

# Double amputee honored with Young Heroes award

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**L**osing his limbs due to a bacterial infection at an early age taught Pompano Beach resident Michael Stolzenberg the importance of being able to persevere when life takes an unexpected turn.

So when the 14-year-old double amputee saw others in a similar situation on the news as a result of the Boston Marathon bombing, he immediately began thinking of how he could help.

Along with his brothers Justin and Harris, the trio decided to enter the 2014 Boston Marathon and starting seeking out sponsors. They created a website and T-shirts for their campaign, which they dubbed 'Mikey's Run.'

Soon enough, the trio's efforts began to spread. As a result, the brothers raised \$225,000 to help victims of the Boston Marathon bombing.

"Not many people would expect us to raise so much," Stolzenberg said. "It's not impossible to raise money, anyone can do it. It just takes time and effort. It was really cool to see everyone pitching in."

For his work, Stolzenberg was recently awarded the 2014 Gloria Barron Prize for Young Heroes, which recognizes 25 young people around the nation for their efforts in providing positive improvements in others.

"It feels good to be able to give back because I had a lot of people helping me," he said about the award.

The 'Mikey's Run' campaign became so popular, former talk show host Oprah Winfrey called the brothers to inform them that she'd be donating \$100,000 to their campaign as well. All the proceeds went to benefit the Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital's Comprehensive Rehab Center, which provides ongoing care to Boston Marathon bombing amputees.

"You don't get to do that every day," Stolzenberg said of talking to Oprah on the phone.

In addition to raising money to support the victims, Stolzenberg said he was able to meet some of them. Despite losing his limbs, Stolzenberg still plays lacrosse on his high school team.

"I lost my limbs at a very young age so I know how hard it can be, especially trying to raise money for prosthetics," he said. "But don't be discouraged, you can do anything you want to."

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