

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**CONTACT INFORMATION**

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**United Way Solicits Youth Scholarship Applications**

United Way of Door County has announced that applications for their Third Annual Scholarship Program for Door County high school seniors are available. If you, or someone you know, has demonstrated strong community involvement during their high school career, and is beginning college in fall of 2009, you are encouraged to apply. There will be up to four one-time \$500 scholarships for college or technical school tuition awarded to Door County Class of 2009 students.

Applications detailing the criteria for consideration for the awards have been distributed to the local high schools and the Volunteer Center of Door County. The application is also available on the United Way's website at [www.unitedwaydc.com](http://www.unitedwaydc.com). All high school seniors, whether home-schooled or at one of the five school districts are eligible for these scholarships. Last year's recipients were: Matthew Christofferson and Molly Dickson of Gibraltar, Kimberly Malvitz of Southern Door, and Molly Petersilka of Sevastopol.

A primary goal of the program is to foster service learning and understanding of the stewardship role of the United Way. Scholarships will be given to students on the basis of their community involvement, rather than academic achievement. Additionally, providing some financial assistance for Door County youth to continue their education is an important aspect of this program.

The service-based scholarship program was initiated by former United Way Youth Board members, Jacque Jorns and Michele Lodl. Volunteerism in general has been on the rise within the younger population, especially in Door County. In fact, 73% of young people nationwide think their efforts can have a positive impact on their communities, according to a report released by the Research Department at Princeton University. The report also asserted that the younger a person began volunteering, the more likely he or she would continue later in life.

"United Way of Door County encourages all high school seniors who live in Door County and have volunteered at some point during their high school career to apply for this scholarship. United Way wants to reward young adults for the positive impact that they have had on their communities," commented Amy Kohnle, Executive Director of United Way of Door County.

The deadline for submitting applications for the program is March 15, 2009. Recipients will be announced at the annual awards ceremonies at the high schools. Any questions about the guidelines for the scholarship program can be directed to the United Way of Door County office at (920) 746-9645.