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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Community Foundation Awards New Bedford Woman's Club Scholarships

Two recent graduates of New Bedford High School and Greater New Bedford Regional Vocational Technical High School have been awarded New Bedford Woman's Club scholarships by the Community Foundation of Southeastern Massachusetts.

The \$500 college scholarships were awarded to **Crystal Simons**, a New Bedford resident and recent graduate of Greater New Bedford Regional Vocational Technical High School, and to **Irma Dias**, a graduate of New Bedford High School.

Ms. Simons ranked first in her class of 360 students at Greater New Bedford Voke, and plans to major in nursing at UMass Dartmouth. She completed the Medical Assistant program at Voke, and worked for two years as a medical assistant in a doctor's office. She is a member of the National Honor Society.

Ms. Dias will attend Northeastern University in the fall to study criminal justice, and plans to become a lawyer. She has been actively involved in community service throughout high school, and has served with the New Bedford Youth Court and the 4-H Community Service Learning Program. She was President of the New Bedford High Chapter of the National Honor Society.

Established in 1889, the New Bedford Woman's Club was an outlet for women in New Bedford to gather socially, expand their academic interests, and most importantly, offer their time, strength and money to the needs of their neighbors across the community. Each woman brought focus to the needs of the poor, the sick, the homeless and the underserved in the region.

In 2002, the assets of the Woman's Club were transferred to the Community Foundation to establish the scholarship fund.

About the Community Foundation

Since 1995, area residents have been turning to the Community Foundation of Southeastern Massachusetts to make their philanthropic giving as effective as possible. CFSEMA is a public charity serving thousands of people who share a common concern – improving the quality of life in Southeastern Massachusetts.

Individuals, families, businesses and organizations create permanent charitable funds that help our region meet the challenges of changing times. The Foundation invests and administers these funds (there are currently 52), and uses the distributions to award grants each year to many of the humanitarian, educational and cultural organizations in the region. The Community Foundation administers nine scholarship funds.

To date, the Community Foundation has more than \$14 million in assets and has distributed over \$3 million in funding to improve the quality of life for residents of Southeastern Massachusetts.