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For Immediate Release

Fairhaven Grads Awarded College Scholarships

Fairhaven – The Community Foundation of Southeastern Massachusetts (CFSEMA) has awarded college scholarships to four 2007 Fairhaven High School graduates.

Charles Mitchell Jr., who will study engineering at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, was awarded the \$500 **Daniel P. Bergeron Scholarship** established by Maureen and Russell Bergeron to honor the memory of their late son, Daniel P. Bergeron. Preference is given to a student with financial need and interests in sports and/or music.

Charles graduated 3rd in his Fairhaven High School Class and was a member of the National Honor Society, winner of the Rensselaer Medal for Excellence in Math and Science, and was an award-winning runner for the school's Varsity Cross Country and Track teams. He is also a musician, playing bass guitar and saxophone as a member of the local bands "Blackout" and "Elder."

Daniel Bergeron, a life-long resident of Fairhaven and graduate of Fairhaven High School, had a passion for music, took friendship seriously, and lived life fully. According to Dan's friends, "to be around him mean to sing loudly, smile broadly, love strongly and laugh often." Dan was only 21 when he was killed by a drunk driver in October of 2006

A \$1,000 scholarship has been awarded to 2007 graduate **Justine Avery** from the **Fairhaven High School Centurion Scholarship Fund**, established by the Class of 1956 to celebrate the school's 100th Anniversary last year and to honor the contributions of Henry Huttleston Rogers to the town. The Scholarship Fund was established at the Community Foundation as a gift to future generations of high school graduates.

Justine was ranked second in this year's Fairhaven High School Class, graduating with a 3.88 average. She is a member of the National Honor Society, a recipient of the Bausch-Lomb Science Award and Smith Book Award her junior year, and also received the Presidential Service Award given to students who carry out 100 hours or more of community service. Justine also was a member of the Spanish Club, the Science Club and the Interact Club. She will attend Brown University this fall.

Two 2007 graduates, **Conor Jacobsen and Nicholas Motta**, have each been awarded a \$500 **Matthew "Matty" Ryan Oliveira Scholarship**, established by his parents in 2003 to honor the 13-year-old's memory.

Conor graduated 9th in his class of 142 students, and plans to attend Fitchburg State College this fall to study education. Conor was a member of the National Honor Society, and received Scholar

Athlete Awards all four years. He was on the soccer, cross country, winter track, baseball and tennis teams during his high school career.

Nicholas was an outstanding athlete during his years at Fairhaven High School, this year receiving the prestigious “Dave Cowens Award” that is presented annually to the region’s best all-around basketball player and earning Varsity letters in hockey, football, basketball and baseball. He was also strong academically, graduating 26th in his class. He plans to study criminal justice at Bridgewater State College.

A Fairhaven resident, “Matty” was living life to its fullest when a tragic go-cart accident on June 29, 2003 caused severe head injuries and claimed his life.

He was an athlete whose favorite sport was football, had a keen intellect, and was known for his love of life and the people in it. His parents, Matthew and Kathleen Ryan Oliveira of Fairhaven, remember their son as a person who “inspired people to strive for more and challenge themselves. Matthew was kind and loyal and when you met him, you became a friend for life. With his contagious spirit, he managed to touch thousands of hearts in his short stay here on earth.”

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