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## **NEWS RELEASE May 16, 2006**

### **FOUNDATION FOR ASHLEY'S DREAM ANNOUNCES 2006 INTERNET SCHOLARSHIP AWARD WINNERS**

TROY, MICH., May 8, 2006, – Dominick Young, a graduating senior from Birmingham Groves High School in Beverly Hills, MI has won the 2006 Internet Scholarship competition sponsored by The Foundation For Ashley's Dream.

The Foundation, established in the memory of Ashley Marie Easterbrook who was killed by a drunk driver in June of 1997, received over 8,000 scholarship applications for one \$3,000 scholarship. "We received thousands of applications from young men and women from every state in the union" said Gail Easterbrook, Administrator of Scholarships. "It's ironic that the winning essay and entry came from someone so close to home".

A major part of the application process is that each individual has to write an essay about the dangers of driving drunk, or binge drinking. "These are two serious issues facing our young people each and every day," said Drew Patrick, Vice President of the Foundation. "The small step in actually getting them to think about the dangers may help them make the right choice when they are faced with the situation in years to come."

"Dominick's essay was very powerful, and addresses the issue of underage drinking and parental involvement. Not only did Dominick bring in real life circumstances to this issue, he also provided solutions," said Gail Easterbrook

"The Internet has been used to get the message across the country, that alcohol kills and injures people. And as in years past, we were able to reach thousands of young people and share Ashley's story with them, and hopefully teach them about the dangers of the

abuse of alcohol, and how innocent people can be affected by the bad decision making of others,” said Easterbrook.

The Foundation was established the day after Ashley, 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 and Dateline. To date, the Foundation has provided in excess of \$300,000 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.

“Again this year, students are writing about parental involvement. They want parents involved in their lives, to be a part of it, and provide a safe haven for them and their friends. Dominick’s essay hits home the other way, he talks about how parents allow drinking. It’s so important that parents be aware of what can happen when they allow underage drinking in their homes. It is clearly the wrong message to send.

In addition to providing scholarships, the Foundation is active in bringing awareness to the dangers of drunk driving. Since its’ inception, the Foundation and the Easterbrook family have been recipients of many local, state and national awards in their fight to bring awareness to the dangers of drunk driving. In 2002, they received the Presidential “Citizen Activists” Award from the National Commission Against Drunk Driving in Washington DC.

In addition to the Internet Scholarships, the Foundation will award scholarships to children of police officers and to graduating seniors of Troy High School., in Troy Michigan. Those winners will be announced June 1, 2006.

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

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