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Brendan McGrath Memorial Scholarship Winners Announced

Cayuga/Seneca Community Action Agency, Inc. launches new scholarship initiative in memory of former Board Chairman Brendan McGrath.

AUBURN, NEW YORK, February 3, 2015 – Cayuga/Seneca Community Action Agency, Inc. (CSCAA) is pleased to announce the 2015 recipients of the Brendan McGrath Memorial Scholarship. Three awards in the amount of \$500 each were granted to Janelle Ryan, a customer of the Agency who is pursuing criminal justice studies at Cayuga Community College; Allie Poole, a relative of an employee who is pursuing a career as an ultrasound technician and currently attending Cayuga Community College; and Rebecca Amerman, an Agency employee and former customer.

Rebecca Amerman is employed as a Head Start Family Worker for the Southern Cayuga School District. She is completing her Bachelor's Degree in Community and Human Services through SUNY Empire State College. "I would like to thank the family of Brendan McGrath for continuing his legacy, and providing me with the opportunity to complete my last Bachelors class with their support," Amerman stated. "I am ever so grateful to them".

Brendan McGrath served for 21 years as a volunteer board member for the Agency, 19 of which he served as board chairperson. Under his leadership, the Agency experienced expansion of numerous programs and services. His family has worked closely with the Agency since his accidental death in March of 2010 to honor his legacy of giving.

Brendan's wife Mary stated, "Elizabeth, Paul, Michael and I are very grateful to CSCAA for suggesting and organizing the scholarship program as a way to use some of the donations that have so generously been made to the Brendan McGrath Memorial Fund. Brendan believed in CSCAA's ability to assist individuals to pursue their educational, employment, and service goals. He would be honored that a scholarship in his name will now assist these students in a concrete way. He too had been a recipient of a scholarship which made his graduate education a reality."

CSCAA Executive Director Laurie Piccolo conceived of the scholarship program as a way to continue Brendan's work of helping people to achieve and sustain self-sufficiency. "Higher education provides hope for a brighter future and one of the most promising pathways out of poverty," Piccolo said. "We are grateful to have an opportunity through support of the McGrath family and community to offer this scholarship initiative."

A fundraiser is being planned by Tinkers Guild to support the Brendan McGrath Memorial Fund. Tinkers' Winter Olympics will be held Saturday February 21st starting at 2:30 pm following the

Syracuse vs. Pitt game at noon. The cost is \$50 per team of 2-6 participants. All money raised from entry fees will support the Brendan McGrath Memorial Fund. Sign up at Tinkers Guild located at 78 Franklin Street in Auburn, or call 315-255-1128 for more information. To learn more about the scholarship program, or to make a direct donation, please visit us online at <http://cscaa.com/mcgrath.html>.

Cayuga/Seneca Community Action Agency, Inc. is a private, not-for-profit that was incorporated in 1965 through the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964, to fight the war against poverty locally. The Agency serves both Cayuga and Seneca Counties, with a staff of more than 120 employees. The mission of Cayuga/Seneca Community Action Agency, Inc. is to respectfully assist people to achieve and sustain self-sufficiency through direct services, education, and community partnerships.

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