

Cardinal Brennan Students Continue to Benefit from Donors' Wishes

Dear Readers,

Schuylkill Area Community Foundation is a non-profit organization, which invests contributors' money in funds, the earnings of which are distributed annually for innumerable charitable and other activities benefiting the public. It presently has 106 funds with a market value of slightly more than \$11,000,000.

Four of these funds supported the educational advancement of Cardinal Brennan High School students since 1990. With the closing of Cardinal Brennan, it was necessary to reallocate this support, and the Foundation feels that the general public should be made aware of the details of the transition.

Some of the funds provided alternatives if Cardinal Brennan ceased to exist. Other funds required the approval of the Orphans' Court of Schuylkill County, which has been obtained. The over-all scheme had to be approved by the Pennsylvania Attorney General. This approval also was obtained.

The Marie M. Campbell Memorial Fund provided that the annual earnings would be paid to the principal of Cardinal Brennan and "used by him...to pay the tuition fee, in whole or in part, of students of Cardinal Brennan High School". It was the donor's decision, written in the fund agreement, that if Cardinal Brennan closed, half the earnings would go to Nativity High School and the other half to Marian High School. A few weeks ago the Foundation paid the 2006 earnings, \$16,013.72 or \$8,006.86 to each high school.

The Dr. Robert Douglas Spencer Memorial Fund and the Carr-Willower Memorial Scholarship Fund both provide scholarships to graduates of North Schuylkill and Cardinal Brennan High Schools. The applications from both high schools are pooled and the Foundation's own Scholarship Committee makes the awards.

The new plan for the recipients of former Cardinal Brennan scholarships provides that all Cardinal Brennan graduates will continue to be eligible, providing they meet the established criteria. For the future, any student residing in the area comprising the North Schuylkill School District, the Shenandoah Valley School District and the Mahanoy Area School District who graduates from any Catholic High School will be eligible for a scholarship.

The fourth fund is the Jean A. Tielman R.N. Memorial Fund, which provides an award to a Cardinal Brennan graduate who plans to pursue a course of training leading either to a RN diploma or a Bachelor of Science in Nursing Degree. The fund agreement specified that, if Cardinal Brennan ceased to exist, the award would go to a graduate of the geographically closest Catholic High School. That school is Nativity, so effective in 2007, the award will be presented to a graduate of Nativity.

Please contact the Schuylkill Area Community Foundation office at (570) 385-4180 if you have any questions or want to learn more about creating your own legacy for Schuylkill County.

Respectfully submitted,

Eileen Kuperavage
Executive Director