

Hon. Steve R. Ohmer
Presiding Judge



Matt Murphy
Public Information Officer
mmurphy@courts.mo.gov
314.622.5685

MISSOURI CIRCUIT COURT
TWENTY-SECOND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
Carnahan Courthouse, Room 805
1114 Market Street
St. Louis, MO 63101

October 28, 2011

Circuit Judge Selected by PEOPLE Magazine

The editors of PEOPLE magazine have selected St. Louis Juvenile Court Judge Jimmie Edwards as one of the publication's 'Heroes of the Year' for 2011. Judge Edwards was profiled in a recent issue of the magazine and the announcement comes in the November 7, 2011 issue, which is on newsstands today.

"We chose men and women who reached across boundaries to help strangers or worked within their communities to deepen bonds. From Logan, Utah...to Judge Jimmie Edwards of St. Louis who started a school for wayward teens, the 2011 winners never let daunting odds stand in their way," said Managing Editor Larry Hackett.

In 2009, after watching a string of teen offenders come through his courtroom, Judge Edwards took action. Along with 45 community partners, he took over an abandoned school and opened the Innovative Concept Academy. Providing strict discipline, counseling and programs like chess, music and creative writing, the center has changed the lives of many young people, giving them the opportunity to graduate from high school and lead successful lives.

The six winners will each receive \$10,000 to use for their causes. The Academy will use the money for a new arts and drama program at the school.

"I am thrilled that our school has received this recognition but also amazed at the other individuals across America profiled by the magazine," said Judge Edwards. "Tom Timken helped lift a burning car to save a stranger's life in Utah. Lisa Nigro is feeding and educating



Chicago's homeless and Superintendent C.J. Huff had the massive task of reopening Joplin schools after this year's catastrophic tornado. This is the kind of extraordinary work being done by ordinary people every day in our country."

While the editors of PEOPLE selected five 'heroes,' the sixth was chosen by readers' votes and that honor goes to 21-year-old Gabriel Whaley, a University of North Carolina senior offering free soccer lessons in exchange for donations to needy families in his community.

St. Louis Circuit Court would like to thank PEOPLE magazine and their sponsor, Jeep, and reporter Jeff Truesdell for profiling the students and staff of the Innovative Concept Academy and for this very generous (and much-needed) donation.