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Northland Foundation Announces Virjean Burton Scholarships/ Additional Regional Grants

Agency honors co-founder and funds food pantries

The Northland Community Foundation (an affiliate of the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation), announces the award of two Virjean Burton Youth Philanthropy awards to **Ryan Dye** and **Brianne Douglas**, both of Platte County High School. The Foundation's Youth Philanthropy Award celebrates philanthropy in the Northland by recognizing young Northlanders who have demonstrated a combination of philanthropic leadership and action. Foundation Board member and Scholarship Committee Chair Michelle Jarvis, an investment advisor with Edward Jones, noted that "this award is deservedly named *The Virjean Burton Youth Philanthropy Award*, in honor of Virjean's inspiring dedication to the Northland community. Virjean was a driving force in the establishment of the Foundation nearly 35 years ago."

The recipients, who must be residents of Clay or Platte Counties, have the opportunity to select a Northland nonprofit organization that will receive a \$1,000 grant. In addition, the recipients receive a \$2,000 scholarship to the post-secondary institution of their choice. Ryan selected *A Turning Point* as his charitable recipient and Brianne selected the *Multiple Sclerosis Foundation*.

Foundation Chairman Bruce Cramer, of Cramer Capital Management, added, "Normally we would award these scholarships at our annual *Celebration of Philanthropy* breakfast event. Due to concerns related to the pandemic, that event was cancelled this year. We are delighted to recognize these outstanding students and the charities they have selected."

The Foundation also awarded additional COVID-19 pandemic grants totaling \$55,300 to three Northland-area food pantries to assist servicing families that continue to be affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The agencies receiving grants from the Foundation are: *Mimi's Pantry; the Salvation Army North Corp.; and Southern Platte Emergency Assistance Center*. These grants come on the heels of \$95,500 in August grants to other Northland charitable agencies aiding families impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Karen Dolt, Chairman of the Foundation's Initiatives Committee noted that, "The mission of the Northland Community Foundation is to improve the quality of life in the Northland by increasing charitable giving, connecting donors to the needs in the community they care about and providing leadership on critical community issues. Allocating some of our available funds to address issues surround COVID-19 is a reflection of that mission."