



**For Immediate Release**

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### **Memorial Award Will Help Students in the Schuylkill County Foster Care System**

Schuylkill Area Community Foundation is honored to announce that an award in memory of Shimelis Cepheus was established by his support family and friends. They hope that this award will help keep the memory and dreams of that 'Diamond in the Rough' alive.

The annual award will be made to a high school senior attending any Schuylkill County high school for his or her post-secondary education. Applicants must have been in the Schuylkill County Foster Care System for at least one year. If at any time a foster care student does not apply then the student must be a participant with the Schuylkill Haven soccer team during the year that the application is submitted to the committee. The award committee will consist of Susan Schneider-Morgan, David Morgan, Lisa Bernadyn, Patty Freiler, Drew Hartz, Tara Hess and Sophy Frantz.

Shimelis was better known to the people in his life here in Schuylkill County as 'Shimmy'. His life began in the country of Ethiopia where he lived until the age of nine. He spent his school years learning in the Pottsville and Schuylkill Haven Area School Districts. Shimmy loved the sport of soccer and enjoyed sharing that love with his friends and teammates. He participated in the Schuylkill County Youth Soccer Program for a number of years and then went on to play for the Schuylkill Haven Area High School and Penn State University, Schuylkill Campus. He had a great passion for the game and it showed every time he played. From his days spent playing soccer in dirt fields back in Ethiopia to playing on the grass turf fields of Schuylkill County, you could tell that is where he felt most comfortable. It was after one of those games during his high school freshman year that his high school coach referred to him as a 'Diamond in the Rough'. He was speaking about his soccer skills at that moment, but to the people who were his support family that term truly applied to him as a person.

To receive additional information or to make a charitable donation to the Cepheus Memorial Award Fund, please contact the Community Foundation office at (570) 624-7223 or [www.sacfoundation.com](http://www.sacfoundation.com) to download the donation form.

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