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RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE CHARITIES® OF CONNECTICUT AND WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS
AWARDS \$50,000 IN SCHOLARSHIPS TO GRADUATING SENIORS

July 27, 2010 – Twenty-two local high school seniors have been selected as recipients of scholarships from the Ronald McDonald House Charities® (RMHC®) of Connecticut and Western Massachusetts Scholarship Program. This year, RMHC of Connecticut and Western Massachusetts awarded \$2,000 scholarships to 20 students and also selected two top students who each received \$5,000 scholarships. Scholarship winners were chosen from over 950 applicants by a panel of judges.

Scholarship recipients are judged in several categories including academic achievement, community involvement and financial need. RMHC of Connecticut and Western Massachusetts awarded scholarship monies in two categories this year to graduating high school seniors who will be attending college in the fall, first through the RMHC/Scholars Program, which provides monies to graduating high school seniors regardless of race or ethnicity, and secondly through the RMHC/Hispanic American Commitment to Education Resources Program (HACER) Scholarship, which is awarded to students with at least one parent of Hispanic origin. The scholarship program is supported by the Connecticut and Western Massachusetts McDonald's® Owner/Operator Association (CWMMOA).

The RMHC/Scholars Program top winner was Richika Makol from Manchester High School in Connecticut, while the RMHC/HACER Program top winners was Felipe Gheiman from Enrico Fermi High School in Enfield, Connecticut. The full list of the 2010 scholarship recipients is as follows:

RMHC/Scholars Program Scholarship Winners

- **Richika Makol** (Top Winner) of Manchester, CT, graduate of Manchester High School, attending the University of Connecticut in Storrs, CT.
- **Ann Alampi** of Glastonbury, CT, graduate of Glastonbury High School, attending Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge, MA.
- **Edward Courchaine** of Berlin, CT, graduate of Berlin High School, attending the University of Connecticut in Storrs, CT.
- **Hannah Lin** of Milford, CT, graduate of Joseph A. Foran High School, attending the University of Notre Dame in Notre Dame, IN.
- **Allison Murdza** of Hampden, MA, graduate of Minnechaug Regional High School, attending Northeastern University in Boston, MA.
- **Thomas Notchick** of Plymouth, CT, graduate of Oliver Wolcott Technical High School, attending Western New England College in Springfield, MA.
- **Marguerite Pratt** of Granville, MA, graduate of Southwick-Tolland Regional High School, attending American International College in Springfield, MA.
- **Ngoc Richardson** of Hawley, MA, graduate of Mohawk Trail Regional High School, attending Babson College in Babson Park, MA.

RMHC/HACER Program Scholarship Winners

- **Felipe Gheiman** (Top Winner) of Enfield, CT, graduate of Enrico Fermi High School, attending Clarkson University in Potsdam, NY.
- **Diego Adrianzen** of New London, CT, graduate of Robert E. Fitch Senior High School, attending Worcester Polytechnic Institute in Worcester, MA.
- **Victoria Aguilera** of Newington, CT, graduate of Newington High School, attending the University of Connecticut in Storrs, CT.
- **Javier Arguello** of Ansonia, CT, graduate of Ansonia High School, attending Georgetown University in Washington, DC.
- **Mari Colon** of Holyoke, MA, graduate of William J. Dean Technical High School, attending Holyoke Community College in Holyoke, MA.
- **Kimberly Flores** of Cromwell, CT, graduate of Cromwell High School, attending Quinnipiac University in Hamden, CT.
- **Isaac Flores-Huerta** of Middletown, CT, graduate of Middletown High School, attending Boston University in Boston, MA.
- **Renzo Hidalgo** of East Hartford, CT, graduate of Connecticut International Baccalaureate Academy, attending Trinity College in Hartford, CT.
- **Megan Negron** of Stafford, CT, graduate of Stafford High School, attending Roger Williams University in Bristol, RI.

- **Ishaira Nieto-Rosas** of East Hartford, CT, graduate of Connecticut International Baccalaureate Academy, attending Vassar College in Poughkeepsie, NY.
- **Jennifer Ricaurte** of Seymour, CT, graduate of Seymour High School, attending St. Vincent's College in Bridgeport, CT.
- **Carmen Ruiz** of Holyoke, MA, graduate of William J. Dean Technical High School, attending Holyoke Community College in Holyoke, MA.
- **Samantha Serazo** of Portland, CT, home schooled, attending Oberlin College in Oberlin, OH.
- **Mabeline Velez** of Springfield, MA, graduate of Springfield High School of Commerce, attending Western New England College in Springfield, MA.

“All of the McDonald’s owner/operators throughout Connecticut and Western Massachusetts are committed to programs that support schools and students,” said Jim McGarry, President of CWMMOA and local McDonald’s Owner/Operator. “We are proud of our role in helping these students achieve their educational goals. We are especially proud to honor students who share our commitment to giving back to the community.”

Laura Phillips Ward, President of the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Connecticut and Western Massachusetts, agreed. “The RMHC board of directors is pleased to bestow \$50,000 in scholarship monies to this year’s winners. We congratulate all of them on their impressive high school achievements, and we wish each and every one of them the best for continued success as they continue their education at college in the fall.”

Since 1988 RMHC of Connecticut and Western Massachusetts has provided more than \$6 million to over 400 non-profit organizations, helping thousands of area children lead happier, healthier and more productive lives. RMHC and its global network of local chapters in over 50 countries and regions have awarded more than \$460 million in grants and program services supporting children worldwide. For more information about RMHC or to apply for a grant, please call Carole Bowman at (860) 659-0514, visit www.rmhc-ctma.org, or connect on the “Ronald McDonald House Charities of Connecticut and Western Massachusetts” Facebook page.

The Connecticut and Western Massachusetts Owner/Operator Association is comprised of local McDonald’s restaurant owners who are community and industry leaders. They have a long-standing commitment to supporting educational initiatives and organizations in the communities they serve, including providing resources to promote balanced, active lifestyles to kids and nutritional information for families. For more information, visit www.moms.mcconnecticut.com or www.moms.mcmassachusetts.com.

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