

RESS RELEASE

Lee Braford Scholarship Winners
Bourbonnais Friendship Festival, Inc.

The Bourbonnais Friendship Festival Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce the winner of this year's Lee Braford Scholarship. The scholarship is given out annually to a high school senior who exemplifies the commitment to community volunteerism that personified the spirit of the Scholarship's namesake.

This year, two scholarships were awarded. Each student will receive \$500 at the Festival's Opening Ceremonies on Wednesday, June 22, 2011.

Alex Benjamin, a 2011 Bradley Bourbonnais Community High School graduate, who plans on attending Northwestern University's School of Communication and pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in Theater and a Bachelor of Science in Communications is the first recipient. His goal is to become a professional writer, director, actor and theater educator.

Alex's involvement in his community over the past 4 years has been extensive. He has worked at a theater for actors with disabilities, has been extremely active in Maternity BVM's youth music ministry, summer work camps and liturgy planning team. He has also worked as a volunteer with the salvation army and has done volunteer entertainment for local nursing homes.

Kristen Garey, a 2011 Grant Park High School graduate, who plans on attending Marquette University where she has been accepted into the 6 year accelerated program for a Doctorate in Physical Therapy is our second recipient.

Kristen has also had an impressive and extensive commitment to volunteerism over the past 4 years. She traveled to Nicaragua to work at an orphanage with Partners in Christ Missions, has volunteered at Rich Township Food Pantry, Jennifer Fallick Cancer Support Center, Walcamp Outdoor Ministries for the handicapped, her Girl Scout troop, Zion Lutheran Church bible school, Riverside Medical Center auxiliary, among others.

Alex was described as a "God-send" by those who have worked with him and Kristen was described as someone who leaves a "lasting positive impression" on everyone who meets her. We congratulate these 2 outstanding young citizens and wish them well in their future studies.