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

July 1, 2011 – 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 400 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 Renee Haughton from East Hartford High School in Connecticut, while the RMHC/HACER Program top winners was Linnette Figueroa from the High School of Commerce in Springfield, Massachusetts. The full list of the 2011 scholarship recipients is as follows:

RMHC/Scholars Program Scholarship Winners

- **Renee Haughton** (Top Winner) of East Hartford, CT; graduate of East Hartford High School, attending Dartmouth College in Hanover, NH.
- **Belma Ahmetovic** of Wethersfield, CT; graduate of Sports and Medical Sciences Academy, attending Babson College in Babson Park, MA.
- **Pauline Dutka** of Woodbridge, CT; graduate of Amity Regional Senior High School, attending the University of Connecticut in Storrs, CT.
- **Ahmed Hammad** of Enfield, CT; graduate of Enfield High School, attending the University of Connecticut in Storrs, CT.
- **Christos Haveles** of Danielson, CT; graduate of Killingly High School, attending Stanford University in Stanford, CA.
- **Annette Konopka** of Ansonia, CT; graduate of Ansonia High School, attending the University of Connecticut in Storrs, CT.
- **Jenna McPhail** of Hamden, CT; graduate of Hamden High School, attending Bentley University in Waltham, MA.
- **Benjamin Sterritt** of Longmeadow, MA; graduate of Longmeadow High School, attending Georgetown University in Washington, DC.

RMHC/HACER Program Scholarship Winners

- **Linnette Figueroa** (Top Winner) of Springfield, MA; graduate of High School of Commerce, attending Smith College in Northampton, MA.
- **Meghan Brown** of Groton Long Point, CT; graduate of Fitch Senior High School, attending the University of Connecticut in Storrs, CT.
- **Beverly Burgos** of New Britain, CT; graduate of New Britain High School, attending the University of Connecticut in Storrs, CT.
- **Crystal Cardona** of New Haven, CT; graduate of Hill Regional Career High School, attending Alfred University in Alfred, NY.
- **Esther Casado** of Springfield, MA; graduate of The Springfield Renaissance School, attending Assumption College in Worcester, MA.
- **Sebastian Correa** of Naugatuck, CT; graduate of Naugatuck High School, attending the University of Connecticut in Storrs, CT.
- **Rebecca Giden** of Milford, CT; graduate of Joseph A. Foran High School, attending Boston University in Boston, MA.
- **Cameron Gonzalez** of Groton, CT; graduate of Fitch Senior High School, attending Saint Michael's College in Colchester, VT.
- **Melody Gonzalez** of Waterbury, CT; graduate of W.F. Kaynor Technical High School, attending the University of Connecticut in Storrs, CT.

- **Gabriela Gualpa** of Naugatuck, CT; graduate of Naugatuck High School, attending Quinnipiac University in Hamden, CT.
- **Zoila Jurado** of Naugatuck, CT; graduate of Naugatuck High School, attending the University of Connecticut in Storrs, CT.
- **Kathie Rivera** of Holyoke, MA; graduate of Holyoke High School, attending Framingham State University in Framingham, MA.
- **Kelly Sanchez** of New Haven, CT; graduate of Sacred Heart Academy, attending the University of Connecticut in Storrs, CT.
- **Hendrix Taylor** of West Hartford, CT; graduate of Conard High School, attending Three Rivers Community College in Norwich, CT.

“All of the McDonald’s owner/operators throughout Connecticut and Western Massachusetts are committed to programs that support schools and students,” said Rachel Deane, 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 facebook.com/rmhc.ctma.

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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