

## **Ripley County Community Foundation Announces Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship Recipients**

Two Ripley County students have been named recipients of full tuition, four-year scholarships as the Ripley County Community Foundation 2009 Lilly Endowment Community Scholars.

Gerald Hardesty and Valorie Wagner will receive full tuition to the Indiana college of their choice and an \$800 yearly stipend for required books and equipment.

Gerald is the son of David and Jennifer Hardesty of Osgood. He is a senior at Jac-Cen-Del High School and plans to major in mechanical engineering attending Purdue University. Valorie is the daughter of Dennis and Flora Wagner of Osgood. The Jac-Cen-Del Senior plans to major in exercise science and attend University of Indianapolis.

The scholarship committee is composed of Ripley County residents representing all areas of the county. The committee is not aware of whose application they are viewing as names and schools of students applying for the scholarships are removed from the applications. At the interviews of the finalists, the students are only introduced by their first names, allowing for as much objectivity as possible.

There were 77 applicants for these scholarships in Ripley County this year drawing from six high schools. Eight outstanding students are chosen as finalists for these prestigious awards. After the Ripley County Community Foundation scholarship committee narrowed the field to eight nominees, the finalists' names were submitted to the Independent Colleges of Indiana, Inc. (ICI) for the selection of the recipients.

ICI is a nonprofit corporation that represents 31 regionally accredited degree granting, nonprofit, private colleges and universities in the state.

The scholarships are the result of a statewide Lilly Endowment initiative to help Hoosier students reach higher levels of education. Indiana ranks among the lowest states in the percentage of residents over the age of 25 with a bachelor's degree. There were 216 scholarships awarded statewide.

Each Ripley County finalist not receiving one of the Lilly Endowment Community Scholarships will be awarded one of the Ripley County Community Scholarships of \$1,000. Those receiving the 2009 Ripley County Community Foundation Scholarships are Clinton Covert, East Central High School, son of Tracy Covert of Sunman; Chelsea Durham, South Ripley High School, daughter of Sam and Nancy Durham of Osgood; Ryan Hartman, Batesville High School, son of Bill and Barb Hartman of Batesville; Lucy Glaser, Oldenburg Academy, daughter of Thomas and Susan Glaser of Batesville; Audrey Huffmeyer, Jac-Cen-Del High School, daughter of Douglas and Susan Huffmeyer of Osgood; and Christopher Meyer, Batesville High School, daughter of Greg and Cindy Meyer of Batesville.

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If you have questions regarding these scholarships or the Ripley County Community Foundation, Inc. please call 812-933-1098 or 877-234-5200.

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