



CONTACT: David Easterbrook  
Phone: 248-641-0992  
Cell: 248-330-2305  
Website: [www.Ashleysdream.org](http://www.Ashleysdream.org)

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### **FOUNDATION FOR ASHLEY'S DREAM ANNOUNCES 2004 INTERNET SCHOLARSHIP AWARD WINNERS**

TROY, MICH., April 30, 2003, – The Foundation For Ashley's Dream received over 4500 scholarship applications from deserving young men and women from across the country for \$8,000 of scholarships through it's internet site. Kathleen McKee of The Colony, Texas; Dylan Cerbini of Pleasantville, NY and Ashley Martin of Salem, OR were this years' reciepients.

“We are again excited to award these scholarships to help these young men and women achieve their dreams,” said Gail Easterbrook, Chairperson for the Scholarship Committee. “As in years past, we were able to reach thousands of young people and share Ashley's story with them, and in doing so, teach them about the dangers of the abuse of alcohol, and how innocent people can be affected by the bad decision making of others,” she said.

The Foundation was established the day after Ashley Easterbrook, and two of her friends Michael Jamison and Andy Stindt, were killed by a 33-year-old drunk driver on June 3, 1997 in Troy. Ashley was five days away from her high school graduation at Troy High School. The irony of Ashley's death, is that she wrote about her fear of being killed by a drunk driver in her journal, located the day of her funeral. Ashley's story has been featured on the NBC Today Show, Dateline and other national programs.. To date, the

Foundation has provided in excess of \$350,000 worth of scholarships to hardworking, well-rounded students across the country.

A unique part of the scholarship is that its' recipients can not have a grade point average above 3.74, as they "could always get other scholarships" according to Ashley's diary.

The Foundation looks for students involved in school programs, part-time work, and those who have leadership skills. In addition, the student must write an essay on one of two subjects: preventing drunk driving, or preventing binge drinking.

McKee, who won the \$4,000 scholarship, chose to write about the dangers of teenage binge drinking. "Teen stress that 'fitting in' is important and parents believe that alcohol is less threatening than drugs, equates to an unmanageable issue" wrote McKee.

"Children are capable of making good and bad decisions. What prevents greater capacity for bad decisions, is the intervention of parents taking serious their responsibility....they must engage everyday, ask questions, participate in school events and create a healthy atmosphere for raising their children," said McKee.

Cerbini and Martin each received \$2,000 in scholarships.

In addition to providing scholarships, the Foundation is active in bringing awareness to the dangers of drunk driving.

More about the Foundation can be found at its website, [www.ashleysdream.org](http://www.ashleysdream.org).

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