

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Elaine Peck, Putnam County Community Foundation
2 South Jackson Street
Greencastle, IN 46135
Phone: 765.653.4978
Email: epeck@pcfoundation.org



Headline: 7th Grade Philanthropy Essay Winner Announced

Emma Bodnarick's essay called "The Amazing Joe Liechty," is the Grand Prize winner of the Community Foundation's National Philanthropy Week Essay Contest. Miss Bodnarick is a student in Suzanne Funk's 7th Grade Class at Greencastle Middle School. In recognition of her accomplishment, GMS will receive a grant of \$500, and the Away Home Shelter will receive a grant of \$150.

Entries were accepted from 7th grade students in all four county school corporations. Students were instructed to write a 500 word essay about "The Philanthropist I Know Personally and Admire The Most." Elaine Peck, Executive Director of the Putnam County Community Foundation, stated that judges evaluate essays with no knowledge of the identity of the schools or the students. Essay contest judges were Vickie Parker, Beau Battin, Jinsie Bingham, and Louis Fontaine.

There were seven finalists in the essay contest this year. Ruth Heithaus was a finalist for her essay entitled, "Mr. Andy Burns," which recognizes his efforts to rebuild a town in New Mexico. Miss Heithaus is also a student in Suzanne Funk's 7th Grade Class at Greencastle Middle School, and she chose the Friends of the Park Association of Putnam County to receive a Finalist Grant Award of \$50.

Ainslee Vogt wrote an essay called "The Little Things That Count," about her brother, Corbin, whom she admires for his kindness and volunteer work. Miss Vogt is a student in Susan Trent's 7th Grade Class at North Putnam Middle School, and she chose the Putnam County Humane Society to receive a Finalist Grant Award of \$50.

Sarah C. Zehner wrote an essay about her parents, Andrew and Damaris, whom she admires for how they give back in so many ways to the world. Miss Zehner is a student in Jessyca South's 7th Grade Class at North Putnam Middle School, and she chose Hope's Way to receive a Finalist Grant Award of \$50.

Sophia Z. Hawkins wrote an essay about her youth minister, Emma Rich, which recognizes Ms. Rich's efforts to teach and inspire youth in Putnam County. Miss Hawkins is a student in Mrs. Rady's 7th Grade Class at Cloverdale Middle School, and she chose Soul Harvest Church Food Pantry to receive a Finalist Grant Award of \$50.

Hanna Monnett wrote an essay about Bob Hostetter which recognizes his work in the community through being a Boy Scout master for over 25 years. Miss Monnett is a student in Mrs. Rady's 7th Grade Class at Cloverdale Middle School, and she chose Boy Scout Troop 93 to receive a Finalist Grant Award of \$50.

Kristi Wood wrote an essay entitled, "Joy Burianek," whom Kristi admires for her generosity and kindheartedness. Miss Wood is a student in Caitlynn McKinney's 7th Grade Class at South Putnam Jr./Sr. High School, and she chose Cloverdale United Methodist Church to receive a Finalist Grant Award of \$50.

Hannah Hutson wrote an essay entitled, "Mrs. Phillips," which recognizes the work Mrs. Phillips is doing with students to help them succeed. Miss Hutson is a student in Caitlynn McKinney's 7th Grade Class at South Putnam Jr./Sr. High School, and she chose the Susan G. Komen Foundation to receive a Finalist Grant Award of \$50.

The National Philanthropy Week Essay Contest is another opportunity provided by the unrestricted Community Grants Endowment of the Putnam County Community Foundation. Anyone may contribute to the Community Grants Endowment, or start a new endowment in his/her own name. Contributions to the Endowment should be made payable to the Putnam County Community Foundation with "Community Grants Endowment" in the memo, and mailed to 2 South Jackson Street, Greencastle, Indiana 46135. Contributions may also be made online at www.pcfoundation.org. Community Foundation staff are available to help donors make gifts of cash, stock, retirement assets, life insurance, bequests, real estate and other types of gifts to the Fund. To learn more about the Community Grants Endowment, how to make a contribution, or how to start a new fund, visit www.pcfoundation.org or contact Elaine Peck at 765-653-4978.

###