

Even though his dad, sisters, brothers, and aunt also grew up in a bowling environment, Andre Andrews's interest was not peaked until he was 11 years old. His first league was the Guys and Dolls, and he advanced all the way to the Teenpinners at AMF Capital Plaza.

Bowling didn't come naturally to Andre, since he had to make adaptations to bowl. He and his mother both realized that having his own equipment would help his game, and he became fully vested and interested in the sport and has been bowling ever since. Andre left Capital Plaza, joined the Silver Hill Strikers, and

he currently bowls at Potomac Lanes. His current book average is 146, with a high game of 200 at Capital Plaza and top series of 507 at Potomac Lanes.

Andre always has

enjoyed being a part of anything that has to do with bowling. He takes advantage of every opportunity to watch, compete, and he helps in any capacity he can. Andre has unselfishly given of his time to assist and support the activities of the NCAUSBCA, helping with 50/50 raffles at the Open, Women's, and Senior Championship tournaments, helping with Ways and Means, brackets, and even collecting score sheets at the Youth Invitational Scratch Singles Tournament.

He has attended the association's annual Hall of Fame Induction & Dinner Celebration along with his mother for at least 15 years and attends the annual association meetings for both youth and adults, both local and Virginia State. He has bowled in the Vern Burke, Adult/Youth, Youth City, and Youth Virginia State tournaments. He also has bowled in the Youth Sweepers and Youth/Adult Holiday Doubles. He is a member of the TNBA and bowls in their Eastern Regional Tournament. Andre has helped his aunt, Eugenia McDonald, with the D.C.'s Finest Tournament for the past eight years, verifying averages from other associations as well as collecting and distributing score sheets and helping with 50/50 and bowling ball raffles.

Not only does Andre participate in local bowling activities, he enjoys traveling and learning about bowling. He has attended at least five national conventions and today serves as a director for NCAUSBCA and also has been elected as a delegate to attend the USBC Convention.

When Andre was not bowling, he participated in robotics in high school and enjoyed being able to watch the competitions, continuing to support his high school annually. Andre was valedictorian of his middle school class and ranked fourth in high school. He now attends the University of the District of Columbia Community College, majoring in accounting.

Andre exemplifies all the qualities of service to the association and its youth programs. He has the determination and willingness to succeed in everything he does, striving to conquer and overcome any obstacles. Andre is determined to be the best he can be, no matter what it is, despite his limitations.

His ultimate goal was to achieve the 150 average needed to participate in the Youth Invitational Tournament, for which he successfully accomplished in 2018. His next goal is to implement a Junior Leaders Bowling Program.

All of the above qualities merit Andre Andrews the NCAUSBCA Ted Gruszkowski Jr. Youth Star Award.



Andre Andrews and Youth Invitational Tournament Manager Robin Hollyfield

JOEY HANSEN • Bristow, Virginia

Joey Hansen, 18, currently is a freshman at Northern Virginia Community College and majors in computer science. He excels in school, having been accepted into the Gifted and Talented Program in high school, and he has received the U.S. Presidential Academic Achievement Award for demonstrating academic excellence. Due to his academic achievement of earning a 3.5 grade point average, he is both lettered in academics and was accepted into the National Society of High School Scholars.

Joey is committed to involvement in his community by volunteering weekly on the Welcome Team at The Life Church, Manassas. In this role, he greets church members for Sunday morning church service and assists with setting up for the following service.



Joey Hansen

He is also a Junior Staff Representative with Creating the Difference (CtD). Joey is a shining example of the CtD Company core values of *Positive Thinking*, *Follow Your Passion*, *Focus on Solutions*, *Seek Wisdom*.

Joey, who began bowling at age 10, has an impressive record, including a book average of 224, while currently averaging 228. He has two certified 300 games, and his highest sanctioned set is 799 on games of 247, 263, and 289.

Joey qualified for and attended the Junior Gold Championships from 2013-2016 and has also attended the Danny Wiseman Scholarship Tournament the past few years. In 2014, Joey placed third in the NCAUSBCA Youth Invitational Scratch Singles and then went on to demonstrate an impressive win in the U15 division of the Pepsi USBC Youth Virginia State Championships.

Last year, Joey placed 10th in the Invitational, eighth in the NCAUSBCA 600 Club Tournament of Champions, and third in November's NCAUSBCA 600 Club Doubles. He also has qualified for the past two 600 Club Tournament of Champions. In April 2016, Joey had the opportunity to participate in a pro-am, bowling with and being coached by professionals, which was an impactful experience for him. This past summer, his team finished first in the Youth Draft League.

This past season, Joey bowled both of his perfect games, traveled to a Pennsylvania Junior Bowlers Tournament, made the cut for the first time at Danny Wiseman, and won the Youth Doubles Tournament at Bowl America Bull Run with Sam Anderson.

Joey's high level of academic achievement, extracurricular activities, church involvement, and close-knit family all require a significant amount of time and energy to which he steadfastly devotes. In addition to all of these important commitments, Joey consistently maintains a deep and far-reaching dedication to bowling, practicing weekly, maintaining involvement on a travel league since 2013, participating in multiple tournaments throughout the year, and making the time to assist younger bowlers. He continues to hone his bowling skills in a positive and enthusiastic manner.

Joey Hansen exemplifies the commitment, discipline, and passion for which the NCAUSBCA Ted Gruszkowski Jr. Youth Star Award stands.

Past NCAUSBCA Ted Gruszkowski Jr. Youth Star Award recipients

2008 — Eric Helmrich, Adam Mitchell, Allen Windsor

2009 — Alonso "A.J." Kinney Jr.

2010 — Malcolm James

2011 — Jason Eman, Brandon Lowe, Kayla Meadows

2012 — Zahir Holmes

2013 — Conner Kolesides

2014 — Gene Blair, Nicholas Dean, Michael Simpson

2015 — Samuel Anderson, Tabitha DeBat,
Amara Speights

2016 — Cayla Davidson, Brandon Driver,
David Zweiban

2017 — Jarrett DeFalco, Deborah Epps,
Thomas Rush