

June 2009

New Bedford Area Students Win College Scholarships

NEW BEDFORD – The Community Foundation of Southeastern Massachusetts has awarded college scholarships from eight scholarship funds to 2009 graduates of New Bedford High School (NBHS) Greater New Bedford Vocational Technical High School (Voc-Tech), the New Bedford Global Learning Charter School and Old Rochester Regional High School (ORRHS).

The George Earl and Katherine Hartley Church Scholarship was awarded for the second year to **Megan Beaulieu of Acushnet**, a 2009 graduate of NBHS, **Ashley Potter of New Bedford**, also a NBHS graduate, and **Janine Price of Mattapoisett**, an ORRHS graduate. Each was awarded a \$1,000 scholarship to study nursing. All three recipients plan to attend UMass Dartmouth.

Lifelong Rochester resident George Earl Church established the scholarship fund at the Community Foundation last year to honor the memory of his late wife, Katherine Hartley Church, who worked as a nurse her entire professional life. It is targeted for students from specific towns and high schools who wish to study nursing.

The **Freitas-Rebello Scholarship** Committee has awarded \$1,000 scholarships to **Christopher Fidalgo**, a Bishop Stang High School graduate who plans to study speech pathology at Bridgewater State College, and to **Joanna Silva-Jones**, an NBHS graduate who will attend Assumption College. The Freitas-Rebello Fund awards an annual scholarship to Greater New Bedford area students of Portuguese descent.

Matthew Macedo, a 2009 NBHS graduate, was awarded the \$1,250 **Frank and Eleanor Gracie Scholarship** to study pre-medicine at Boston University. **Matthew** graduated from NBHS with a 3.8 GPA, and was a member of the National Honor Society. This scholarship was established by Frank Gracie, Jr. to honor the memory of his wife Eleanor and sons David and Paul.

Four graduating New Bedford seniors were award the **Jacobs Family New Bedford High Schools Scholarship**, a four-year, \$28,000 scholarship awarded each year to seniors who plan to study engineering, math or science, including computer science, in college. The fund was established at CFSEMA by city native and QUALCOMM founder Dr. Irwin Jacobs and his wife, Joan Klein Jacobs. The Jacobs Scholarship recipients are:

- ✓ **Brooke Amarantes**, a 2009 graduate of the Global Learning Charter Public School, plans to study engineering technology at Bristol Community College.
- ✓ **Rayana Grace**, who ranked 11th in her NBHS class of 574 students, plans to major in biology/pre-med at Boston College to work towards her goal of becoming a pediatrician.
- ✓ **Christian Rose** also plans to be a pre-med/biology major at UMass Amherst. Christian ranked 4th in his class at NBHS.
- ✓ **Lisa Yankowitz, daughter of Robert and Linda Yankowitz**, ranked 1st in her NBHS class. Lisa plans to study research biology at Columbia University.

The Kathleen Joyce Nelson Scholarship was established by David and Joyce Nelson in memory of their late daughter, Kathleen Joyce Nelson. This fund provides an annual college scholarship to a **New Bedford High School** senior, with preference given to students who have struggled with cancer or have an affiliation with the cancer-stricken population through community service, employment, volunteer work, or family involvement. A secondary priority is students who plan to major in government, political science or public service. This year's \$2,000 scholarship was awarded to **Rosy Khalife**, who plans to study physics at Northeastern University.

The New Bedford Woman's Club awards an annual scholarship to one graduating senior each from NBHS and Voc-Tech. This year, \$450 awards were given to **John Girouard**, a Voc-Tech graduate, and **Brienne Braga**, an NBHS graduate. John plans to study history and education at UMass Dartmouth. Brienne will major in medical technology at Lycoming College.

The New Bedford Woman's Club was founded in 1909 to promote civic improvements and to provide an organized social center for women in Greater New Bedford. After more than a century of charitable work, the assets of the New Bedford Woman's Club were transferred to CFSEMA to establish a scholarship fund.

The **Katherine Hassan Penton, New Bedford Class of 1948, Scholarship** of \$3,000 was awarded to 2009 NBHS Graduate **Scott Paiva**, who will study finance at Providence College. Scott was a four-year member of the Dean's Honor Roll, and belonged to the NBHS Marching Band and the Track & Field Team.

The Katherine Hassan Penton Scholarship was established at the Community Foundation in 2006 for NBHS seniors who plan to major in a business or professional occupation. A New Bedford native who became a successful businesswoman, Katherine Penton established the scholarship in appreciation for the opportunities her education at NBHS and life in New Bedford have afforded her.

This year, the **Louis M. Rusitzky Scholarship** provided one \$2,200 scholarship to a graduating NBHS senior who will major in business at a college or university. This year's recipient is **Blaine Stillerman**, who plans to study accounting and finance at New York University.

The Fund was established by Louis Rusitzky at CFSEMA to serve as a reminder to graduates of New Bedford's history in past centuries of economic strength in whaling, textiles and ocean products. Mr. Rusitzky also hopes the awards will inspire NBHS graduates to return to the city and establish businesses, especially manufacturing ones that will provide employment, and draw suppliers and related businesses to the area.

Two \$1,000 **Ellery Sherman Memorial Scholarships** were awarded to 2009 NBHS graduates **Jamie Karalekas**, who plans to study early childhood education at Bridgewater State College, and **Elizabeth Gonsalves**, who will major in fashion merchandising at Johnson & Wales University. The annual scholarship is awarded to NBHS seniors who have attended the John Avery Parker Elementary School.

The CFSEMA committee that reviews the scholarship applications includes New Bedford School Committee Member Jill Ussach; Chair Eileen Farley; Margherita Baldwin, Seth Garfield, Albert Lees III and George Oliveira, CFSEMA board members; Kate Larisa from the Patrick Carney Foundation; Lorraine Khazan from PACE; and Mary Schwartz, who was a member of the Lewin Scholarship Foundation when it merged with the Community Foundation. The Freitas-Rebello Scholarship recipients are selected by a separate outside committee, while the Kathleen Joyce Nelson, and Ellery Sherman Scholarships are selected by the New Bedford High School Scholarship Committee.

MORE

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.

While the Foundation's primary grantmaking focus is on the SouthCoast communities of Greater New Bedford, Greater Fall River, and Greater Plymouth County, CFSEMA is a regional foundation serving 41 cities and towns. To date, the Community Foundation has distributed over \$7 million from 110 funds to humanitarian, educational and cultural organizations in the region. . More information about the Foundation can be found at www.cfsema.org.

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