

June 2009

Fairhaven Grads Awarded College Scholarships

FAIRHAVEN – The Community Foundation of Southeastern Massachusetts (CFSEMA) has awarded college scholarships to four 2009 Fairhaven High School graduates.

Brennan Srisirikul, a 2009 Fairhaven High School graduate who will study theater at Rhode Island College, 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. 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. Dan was only 21 when he was killed by a drunk driver in October of 2006

A \$1,500 scholarship has been awarded to 2009 graduate **Travis Rapoza** from the **Fairhaven High School Centurion Scholarship Fund**, established by the Class of 1956 to celebrate the school's 100th Anniversary and to honor the contributions of Henry Huttleston Rogers to the town. Travis will study biology/pre-med at UMass Dartmouth.

Two 2009 graduates, **Meridyth Espindola and Brady Murphy**, have each been awarded \$500 **Matthew “Matty” Ryan Oliveira Scholarships**, established by his parents in 2003 to honor the 13-year-old's memory. Meridyth plans to major in biology/pre-med at Boston University, while Brady plans to study engineering/mathematics at UMass Amherst.

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. 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. ...With his contagious spirit, he managed to touch thousands of hearts in his short stay here on earth.”

A \$500 scholarship has also been awarded to **Korel Cudmore of Fairhaven** from the **New Bedford High School, Class of 1960, Fund**, established to provide tuition assistance to Greater New Bedford graduating seniors whose parent or grandparent was a NBHS graduate. A Fairhaven High School 2009 graduate, she plans to be a pre-med student at College of the Holy Cross.

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.

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 more than \$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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