SCOTT WALKER, 39
News anchor, WDSU-TV
www.wdsu.com/askscottwalker

WDSU-TV news anchor Scott Walker is an award-winning veteran journalist, but the proudest moment in his career has nothing to do with accolades. It was raising $30,000 to increase awareness of a deadly skin disease that killed a Northshore toddler.

After seeing the story of Trip Roth, a boy suffering from epidermolysis bullosa (EB), a disease with no cure that causes widespread blistering on the skin and mucous membranes, Walker decided to use his platform as a recognized news anchor to correct misinformation with EB awareness.

"It was so hard to accept that a kid could be in so much pain just from a touch," says Walker, who has won several awards for his work at WDSU, including an Edward R. Murrow award this year for coverage of a stranded Carnival cruise ship in 2012 and 2013, the Press Club of New Orleans named him Best TV Anchor in New Orleans.

Walker launched a website and WDSU aired a public service announcement to spread the word that he would run a half-marathon to raise funds for EB awareness in memory of Roth, who died in 2012. Walker’s goal was $5,000, but he raised $10,000 that amount in three months.

The half-marathon also forced Walker to get into shape, he says. Now, four half-marathons later, he’s committed to staying healthy and helping others.

"That was a huge change in my life, to be able to be a part of that," Walker says. — DELLA HASSELSE

JOHN R. WILLIAMSON JR., 32
Owner, CAD Printing, Founder FirstWlff.com; President, MSAADA Inc.
www.cadprinting.net

John Williamson has used the valuable life lessons he learned while serving in the U.S. Army in establishing a profitable printing business and launching an online fashion venture while also extending his family’s tradition of community service into the 21st century.

As an Army veteran and recent graduate of John B. Routt High School, the West Bank native remembers wanting to get away from home and see the world, something he did in the U.S. Army and requested assignment in Germany. Returning to post Katrina New Orleans, Williamson sensed that the national and even international business and philanthropic entities now had an eye on Louisiana, so he took this knowledge for business and utilized it in establishing CAD Printing, which creates custom banners, menus, promotional materials and other items. This year he launched the fashion-forward, custom-ordered fashion site www.firstwlf.com.

Both businesses enable the charitable community outreach of MSAADA (Sallalh for “Helping people that need help”), a nonprofit founded by Williamson’s late grandfather Arthur H. McNeil. The organization currently is raising funds to provide and maintain educational computer centers for local schoolchildren.

“The military made me who I am but I went into the military with discipline and a strong mind because of my foundation in my father, who owned several businesses for over 25 years. Williamson says, “and I don’t think I’ve peaked. Just acquired a tour bus and we’re gearing up now for a cross promotional tour with FirstWlff and MSAADA — advancing education through technology — with special events and concerts across the South.” — FRANK STRANGFORD