

Carolina's Young InnovatorsSM

EASTON LACHAPPELLE

Rhinebeck, New York

Age 14 at the time of innovation



ACHIEVEMENT: USES 3-D PRINTING TO BUILD BETTER PROSTHETICS

Imagine turning something you make for fun in your home into something that changes someone's life.

Easton was only 14 years old when he made his first robotic hand. He made it out of LEGOs, fishing wire, and electrical tubing. Artificial limbs replace missing or injured body parts. They are called prostheses. He learned that these robotic body parts were hard to use. They can be expensive and heavy, so Easton set out to solve the problem.

When Easton was 18, he became the head of Unlimited Tomorrow. His company uses 3-D printing to make prostheses that people can afford. That first robotic hand that he made in his home is now a 3-D printed robotic arm. It is powered by the brain. Easton was able to give a little girl an arm with fingers that move and nails she can paint.