**Jeffersontown girl who raises money for autism research gets national award**

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by Charlie White  
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Michala Riggle, a 13-year-old Jeffersontown girl who has raised about $350,000 to help autistic children in Louisville, has been honored with a national award.

Michala is one of 10 winners of the Gloria Barron Prize for Young Heroes, which includes $2,500 that young leaders can use for their higher education or service project.

Motivated by her younger brother Evan, who has autism, Michala began selling handmade, beaded bracelets for $3 each in 2007. She hopes to raise $300 million to build an autism research center in the city.

For more information on Michala’s project, go to [www.beadingtobeatautism.org](http://www.beadingtobeatautism.org).