



Press Release

For Immediate Release

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For Disabled Children, a Dream Come True

**Friday, April 11, 4:30 p.m.
Washington State Convention & Trade Center**

ARLINGTON, VA, MARCH 18, 2003—They are often the children left behind, the losers. But on Friday, April 11, 27 children with disabilities – some for the first time in their lives – will be awarded for their accomplishments. These children have succeeded in spite of their disabilities. Their achievements range from athletics to the arts to community service to living independently. Their disabilities range from blindness to autism to cerebral palsy to learning disabilities.

Each child will have that special moment in the spotlight as he or she is presented with a special statue and the audience learns of the individual's accomplishments. **A reception for the children and their parents will be held at 6 – 7:30 p.m. in Rooms 602-604, Washington State Convention and Trade Center.** There, the children will be treated to an interactive demonstration by service dogs and allowed to play with the dogs afterwards.

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The children are being honored by the Yes I Can Foundation for Exceptional Children, which is an arm of the Council for Exceptional Children. Each year, 27 children are selected for the awards from thousands of applicants. Since 1982, when the program was initiated, more than 30,000 children and youth have been honored with the Yes I Can award.

The Council for Exceptional Children, a professional association for special educators, works to improve the educational success of individuals with disabilities and/or gifts and talents. The Council represents members serving more than 5 million students with disabilities and 2.5 million gifted students.

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