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**O'NEILL SEA ODYSSEY ADAM WEBSTER MEMORIAL FUND
FOR SPECIAL NEEDS YOUTH WINS
SPECIAL PARENTS INFORMATION NETWORK (SPIN) "COMMUNITY SPINNER AWARD"**



Tom and Judy Webster, parents of the late Adam Webster, have been raising funds since 1999 for the "Adam Webster Memorial Fund" for *O'Neill Sea Odyssey* (OSO) to provide the free OSO educational experience on board the Team O'Neill Catamaran for youth with special needs. The Special Parents Information Network (SPIN), a non-profit organization to assist the families of and care providers for special needs children, has provided the Adam Webster Fund of O'Neill Sea Odyssey its "Community Spinner" award in the recreation program category. The awards ceremony will be August 22, 2009 at 3:30 PM at the Watsonville YWCA, details can be found at www.spinsc.org

The vision of the Adam Webster Fund of O'Neill Sea Odyssey is to provide a successful but not purely intellectual or academic learning experience for individuals with special needs in the context of the ocean environment. There won't necessarily always be an academic curriculum, but there will always be a plan. A plan to open the doors of life and living closed by physical, social, intellectual, and emotional barriers. Special needs individuals may benefit from learning about navigation, but perhaps just as much from feeling the rolling motion of the ocean as the wave movement stimulates a body and a sensory system that has been immobile and confined to a wheelchair for years. It is never known what new experience will create a new learning opportunity, intellectual or social milestone in the special need individual's journey toward opening the next door. A door through which lies development and fulfillment in a life limited in many ways. Our friends the dolphins know it. In open water they often swim with, and ahead of these individuals almost as if they are leading them to new adventures and protecting them on their journey. We should too. That is our vision.