

July, 2020

Dear friend,

In spite of all the issues which have been disrupting our lives in the last few months, we were able to award eight scholarships to deserving students from Aurora to Algonquin. We will be sending checks to their chosen schools so that, whatever their programs will look like in the fall, we will be supporting them.

All students are receiving \$1500 toward their first year at an institution of higher learning.

Kyle Catalano, West Aurora High School going to University of Missouri, Mizzou



When he was in elementary school, Kyle was diagnosed with dyslexia, dysgraphia, and ADHD. With tutoring and professional help, he has slowly learned to use "little tricks" and hard work to overcome these issues. He discovered his love for engineering in middle school and has been very successful in high school. He plans to study mechanical and aerospace engineering.

Eliza Gonzales, East Aurora High School going to Aurora University



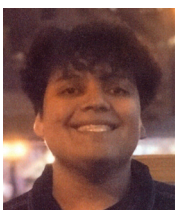
Eliza has struggled with her sense of failure and self-criticism instilled by an abusive relationship with her mother. Since her father removed her from that environment and the school provided her with a therapist to help her, she has become an advocate for positive change in herself and others. She wants to become an elementary educator. She has a passion for learning because of "the bond my teachers made with me".

Natalie Henne, St. Charles North High School going to University of Iowa



Growing up with an alcoholic parent led Natalie to become a retreat leader of Al-Teen. She is also an active Girl Scout, has earned her certificate as a Nursing Assistant, and is currently Student Body President. Recently she lost her other parent to a rare cancer. She has coped by serving others, and is looking forward to studying nursing with "rigor, intelligence, compassion and wisdom".

Mariano Morales, West Aurora High School going to University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign



Becoming a high school band and orchestra director is Mariano's desire to "help people express themselves when words aren't enough". He describes himself as a tall, bisexual, studious Mexican male who stood out in a straight, "machismo" society. He is interested in all things cultural and wants to share his interests with people of all cultures and ethnicities.

John O'Connor, Jacobs High School, going to St. Norbert College



Being diagnosed with mild Neurocognitive disorder associated with an earlier traumatic brain injury helped John understand why he had been struggling academically. Soccer is his first love, and, although he wants to continue to play, he has found a calling as a Forensic accountant. He now has the tools in place to succeed in the classroom.

Lauren Pfortmiller, St. Charles North High School, going to Calvin University



Lauren wants to become a physical therapist because of her desire to help kids who are facing problems similar to what she has faced. Her diagnosis of Super Valvar Pulmonary Stenosis affects both her heart and lungs, which limits her ability to participate in physical activities. Nevertheless, she has been active in her church and a leader in activities within her school setting.

Hannah Wojolya, St. Charles East High School, going to Purdue University



A concussion sustained while playing water polo led to the discovery that Hannah had an underlying eye disorder which caused double-vision and dizziness during reading. Recovering from the concussion and therapy for the eye disorder did not deter her from all activities associated with her junior year in high school. She has discovered that she grew during this time and realized the importance of hard work.

The last scholarship awarded is very special to me and the foundation wishes him well as he pursues his dreams.

Jonathan Schaefer, South Elgin High School, going to Judson University RISE program



Being a student with intellectual differences, Jonathan did not think he could go to college although he had taken regular classes in high school. He found the program at Judson University which helps students like him become more independent, explore job possibilities, attend classes and receive training in a college atmosphere. Living in the dorm will allow him to have experiences that he did not think were possible.

The Douglas Hoeft Scholarship Foundation wishes only the best for all our scholarship recipients during this difficult time. To learn more about the Foundation, check out dlhoeftscholarship.org. Donations can be sent to the scholarship at 216 King Arthur Court, Elgin, IL 60120.

Sincerely,

Libby Hoeft